

Charity Registration No. 1108430

Company Registration No. 3261608 (England and Wales)

VOICES FROM CARE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

CHARITY COMMISSION
FIRST CONTACT

30 NOV 2017

ACCOUNTS
RECEIVED

VOICES FROM CARE

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees report	1 - 29
Statement of trustees responsibilities	30
Independent auditor's report	31 - 32
Statement of financial activities	33
Balance sheet	34
Statement of cash flows	35
Notes to the accounts	36 - 49

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Foreword

Voices From Care Cymru has moved swiftly this year to adjust its services to the new funding strategy that has involved moving the direction of its services to project based delivery and diversifying the nature of funders. This has enabled the organisation to increase its national approach with an increased membership and further representation with the creation of 5 regional groups and 2 local groups.

We have developed our strategic project vision, based on supporting and implementing the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 to improve wellbeing/outcomes of those who are care sector.

Voices From Care Cymru has also strengthened our partnership arrangements and has commissioned work to increase coproduction and link children and young people into services that offers a seamless process into further opportunities.

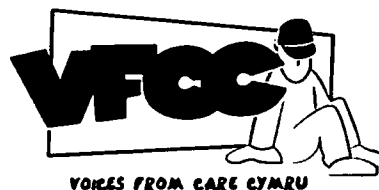
We have also launched our training, which involves our members in its delivery, across government and public services bodies. We hope to increase opportunities to create social enterprises for our members in the future.

The organisation has begun its journey in establishing partnerships that engage with young people that supports and creates further opportunities by establishing both peer mentoring and advocacy schemes.

Voices from Care Cymru is also very excited to engage our members within the creative arts community and we are currently strengthening our relationships with the arts sector with a view to producing further opportunities and outcomes. I would like to thank the Sherman Theatre, the Millennium Centre and the Royal College of Music and Arts.

Deborah Jones

CEO Voices From Care Cymru



Foreword – Catriona & Neil


I am delighted to report that Voices from Care Cymru has had a successful year in many respects. We have extended our reach to many more young people through the development and support of local and regional groups as well as through its national membership group. The contribution of the young trustees on the Board of Management has been invaluable as they have brought the priorities of the care experienced members to the centre of the organisation's strategic planning.

This year has seen a considerable rise in diverse funding for projects which have provided varied opportunities for young people to develop new interests and contacts in Wales and beyond as well as to participate in and influence policy development at national, regional and local levels. The effect of having a care experienced young person as Vice Chair of the Welsh Government Ministerial Advisory Group on Improving Outcomes for Children has been positive and ensures that the spirit of citizen centred legislation is acknowledged.

Throughout the year partnerships and collaborative activities have developed further such as with similar organisations across the four nations in the UK and Ireland and with NYASC, Tros Gynnal Plant and Children in Wales. This work has been mutually supportive with the aim of improving outcomes for care experienced children and young people.

Finally, the strength of the organisation lies in both its staff and volunteers whose work has ensured young people have been involved in peer mentoring, training and policy work, particularly promoting corporate parenting. I have also been delighted that our members have had positive personal experiences outside of the social services area such as in the arts, culture and sport.

Catriona Williams OBE, Chair



I have been a member of Voices From Care Cymru since 2008. It has helped me meet lots of new people and see new things. Being on the board of trustees has been a great honour and I look forward to what the future holds.

Neil Edge, Co-Chair

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

Objectives and activities

The objects of the charity are to advance the spiritual, educational and physical welfare of young people in Wales who are or have been looked after by a local authority or a voluntary organisation by any charitable means, involving young people in the decision making process and improving the effectiveness of services to young people in Wales. To achieve this Voices From Care will:

- carry out research;
- canvas the views and opinions of young people who are looked after by local authorities and voluntary organisations and ensure that such views are taken into account at all levels of authority in Wales;
- encourage, support and develop county groups of young people to enable them to meet together to discuss common interests and identify and agree common goals;
- increase the profile and participation of young people who are looked after at all levels of decision-making in Wales;
- provide advice, assistance and advocacy for young people who are looked after to ensure their legal, human and civil rights are upheld;
- provide or assist in providing opportunities for young people who are looked after to reach their full potential.

Development Of Aims

Objectives

- Continue to monitor and identify policy and practice issues of common concern by gathering and distributing information to appropriate bodies and organisations throughout Wales.
- Represent the views of children and young people and to actively campaign to improve the conditions for children and young people.
- Act as an interface on behalf of children and young people to encourage relevant bodies and organisations to take appropriate action.
- Encourage and promote the participation of children and young people within Voices from Care's operational strategy and service provision.
- Assist in the development of participation frameworks within decision-making processes to further enable children and young people to have a voice.
- Promote training for the service provider and to encourage the strategic development to include children and young people within its delivery.
- Act as a safeguard within current legislation i.e. The Children's Act 1989, The Children and Adoption Act 2002, The Children's Act 2004 and The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Provide an independent advice and support service on an on-going basis.
- Continue and build on the participation frameworks for degree in 'Social Work' with Cardiff Metropolitan and Cardiff University, as always.
- Continue and further develop the corporate parent frameworks with the Local Authorities in Wales.

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

How our services deliver public benefit

The Trustees believe that they have complied with the duty in section 17 (5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission. The aim of the core activities and main work of the organisation is to represent and promote the rights and welfare of looked after children and care leavers in an effort to improve outcomes. This ultimately furthers Voices from Care's charitable aims and furthers the public benefit.

Demonstrating public benefit

The funding and objectives are specific to 'looked after children' and 'care leavers' on a Wales wide basis which promotes the value of this minority group, in promoting further opportunities for:

- Encouraging knowledge of their rights.
- Providing information on issues affecting them.
- Facilitating access to practical and emotional support.
- Promoting access to onward opportunities, including volunteering, education and employment.
- Aid in enhancing positive outcomes

These mechanisms allow Voices From Care to have significant impact on many specific policy areas of the Welsh Government.

Mission statement

Voices From Care is Wales' national independent agency for those dedicated to upholding the rights and welfare for children and young people who are or have been looked after. In this regard the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is key to the organization's philosophy.

At Voices from Care we bring children and young people together throughout Wales, who are, or have been looked after by local authorities, voluntary and private organisations, in order to:

- Provide opportunities
- Improve the conditions of children and young people
- Promote the voice of children and young people
- Protect the interests of children and young people
- Promote the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child in Wales

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

Achievements and performance

Yearly Overview - Stats & Quotes from YP's and professionals

178 Care experienced young people involved in Participation and Influencing work

Participation and influencing activities this year **134**

189 Engaged with our Advice and Support Activities.

Take away friends,
memories and
motivation
(YP @ RWCMD)

Great experience
and gaining
friends for life
(YP @ RWCMD)

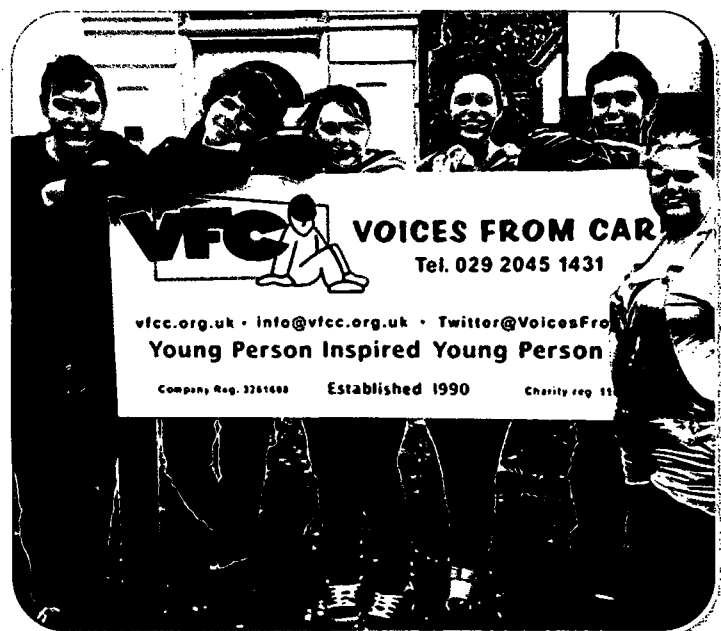
I learnt a lot today and felt
proud that young people
were saying their views.
(Question Time event)

