

Company registration number: 06407985
Charity registration number: 1123940

The Social Research Association

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 July 2017

Field Sullivan Limited
70 Royal Hill
Greenwich
SE10 8RF

The Social Research Association
Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name	The Social Research Association	
Charity registration number	1123940	
Company registration number	06407985	
Principal office	c/o Nuffield Foundation 28 Bedford Square WC1B 3JS	
Registered office	70 Royal Hill Greenwich London SE10 8RF	
Trustees	Dr Patten Smith, Chair Dr Simon Haslam Graham Hughes, Hon Treasurer Nick Ockenden Susannah Browne Samantha Clemens (resigned 6 December 2016) Noelle Cotter, Chair SRA Ireland Sophie Ellison, Chair SRA Scotland Ivana La Valle Dr Helen Kara David Johnson Faye Gracey, Chair SRA Cymru Robert Erens (appointed 6 December 2016) Nigel Meager (appointed 6 December 2016) Kieran O'Leary (appointed 6 December 2016) Isabella Coelho Pereira (appointed 6 December 2016)	

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Chair's overview- Patten Smith

This has been another great year for the SRA. Our reserve fund has increased, our training and events programmes continue to be in very high demand, we are consistently producing high quality newsletter, magazine and journal material, we now offer members free journal access, and our membership has increased to over 1,000. We are now seeking to build on this success by updating and expanding the range of our activities. We are, for example, currently revising our ethical guidelines, refreshing our advocacy strategy, and developing a new digital / social media strategy. But we are always on the lookout for new ideas from members for creative initiatives that are aligned to our core objectives of promoting and speaking up for high quality social research, and of supporting the social research community. So please keep the ideas coming!

My six-year term as Board member and SRA Chair ends in December. This leaves me sad and glad in equal measure. Sad, because helping steer the SRA has now become a large part of my life, but also glad because the SRA is in such good health that I need feel no guilt about the state of the organisation I hand to my successor. But, I should quickly add that the organisation's current good health is not down to me, but is rather the product of excellent team working by exceptional and committed individuals on the Board, in the wider membership and in the office. To name all here would lead to too long a list for this document, but I do wish to give special thanks to three retiring Board colleagues: our treasurer, Graham Hughes to whom we owe in large part the very survival of the SRA during its financially bleak period six years ago; our Board training lead, Simon Haslam, who oversees what has evolved into one of the SRA's most successful activities; Nick Ockenden, under whose watch our communications have flourished, not least with the launch of our new journal 'Social Research Practice'; and and Ivana LaValle, under whose excellent stewardship for 3 years our house magazine, Research Matters, expanded its scope whilst always remaining true to the SRA's core mission.

Now it's time for fresh ideas from the new team. I wish them great success!

Treasurer's report - Graham Hughes

As Treasurer I am pleased to be able to report that for a sixth successive year the SRA has achieved a surplus of income over expenditure and so increased its reserves again. The Board continues striving to find ways to use our resources to make more impact and improve the quality of social research in the UK and Ireland, the constraints at the moment are more to do with human resources than financial ones.

Once again, our net income from running training courses increased during this year, and this underpins our current financial strength. Training is a core activity for the SRA as it directly contributes to our main purpose of strengthening the quality of social research in the UK and Ireland. We are lucky to have a loyal team of excellent trainers and an efficient co-ordinator in Lindsay Adams. The efforts and investments in previous years to create a website through which our courses can be booked online have paid off handsomely.

Our membership has continued to expand during the past year, so our income from that source has also increased. And I am pleased to note that net income from our events, such as the Annual Conference, has also grown even though we have been trying to keep our fees for these as low as possible. The revenue from advertising research posts through our jobs board has recovered a bit after a downturn in the previous year. So, we appear to be moving ahead on all our income sources.

I am very pleased to note that all of the improvements in the SRA's income that have taken place over the past six years have been achieved without any need to increase our membership or training charges. This has not been a time of zero inflation, as many of our costs have increased, but increased levels of attendance and participation have more than covered those higher costs.

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Trustees' Report

Membership – David Johnson

This year we have reached a membership milestone: we now have over 1,000 members for the first time since at least 2010. Working members, all of whom have joined as individuals (the SRA does not offer corporate membership) continue to be drawn from a wide range of sectors:

- Central Government: 15-20%
- Research agency: 10-15%
- Charitable/Voluntary/Third sector: 10-15%
- Independent researcher: 10-15%
- Social research organisation/institute: 10-15%
- Academic/educational: just under 10%
- NGO/NDPB: 5-10%
- Local Government: just under 5%
- Other commercial business: just under 5%
- Government agency: just under 5%
- Professional association: 0-5%

It is very encouraging to see the SRA growing in this way and the trustees have been discussing how best to continue to expand the range of the membership offer such as taking out an annual subscription for members to access the EBSCO database of academic social science journals, and promote to the resources currently available such as the SRA Journal. We are also keen to address the high level of churn in members who have only been with the SRA for a short while. We expect to continue to develop our plans and respond to members' feedback, and tie that in with other initiatives we are planning as the SRA turns 40 next year.

Communications - Nick Ockenden

The SRA journal 'Social Research Practice' published a further two issues in 2016-17, and many thanks are due to Richard Bartholomew, the journal's first editor. We're keen to hear about possible articles from anyone working in social research or social policy, whether as a producer or user of research, and details are available on our website. The website continues to be the main tool to communicate with our members and the wider social research field. The site had over 170,000 unique visits in the past year, an increase of 62% on the previous year and the third year of successive growth in visitor numbers. The training page has again been the most popular part of the website, attracting 59,000 unique visitors during that period. The careers advice page was the next most popular with over 18,000 unique visits.

Many thanks to Gillian Smith for the excellent e-newsletter that she produces for members every fortnight. Thanks also go to Sarah Butt of City University (and her predecessor Ivana La Valle), commissioning editor of the magazine 'Research Matters', with the help of Diarmid Campbell-Jack, Yulia Kartalova, Sumi Rabindrakumar, Peter Cormick and Graham Farrant. We continue to be grateful to Annika Coughlin for raising our profile and communicating with our members and the wider community through the Twitter account '@TheSRAOrg', which at the end of this financial year had over 6,000 followers.

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Trustees' Report

We will continue to share information on our Twitter feed (@sracymru), web page and LinkedIn Group (Social Research Association (SRA) Cymru).

SRA Scotland branch - *Sophie Ellison*

We were pleased to welcome Daniel Stunnell to the Committee this year and sad to see Julie Carr (previous Branch Chair) step down. We would like to thank Julie for all her contributions over many years. Many thanks also to current Committee members Lorraine Simpson, Susan McConville, Lucy Setterfield, Shanna Christie and Vicki Welsh for all their efforts over the past year.

SRA membership in Scotland has continued to increase this year, up 9% from last year.

Our events programme continues to deliver learning and networking opportunities for the social research community in Scotland and to provide an informal space to debate and discuss research topics and issues. This year we hosted 3 events, one in Glasgow and two in Edinburgh. These were on: social marketing and tobacco control research; visual and participatory methods in the digital age; and the ethics of RCTs in Social Care. We'd like to thank all our speakers