Thank you for this
amazing opportunity,
proud of my video making
accreditation
(YP Digital story project)

Key Themes From Young People:

Young People are at the centre of the work we do at Voices From Care Cymru. These are the key issues that we have identified through our work with young people:

- Contact with family,
- Access to information
- Education and training
- Delegated authority
- Housing and homelessness
- Placements and planning
- Plans for rehabilitation to birth family
- Parenting
- Leaving care
- Secure reviews



VOICES FROM CARE

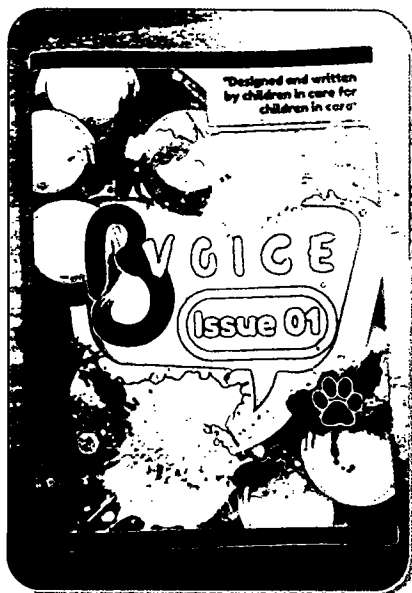
TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

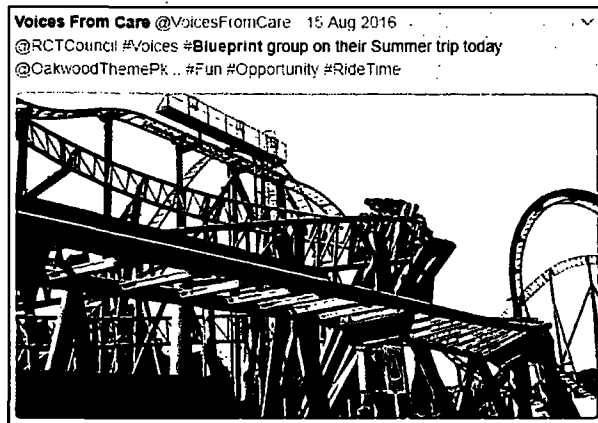
Participation: Local Groups

Blueprint

Blueprint is a youth forum in partnership with RCT Council for looked after children & young people aged 14-22 who would like to get their voices heard.



The young people also produce a bi-annual newsletter for children and young people in RCT who are care experienced.



Echo

Echo is a youth forum run in partnership with Carmarthenshire county council every month for care experienced young people aged 14-22. This year the group's focus has been on education, with activities including;

- Workshops around educational experiences
- Developing their own research questions.
- Feeding their views into National Education Policy
- Planning for an education event bring corporate parents and young people together.



VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

Participation: Regional Groups

Voices From Care Cymru are committed to providing care experienced young people from across Wales the opportunity to participate in our activities and have their voices heard.



During the summer of 2016, Voices from Care Cymru established 5 regional participation groups for care experienced young people. The aim of these groups is to allow young people to influence National legislation, policy and guidance. Each group meets 3 times a year in the school holidays and includes a fun activity, as time to socialise with each other.

Voices From Care Cymru, in partnership with Practice Solutions, worked with young people to create 5 digital stories for the National Fostering Framework Phase 2 report. They also worked with Children in Wales to develop health resources for looked after children and professionals.



VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

Participation: 'The Arts'

Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama partnered up with Voices From Care Cymru to offer children and young people across Wales the chance to experience the life of a student at the College for 3 days as part of its Summer School Scheme.

Aspiring students had the chance to experience a drama masterclass with Jain Boon, industry professional and the opportunity to put together a mini performance with the skills learned across the 3 days to showcase as a group.



Young Voices

2nd to 4th August 2016

Are you a care-experienced young person aged 14-19 years?

Do you have an interest in drama?

Would you like to learn new skills and discover new ways of having your voice heard?

Join our very first Young Voices summer school!

Run in association with Voices From Care, this summer school is free of charge and will take place from 1000-1600 each day, culminating with an informal sharing of work on the final afternoon.

If you would like to take part, contact Amber at Voices From Care
Amber@VFCC.org.uk or call 029 20451431 by Friday 29th July.

ROYAL WELSH COLLEGE
OF MUSIC & DRAMA
COLEG BRENHINOL
CERDD A DRAMA CYMRU

National Conservatoire of Wales
Conservatoire Cenedlaethol Cymru

ROYAL WELSH COLLEGE
OF MUSIC & DRAMA
COLEG BRENHINOL
CERDD A DRAMA CYMRU

National Conservatoire
Conservatoire Cenedlaethol Cymru



FREE DRAMA WORKSHOP
at Pembrokeshire College, Haverfordwest

Saturday 18 March 2017

10.30am—4.00pm

Are you a care-experienced young person aged 13-18?

Do you want to have fun, meet new friends and
have your voice heard?

Then join us for a creative and fun-filled workshop led by the
Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama.

Earlier in the year young people in West Wales had the opportunity to attend a drama workshop in Pembrokeshire College, Haverfordwest.

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

Our Participation Work: 'The Arts'

The Hay Festival

This year Voices From Care Cymru introduced many children and young people to the wonderful world of literature and the arts. They had the opportunity to visit the Hay Festival and get involved in workshops with many authors such as Eve Ainsworth, Mark Brake the Scientist and John Chase the Rapper!



Sherman Theatre

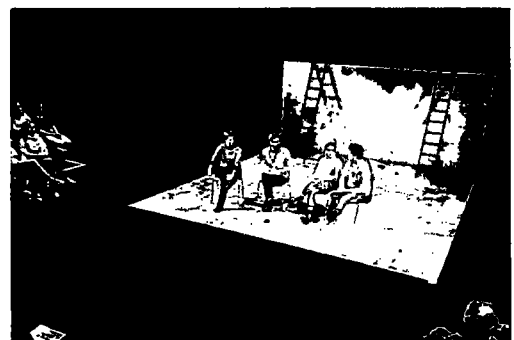
Voices From Care Cymru worked with the Sherman Theatre on a production called 'Bird'; a performance that focuses on the life of a care experienced young person.

The young people consulted with the cast and the Artistic Director - Rachel O'Riordan in the development of the production.

Several young people were invited to take part in a post performance discussion on some of the themes raised.



Another #Bird post-show taking place now with @andrew_sterry in conversation with panellists from @VoicesFromCare

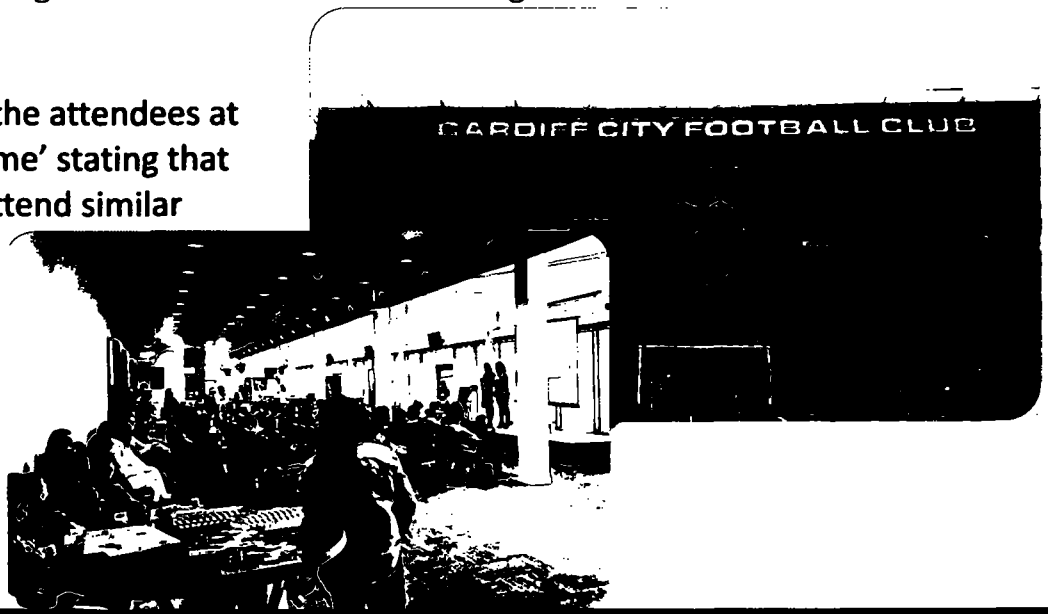


Our Participation Work: Proud To Be Me

Some of the key messages Voices From Care Cymru receive from young people, focus on the stigma attached to being looked after. Many of the messages the public hear, casts care experienced children in a negative light, damaging self-esteem and confidence. We believe the sigma that surrounds the looked after system is wrong, inaccurate, disproportionate and unjustifiable, a view many agree with.

Proud To Be Me brought young people and decision makers together to discuss what it means to be looked after and to promote positive messages. The event, hosted by young people, included 2 inspirational speeches on how care experience shaped their lives and why they are 'proud to be me'. There were workshops on lyric writing- turning life experiences into creative art, quick fire round table conversations and an interactive young person led Q&A. Organisations and services that aim to improve young peoples wellbeing where given an opportunity to promote their work through stall and information exchange opportunities.

With 96% of the attendees at 'Proud to be me' stating that they would attend similar events again.

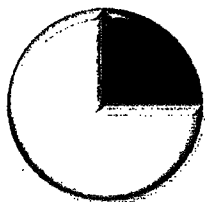


Our Influencing Work: Education research

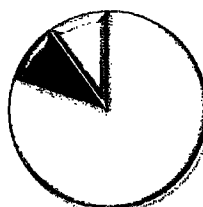
Voices From Care Cymru developed a series of workshops which are aimed at providing care experienced young people and care leavers the platform to meaningfully contribute to the Welsh Governments Year 1 report on the strategy *'Raising the ambitions and educational attainment of children who are looked after in Wales'*.

Voices From Care Cymru facilitated three consultation meetings with looked after young people and care leavers from across Wales. The consultation sessions were guided by key themes young people highlighted in the report 'Education! What it means to me' in 2015. These themes include, support from teaching staff, PEP's and schools having an understanding of what it is like being looked after.

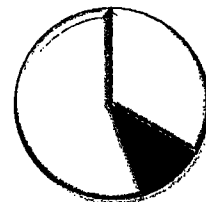
Teachers show an understanding on what it is like being in care:



Teachers should be supported to understand how it feels to be looked after:



The looked after children education coordinator (LACE) show an understanding of what it is like being in care:

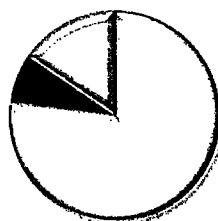


☐ Yes

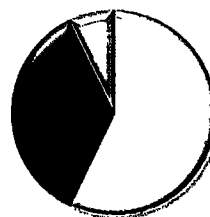
☒ Somewhat

☐ No

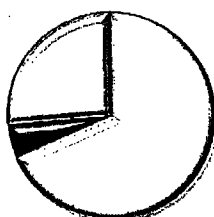
My Foster Carer supports me and is involved in my education:



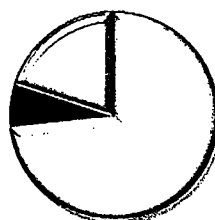
At the moment how confident do you feel about your education?



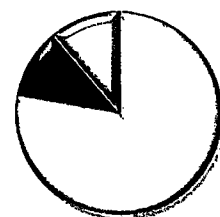
I know why I have a PEP:



I am involved in my PEP:



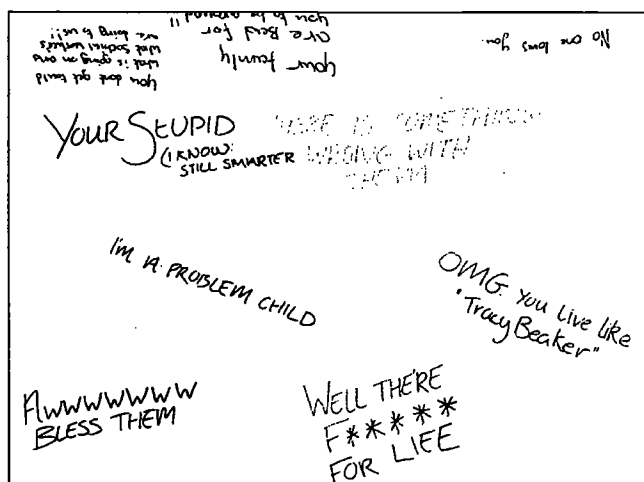
I know what a PEP is:



Our Influencing Work: Perceptions of Care

"We are expected to fail and it is a stigma. I hated telling people I was in care because it feels like people judge you."

As part of the 5 Nations, 1 Voice collaboration, funded by The Big Lottery Fund, Voices From Care Cymru worked with Become, formerly Who Cares? England, to undertake research into stigma around being looked after. Care experienced young people and care leavers in England and Wales were asked to complete an online survey and we commissioned Leeds Beckett University to run seven focus groups across England and Wales. Forty-nine children in care and 61 care leavers completed our online survey, and 60 children in care and care leavers attended the focus groups.



BECOME.
THE CHARITY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE
AND YOUNG CARE LEAVERS



LOTTERY FUNDED

The following recommendations were developed from the research:

- Schools should teach children and young people about what it means to be in care as part of the PSHE curriculum.
- Everyone in the team around the child should sign a written commitment to believing in, aspiring for, and working with and on behalf of that child – so that the child knows that those around them expect and want the best for them and from them.
- Initial teacher training and continuing professional development for staff in educational settings should reflect the need for teachers to have a greater understanding of the experiences of children in care.
- Professionals should stop using acronyms when referring to looked after children and care leavers, particularly LAC and CLA, because it risks encouraging generic assumptions about these young people and viewing them as a homogenous group, rather than as the individuals they are.

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

Our Influencing Work:

Young Parents

For several years, care-experienced parents had raised their concerns in relation to their interactions with Social Care Services. These included:

Being judged / discriminated against because of their care histories – In some areas young people are automatically referred to Children's Services because of their care leaver status.

Having inadequate access to support – Care-experienced parents reported having limited opportunities to access meaningful and timely, practical, emotional and financial support.

In response to this, a joint statement of concern was issued by Voices From Care Cymru, NYAS, Family Rights Group & Tros Gynnal Plant in respect of children looked after and care leavers who are parents.



Voices From Care Cymru and CASCADE have also paired up to work with young parents who have experienced being in care – highlighting the challenges they face when entering parenthood. Jennie, a care experience mother presented at the Family Rights Conference in London to represent the voice of a care experienced parent.

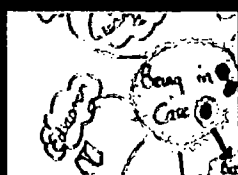
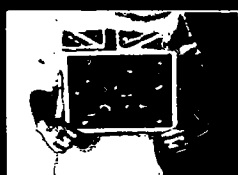
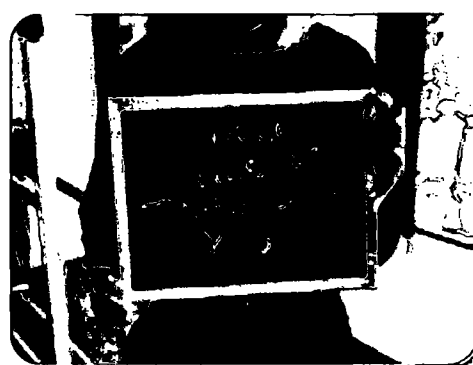
Our Influencing Work: National Fostering Framework

During 2016, Voices From Care Cymru; in partnership with Practice Solutions, worked with children and young people who are looked after, or leaving care from all over Wales. The remit was to develop the confidence, knowledge, skills and self-esteem of the young people, whilst at the same time, co-producing a series of digital narratives that present their experiences, thoughts, feelings and ideas about being looked after in Wales. These narratives have been treated as part of Welsh Government's strategic drive to improve outcomes for all children and young people who are looked after. The project worked with 48 young people, aged between 14 – 24, using' Voices From Care Cymru's newly developed 5 regional participation groups.

Digital Stories Developed

The project co-produced 5 digital narratives, all of which are based around the conversations, group work and resources developed with young people. These include:

- What makes a good foster carer
- How the system impacts on children and young people
- What good foster care gives me
- Addressing the stigma
- Supporting positive outcomes – ideas for change.



Our Influencing Work: Corporate Parenting

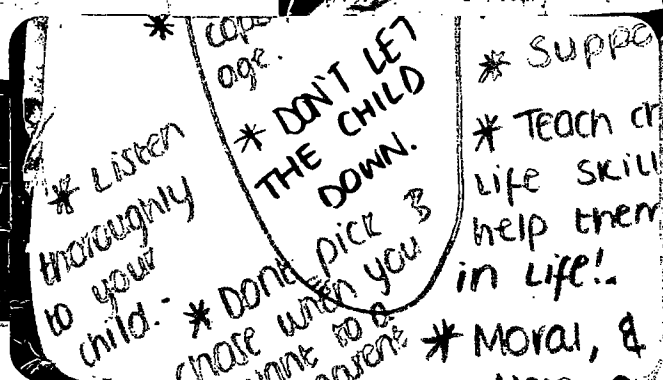
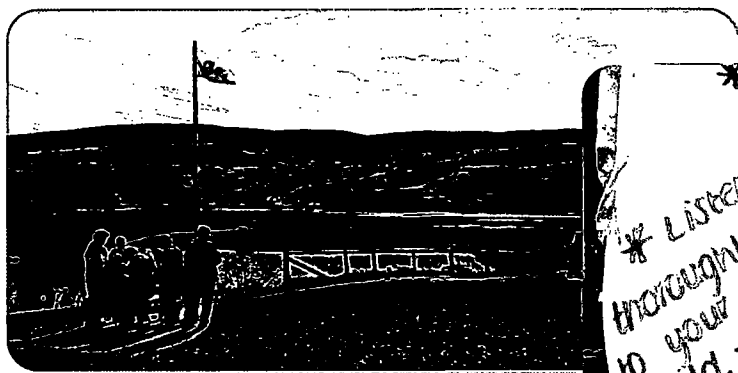
Voices from Care Cymru and AFA Cymru co-designed and delivered a project aimed at supporting recommendation 6 from the National Fostering Frameworks' Year 1 report: Benchmark best practice in corporate parenting across Councils and other public services - to improve outcomes for children and increase the resilience of foster carer placements. The Association for Fostering and Adoption Cymru (AFA Cymru) is a Welsh charity working to improve outcomes for children and young people in all types of permanency arrangements – rehabilitation, kinship care, Special Guardianship, fostering and adoption.

The ethos of the project was to promote and celebrate examples of good practice, to promote shared learning, not to identify or highlight poor practice.

Voices From Care Cymru and AFA Cymru developed and facilitated 3 regional events, which aimed to provide Local Authorities and other public services with the opportunity to promote and present best practice as corporate parents. Representation from the 3 regional events; held in Colwyn Bay, Cardiff and Carmarthen, was wide ranging, from young people, Heads of Children's services, Local Authority senior managers and practitioners, elected members/councillors, Welsh Government, Health, CAMHS, Foster Carers, Assembly Members and the Third sector.

Young people looked after and care leavers have been instrumental throughout the project by supporting and contributing at the regional and national events and through their participation at young people's residentials in Bala and Ceredigion.

The three regional groups and the young people residentials all fed into a National Corporate Parenting Event, which aimed to bring project findings together and to hear from innovate project.



Our Influencing Work: Question Time

In January, Voices From Care Cymru held a Question Time event in The Senedd, Cardiff Bay. The questions were developed by 26 young people from participation groups across Wales. The themes they chose were:

- Contact
- Delegated Authority
- Education and Training
- Housing and homelessness
- Access to information

The panel consisted of:

- David Melding AM (chair)
- Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales
- Carl Sargeant AM, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children
- Cllr Huw David, Bridgend
- Sally Jenkins, Head of service in Newport



30 young people and 21 professionals attended the event.

The outcomes from the day were:

- Young people learning about democracy and their rights
- Young people having an opportunity to be heard
- Young people hearing about issues raised from across Wales
- A letter from the minister to all Local authorities about delegated responsibility
- A thank you letter from the minister



"I learnt a lot today and felt proud that young people were saying their views."

Advice & Support

The Advice and Support project offers a wraparound service to care experienced children and young people. It enables them to have a greater voice in the decisions made about them, have enhanced emotional resilience and enhanced life opportunities.

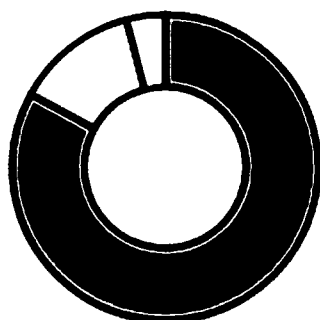
Over the year, the project has worked with 189 young people.

The outcomes of the project were:

A greater voice and are heard



Significant progress
Some progress

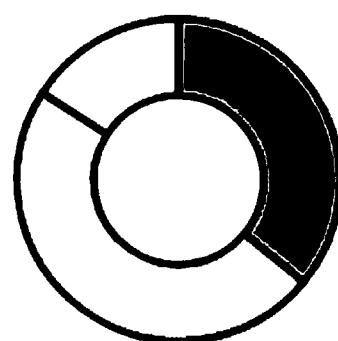


83% of the young people supported experienced significant progress in having a greater voice.
13% achieved some progress towards this area.

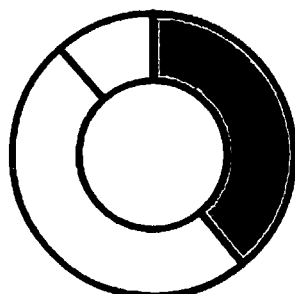
Enhanced emotional and social resilience

36% of the young people supported experienced significant progress in enhancing their emotional and social resilience.

48% achieved some progress towards this area.



Enhanced life opportunities



38% of the young people supported experienced significant progress in having enhanced life opportunities.

48% achieved some progress towards this area.

Advice & Support

Case studies

A young person aged 17 contacted the project as she was attending at a college of further education where she felt her particular learning needs were not being supported. The young person also wanted to remain with her foster carers and needed advice and representation in terms of requesting the Local Authority agree a When I'm Ready arrangement. The young person was anxious as she was concerned about not succeeding at college but also about having to possibly move from her foster placement where she had lived for many years. These two aspects of worry were having a huge impact on the young person's emotional well being.



The project met with the young person regularly and advocated on her behalf. Several meetings were attended with the Local Authority Social Services and with the college. The When I'm Ready arrangement was agreed and the project assisted the young person to understand the implications of this - for example the requirement that she would claim benefits as she was reaching 18 years of age but also that she would need to make some financial contribution to the household.

The project worked with a young person aged 13 who was in an out of county placement some considerable distance from his home area. The young person wanted someone independent to talk to. He blamed himself for his position and the distance from his family. The issues that the young person wanted raised at his review meetings were contact and visits back to his home area.

The project assisted the young person in raising these issues at his review meeting. The professionals reassured him that his circumstances were not his fault and it was agreed that further sessions with a key worker would focus on this. The young person began to seem more settled following that meeting and was able to focus more on education and to start after school activities where he was able to make some friends.



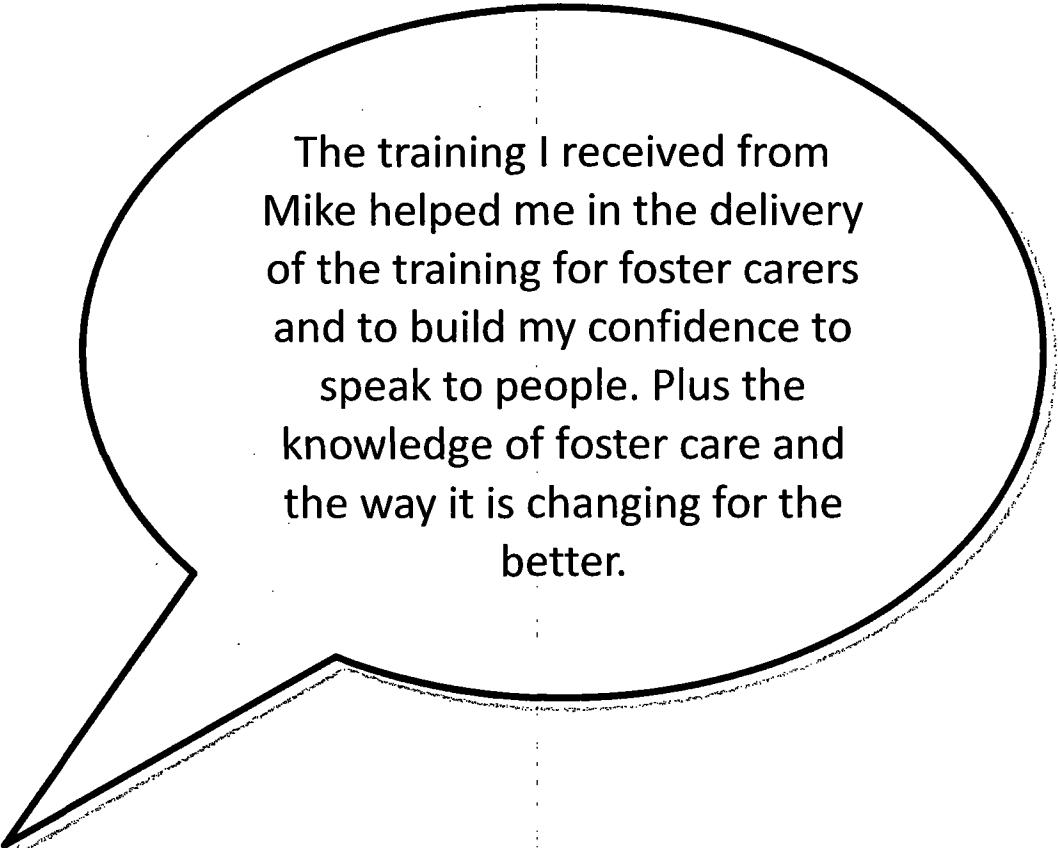
Representation: Training

Voices From Care Cymru has been working to develop a training service run by members. This aims to develop the young people's skills and supports them into employment

- We now have 7 members of Voices contributing to the development of the project
- A steering group has been established consisting of Voices members, Mike Lewis (Consultant) and Emma Sullivan (Children in Wales)
- We have developed, with the steering group, a range of training activities which have been incorporated into the training materials

We have delivered training to:

- Senior Managers within Welsh Public Authorities as part of a Middle Manager Development Programme run by Oxford Brookes University on behalf of ADSS and SSIA.
- Foster Carers in who are linked to an Action For Children project.



The training I received from Mike helped me in the delivery of the training for foster carers and to build my confidence to speak to people. Plus the knowledge of foster care and the way it is changing for the better.

Representation: Membership Committee

Voices From Care Cymru has a Membership Committee which is open to all of its members.

There is no upper age limit to the committee and the lowest age for the committee is 14.

There are 3 'executive roles' on the committee:

- The Chair
- The Vice Chair
- The Secretary.

Members may apply for Executive Roles, when available, after 1 year of sitting on the Membership Committee. The minimum age requirement to hold an executive role is 16.

Governance training is available for our young trustees and interested members. As part of our new training academy, some members attended a Train the Trainer workshop.

Members of the group also delivered a presentation and ran a workshop at the National Social Services Conference



Representation:

Cross Party Group on Looked After Children

The purpose of the Cross Party Group on Looked After Children is to consider different issues of importance to looked after children in Wales and their policy implications. The meetings also provide opportunities for representatives from relevant organisations to meet with Assembly Members to discuss issues of concern for looked after children in Wales.

During 2016-17 the group looked at the following topics:

- The Prison Reform Trust's Review on 'In Care, Out Of Trouble' Report
- The When I Am Ready Scheme
- All Wales Advocacy
- Education
- Residential homes
- Training Packages for Assembly Members and Assembly Committees
- Public Accounts Committee – examination of efficacy and efficiency of LAC spending
- Work Plan for 2016 - 2017
- Presentation: Early Parenthood for Young People In and Leaving Care in Wales
- Early Deaths Among Care Leavers
- Ministerial Advisory Group
- St. David's Fund



The Cross Party Group on Looked After Children is chaired by David Melding AM.

VOICES FROM CARE

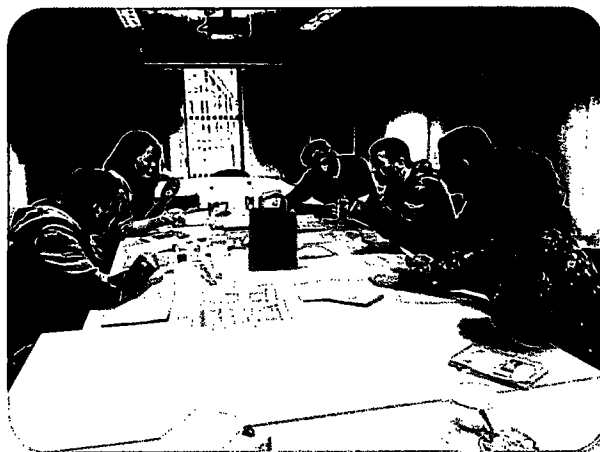
TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

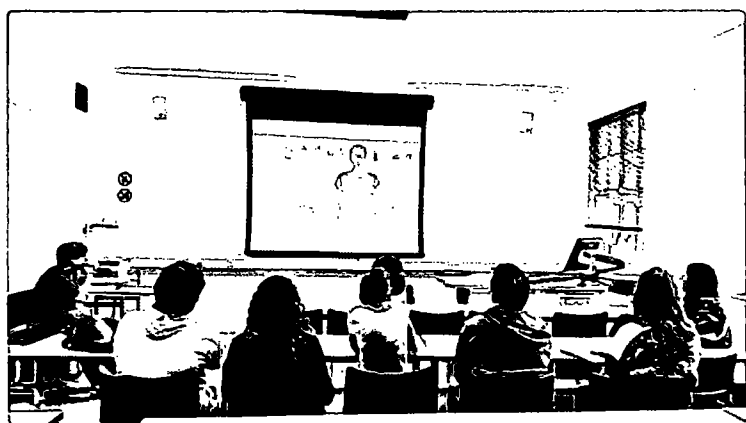
Collaboration and coproduction:

CASCADE Voices

CASCADE Voices is a collaboration between Voices From Care Cymru and CASCADE, Cardiff University. A group of care-experienced young people, from Voices From Care Cymru, advise on research projects from design to dissemination. The group has advised researchers from universities in Wales and Northern Ireland and the third sector, on health and social care topics.



Voices From Care @VoicesFromCare · 15 Jul 2016
#Voices #YP on their 2nd day of training with @CASCADEresearch @cardiffuni
#creativemethods #researchmethodstraining



In July, Cardiff Universities' Social Care Research department opened up its doors for one day to children and young people from Voices From Care Cymru to go behind-the-scenes and take part in CASCADE Research Methods Training. This was a big hit for all who came, and young people explored the world of social research and why it takes place.



CASCADE

Children's Social Care
Research and Development Centre
Canolfan Ymchwil a Datblygu
Gofal Cymdeithasol Plant

"I now know that when I have the chance to get my voice heard in consultations it does actually go somewhere and towards research to help make changes."

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

Collaboration and coproduction:

5 Nations, 1 Voice (5N1V)

5 Nations 1 Voice is a Big Lottery funded project which brings together care experienced young people from the following representative organisations:

Become – England

Who Cares? Trust – Scotland

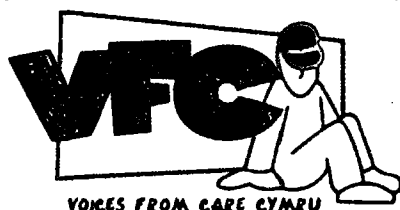
VOYPIC – Northern Ireland

EPIC – Republic of Ireland

Voices From Care Cymru – Wales



empowering people in care



voice of young people in care

BECOME.

THE CHARITY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE
AND YOUNG CARE LEAVERS



The young people discuss care experiences across the Nations and how these organisations are working closely together to get the wider National young voice heard.

Every year a celebration takes place in one of the Nations, where children and young people unite and celebrate care identity through a fun-packed residential. In 2016 its annual residential ran in Scotland & Ireland.



In 2017, it will be in Wales and run by Voices From Care Cymru

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

Collaboration and coproduction:

As part of the 5 Nations, 1 Voice project, children and young people from across the Nations were brought together at Westminster Abbey, London to be involved in the All Party Parliamentary Group debate around the motion of: whether or not a care experienced child/young person should tell people that they come in contact with that they have been in care.



This motion gave children and young people the opportunity to have a voice in one of the most prestigious venues in the UK. Voices From Care Cymru attended with young people to represent care experienced young people in Wales. From the debate, children/young people were against the motion and most preferred to keep their care experience identity to themselves.

This opportunity enabled Voices From Care Cymru to bring young people to the big bold Capital City of England and experience the City for themselves – it is safe to say that many 'selfies' were taken along the trip!

Collaboration and coproduction:

NYAS Peer advocacy and mentoring

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, in partnership with Comic Relief and The Royal Commonwealth Society, has established The Queen's Young Leaders Programme. This programme aims to:

- Ensure young people are better qualified, have access to jobs and training, and create thriving businesses
- Enable young people to articulate their needs in order to influence key decision makers
- Provide evidence and stories describing how young people have succeeded in creating lasting change in their communities.

In partnership, NYAS and Voices from Care Cymru have been awarded a grant for four years to provide peer mentoring opportunities for young people to support other young people who are in the care system, to influence change and be part of decision making processes that will make their lives better. The aim of this project is for young people to actively participate in policy making, legislation and campaigns on behalf of other young people. The project ensures that all young people in care have access to having a voice to influence and shape legislation that affects their lives.



THE QUEEN'S
YOUNG LEADERS

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

Financial review

In the year marked by strict controls whilst endeavouring to maintain service provision, an increase of unrestricted reserves has been achieved.

The total income for the year was £518,100 (2016: £301,517). Direct charitable expenditure amounted to £454,649 (2016: £275,832) and governance costs totalled £4,299 (2016: £13,178). This resulted in net incoming resources of £59,152 (2016: £12,507).

As disclosed in the accounts, the Welsh Government was the principal funder, with Erasmus+ (Citizenship), BBC Children in Need and Lloyds Foundation providing additional funding. This was more than made-up with additional self-generated income.

Reserves Policy

The trustees monitor the progress towards achieving its three year strategic plan and have reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with guidance by the Charity Commission. The trustees review the levels of reserves (other than those funds tied up in fixed assets and future designated and restricted funds) needed by the charity to sustain operations in the event of a funding crisis and set a target equal to three to four months' running costs; to be achieved as work has continued in progressing relationships with Local Authorities and partner organizations and maintains this objective during the coming years.

The current level of free reserves is £133,219 (2016: £88,248) and the level identified to enable the organisation to continue for six months is £144,505.

Risk Management

The trustees confirm that systems have been identified and established to mitigate the major risks, to which the charity is exposed.

The following risk management procedure was carried out, identifying the following:

- Annual review of risks which the charity may face;
- Establish action plan to counter or mitigate identified risks;
- Implementation of the action plan should risks arise;
- Framework for resolution of external disputes.

The trustees confirm that the major risks, to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems established to mitigate those risks. The main risks identified by the trustees is loss of funding and reputation.

Appraisal of activities and future developments

Summary

Voices From Care (VFC) promotes the interests of all young people who are or have been looked after in Wales. This requires a particular focus on those young people who are not engaged in mainstream provision or other services. It requires working in partnership with local authorities and all agencies working with children and young people looked after in Wales.

Voices From Care continued to give advice and support to young people and to lobby on issues raised by young people as well as supporting children and young people to be involved in Voices From Care's internal participation program. These activities aim to improve outcomes in local authority areas throughout Wales.

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

Structure, governance and management

Organisation

A board of up to 12 members, who meet quarterly, administers the charity. There is a sub-committee covering finance and human resources. A Chief Executive is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. All trustees, staff and volunteers must have an enhanced Disclosure Barring Service check before their appointments can be confirmed.

Following the annual general meeting, trustees are inducted during the course of a day's event during which their duties and responsibilities are explained. Member-trustees are encouraged to seek guidance from a professional trustee by whom they can also be mentored during the year ahead.

Investment powers

Under the memorandum and articles of association the charity has the power to make any investment that the trustees see fit. No investments have been made yet.

Constitution

Voices From Care Limited is a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association. Charity number: 1108430. Company number: 3261608.

Directors and trustees

The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. As set out in the Articles of Association dated, 15 May 2010, the members of the company at the annual general meeting nominate six trustees from among the members and six trustees from professionals. The Members Committee also elects a Chair and 6 member trustees to the Management Committee. The Chair of the Members Committee is also Chair of the Board of Trustees in conjunction with the Professional Chair nominated by Trustees from the Professional Trustees elected. The trustees further nominate a Treasurer from among the professional trustees. The Trustees serve for a period of three years with one third retiring at each annual general meeting. The trustees have the power to co-opt members to fill casual vacancies in their number.

Key management personnel

The key management personnel for the charity are the trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and the Corporate Resources Manager. Trustees do not receive remuneration. The Chief Executive Officer and the Corporate Resources Manager's pay are set within the National Joint Council salary scale.

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

Reference and administrative details

Company Registration Number:
3261608

Charity Number:
1108430

The Trustees serving during the year and since year-end were as follows:

Catriona Williams

Neil Edge

Karl Davies

Graham Roddis

Craig Mead

Roger Bishop

Dan Pitt

Laura Morgan

- Resigned 13 October 2016

Aiden Richards

- Resigned 14 September 2017

Lisa Armstrong

Louise Roberts

James Dovey-Yorgensen

Tiffany Evans

- Appointed 8 November 2016

Secretary

D A Jones

Chief Executive

D A Jones

Registered Office

45 The Parade, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3AB

Auditors

Broomfield & Alexander, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, Waters Lane Chambers, 1-3 Waters Lane, Newport, NP20 1LA.

Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC, 121 Queens Street, Cardiff, CF1 1SG

CCLA Investment Management Limited, COIF Charities Deposit Fund

CAF Account: Kings Hill Ave, Kings Hill, London

The trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Ms C Williams

Dated: 16/11/17

VOICES FROM CARE

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

The trustees, who are also the directors of Voices From Care for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, 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 accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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

VOICES FROM CARE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF VOICES FROM CARE

We have audited the accounts of Voices From Care for the year ended 31 March 2017 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of Voices From Care for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

The trustees have elected for the accounts to be audited in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 rather than the Companies Act 2006. Accordingly we have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the accounts in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the accounts

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the accounts sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the accounts. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustees Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited accounts and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on accounts.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2017 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.

VOICES FROM CARE

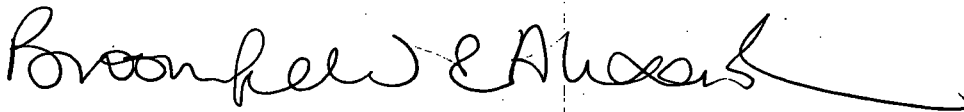
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF VOICES FROM CARE

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- 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 accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.



Broomfield & Alexander Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Waters Lane Chambers
1-3 Waters Lane
Newport
NP20 1LA

16-11-17

Broomfield & Alexander Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

VOICES FROM CARE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>					
Donations and legacies	3	-	-	-	1,107
Charitable activities	4	143,018	365,768	508,786	300,037
Investments	5	112	-	112	208
Other income	6	9,202	-	9,202	165
Total income		152,332	365,768	518,100	301,517
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Charitable activities	7	100,143	358,805	458,948	289,010
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		52,189	6,963	59,152	12,507
Fund balances at 1 April 2016		88,248	11,491	99,739	87,232
Fund balances at 31 March 2017		140,437	18,454	158,891	99,739

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

VOICES FROM CARE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2017

	Notes	2017 £	£	2016 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		7,218		5,075
Current assets					
Stocks		1,456		3,008	
Debtors	13	29,055		23,181	
Cash at bank and in hand		150,199		94,264	
		<u>180,710</u>		<u>120,453</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(29,037)</u>		<u>(25,789)</u>	
Net current assets			151,673		94,664
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>158,891</u>		<u>99,739</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	15		18,454		11,491
Unrestricted funds			140,437		88,248
			<u>158,891</u>		<u>99,739</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2017, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 16.11.17



Mr G Roddis
Trustee



Ms C Williams
Trustee

Company Registration No. 3261608

VOICES FROM CARE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

	Notes	2017 £	£	2016 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	22		61,301		7,980
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(5,478)		(6,405)	
Interest received		112		208	
Net cash used in investing activities			(5,366)		(6,197)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			55,935		1,783
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			94,264		92,481
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			150,199		94,264

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

1.2 Going concern

These accounts have been prepared on an ongoing basis. The charity is predominantly funded from public sector grant by the Welsh Government. Funding over a three year period, beginning 2016/17 and also covering 2017/18 & 2018/19 has been approved. Increase in planned activity was accepted in the revised funding; however, the year on year reduction of 5% was applied in view of the on-going austerity cuts. Trustees believe, that the austerity cuts can be covered by increase in generated income, or future restructuring, without having to reduce the planned activities.

The charity reported a net inflow of £59,152 for the year ended 31st March 2017. The charity has sufficient free reserves and is monitoring results on a frequent basis. The trustees are of the view that on this basis the charity is a going concern and there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Income is primarily derived from grant income supporting the principle objective of the charity. All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Policies are applied to particular categories of income. Grant income is recognised when it is reasonably certain to be received and only deferred when the donor has imposed restrictions on the expenditure or resources which amount to pre-condition on use.

S.S.S.G. income (previously core) from the Welsh Government amounted to £294,479 (including significant increase in planned activities) to continue Charity's normal activities. Any shortfall to be managed by further in-house activities by engaging in 'Awareness & Training', Corporate Parenting' and 'Advice, Support, Consultancy & Facilitation' including advocacy helpline.

Investment Income

Investment income is included when received.

1.5 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as liability is incurred. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity for activities in the delivery of its services to the beneficiaries. It includes both the costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and also those costs of indirect nature necessary to support them.

Expenditure on wages was apportioned as follows:

Overhead apportionment	Activity	Support
Chief Executive's wages	70%	30%
Finance/Administration wages	30%	70%
Advice Case Worker,	100%	-
Sessional case worker & Trainee Workers	100%	-
Coordinator/Development Manager	70%	30%

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory obligations of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to activities.

Liability policy

Liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable.

Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred. The irrecoverable VAT is written back to the income and expenditure account in the year to which it relates.

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	25% on reducing balance
Computers equipment	33% on cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Financial assets classified as other financial assets are stated at fair value with any gains or losses arising on remeasurement recognised in profit or loss. The net gain or loss recognised in profit or loss includes any dividend or interest earned on the financial asset.

Other financial assets

Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure), except that investments in equity instruments that are not publicly traded and whose fair values cannot be measured reliably are measured at cost less impairment.

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through income and expenditure, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected.

If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Basic financial liabilities

Financial liabilities classified as other financial liabilities are stated at fair value with any gains or losses arising on remeasurement recognised in profit or loss.

Other financial liabilities

Derivatives, including interest rate swaps and forward foreign exchange contracts, are not basic financial instruments. Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured at their fair value. Changes in the fair value of derivatives are recognised in or in finance costs or finance income as appropriate, unless hedge accounting is applied and the hedge is a cash flow hedge.

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Redundancy cost

The charity recognises termination benefits as a liability and an expense only when the entity is demonstrably committed either to terminate the employment of an employee or group of employees before the normal retirement date or to provide termination benefits as a result of an offer made in order to encourage voluntary redundancy.

1.10 Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged to income on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

1.11 Taxation

As a registered charity Voices from Care is entitled to the exemption from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received with sections 478-489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects purposes only.

1.12 Pensions

At the moment, the company does not operate a pension scheme, however, individual pension contributions are paid directly to certain staff members' pension fund either directly or by the staff into their respective schemes. Contributions payable in the year are charged to the profit and loss account.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	2017	2016
	£	£
Donations and gifts	-	1,107

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

4 Charitable activities

	2017 £	2016 £
Advice, Support, Participation & Collaboration	103,968	77,874
Corporate Parenting	30,000	5,738
Awareness & Training	9,050	4,340
Grants	365,768	212,085
	<u>508,786</u>	<u>300,037</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	143,018	
Restricted funds	<u>365,768</u>	
	<u>508,786</u>	
For the year ended 31 March 2016		
Unrestricted funds		255,533
Restricted funds		<u>44,504</u>
		<u>300,037</u>
Performance related grants		
S.S.S.G. (Welsh Government)	294,479	165,081
Children in Need	38,796	35,264
Lloyds Foundation	3,960	9,240
Waterloo Foundation	-	2,500
Erasmus+ (Citizenship)	28,533	-
	<u>365,768</u>	<u>212,085</u>

5 Investments

	2017 £	2016 £
Interest receivable	<u>112</u>	<u>208</u>

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

6 Other income

	2017	2016
	£	£
Other Income	<u>9,202</u>	<u>165</u>

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

7 Charitable activities

	Citizenship Engagement	Advice, support & advocacy	S.S.S.G.	Facilitation, Participation & Collaboration	Total 2017	Total 2016
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	4,904	26,469	151,435	64,212	247,020	113,612
Depreciation and impairment	-	-	3,335	-	3,335	3,838
Travel	994	-	5,489	5,418	11,901	6,952
Volunteer expenses	12,312	3,492	24,855	3,730	44,389	6,143
NYAS re-imbursement	-	-	52,968	-	52,968	2,450
Audit Fees	92	-	3,704	1,279	5,075	3,390
Consultancy	137	-	7,969	11,527	19,633	6,455
Payroll/Pension preparation	-	-	-	-	-	624
Occupancy	677	-	19,336	9,382	29,395	29,085
HR, legal & professional	134	-	7,422	1,859	9,415	60,874
Office running costs	327	-	10,300	3,656	14,283	7,009
Communications / Facilitation	159	2,002	4,303	2,211	8,675	21,182
Bank Charges	-	-	430	-	430	1,919
Bad debt	-	-	229	-	229	740
Development/Activity (NFF)	-	-	-	7,901	7,901	11,237
Re-allocation costs	-	-	-	-	-	322
	<u>19,736</u>	<u>31,963</u>	<u>291,775</u>	<u>111,175</u>	<u>454,649</u>	<u>275,832</u>
Share of governance costs (see note)	56	-	976	3,267	4,299	13,178
	<u>19,792</u>	<u>31,963</u>	<u>292,751</u>	<u>114,442</u>	<u>458,948</u>	<u>289,010</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	-	-	-	100,143	100,143	
Restricted funds	19,792	31,963	292,751	14,299	358,805	
	<u>19,792</u>	<u>31,963</u>	<u>292,751</u>	<u>114,442</u>	<u>458,948</u>	
For the year ended 31 March 2016						
Unrestricted funds	34,443	29,073	127,405	64,964		255,885
Restricted funds	-	33,125	-	-		33,125
	<u>34,443</u>	<u>62,198</u>	<u>127,405</u>	<u>64,964</u>		<u>289,010</u>

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

8	Net movement in funds	2017	2016
		£	£
	Net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting)		
	Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	3,335	3,838

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year, however they were reimbursed a total of £1,032 travelling expenses (2016: £1,120) and £3,198 for training (2016: £nil).

10 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number employees during the year was:

	2017	2016
	Number	Number
Direct Charitable expenditure	7	5
Management and administration	3	2
	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>

Employment costs

	2017	2016
	£	£
Wages and salaries	220,716	168,823
Social security costs	19,550	13,735
Other pension costs	3,938	4,155
	<u>244,204</u>	<u>186,713</u>

Wages and salaries include redundancy payments of £15,950 (2016: £nil).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2016	14,580	46,112	60,692
Additions	1,790	3,688	5,478
At 31 March 2017	16,370	49,800	66,170
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2016	11,065	44,552	55,617
Depreciation charged in the year	1,326	2,009	3,335
At 31 March 2017	12,391	46,561	58,952
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2017	3,979	3,239	7,218
At 31 March 2016	3,515	1,560	5,075

12 Financial instruments

	2017 £	2016 £
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	172,576	112,147
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	29,037	21,972

13 Debtors

	2017 £	2016 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	21,850	15,784
Other debtors	527	2,099
Prepayments and accrued income	6,678	5,298
	29,055	23,181

Trade debtors disclosed above are classified as loans and receivables and are therefore measured at amortised cost.

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2017 £	2016 £
Other taxation and social security	-	3,817
Trade creditors	24,046	13,071
Accruals and deferred income	4,991	8,901
	<u>29,037</u>	<u>25,789</u>

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2016 £	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2017 £
		Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	
BBC Children In Need	2,139	38,796	(36,395)	4,540
Lloyds Foundation	9,240	3,960	(9,867)	3,333
WAG Structural Review	112	-	-	112
Sustainable Social Services Grant	-	294,479	(292,751)	1,728
European Fund (Erasmus+)	-	28,533	(19,792)	8,741
	<u>11,491</u>	<u>365,768</u>	<u>(358,805)</u>	<u>18,454</u>

BBC Children in Need grant relates to advice and support for children and young people.

Lloyd's Foundation grant is to provide further training to the Trustees' and improving the risk register.

Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant has replaced the Welsh Government core grant.

Erasmus+ is funding provided for National Youth meeting.

WAG Structural Review grant was for a structural review of the organisation.

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

16 Restricted funds 2016

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2015	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2016
	£	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	£
BBC Children In Need	-	35,264	(33,125)	2,139
Lloyds Foundation	-	9,240	-	9,240
WAG Structural Review	112	-	-	112
	<u>112</u>	<u>44,504</u>	<u>(33,125)</u>	<u>11,491</u>

BBC Children in Need grant relates to advice and support for children and young people.

Lloyds Foundation grant relates to consultancy costs, which will be spent in 2016 - 2017

WAG Structural Review grant was for a structural review of the organisation.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2017 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	7,218	-	7,218
Current assets/(liabilities)	133,219	18,454	151,673
	<u>140,437</u>	<u>18,454</u>	<u>158,891</u>

18 Analysis of net assets between funds 2016

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2016 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	5,075	-	5,075
Current assets/(liabilities)	83,173	11,491	94,664
	<u>88,248</u>	<u>11,491</u>	<u>99,739</u>

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

19 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2017 £	2016 £
Within one year	31,253	24,205
Between two and five years	44,834	74,487
	<u>76,087</u>	<u>98,692</u>

20 Liability of members and reserves

Every member of the Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company in the event of it being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year afterwards, such amount as may be required not exceeding £1. The Company has no issued share capital as at 31 March 2017, the Company being limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.

21 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2017 £	2016 £
Aggregate compensation	<u>73,880</u>	<u>99,318</u>

Wales Council for Voluntary Action - Common Trustees

Voice from Care paid Wales Council for Voluntary Action £115 (2016: £nil) for a volunteering conference. No other payments were made or received. No year end balances were noted on the debtors or creditors listings.

Children in Wales - Common Trustees

Voices from Care had paid Children in Wales £80 (2016: £630) for training, £50 (2016: £50) for annual subscription and £693 (2016: £nil) Advocacy collaborative working. A total of £823 was paid to Children in Wales during the year.

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

22	Cash generated from operations	2017	2016
		£	£
	Surplus for the year	59,152	12,507
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(112)	(208)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	3,335	3,838
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease in stocks	1,552	1,054
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5,874)	610
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	3,248	(9,821)
	Cash generated from operations	61,301	7,980
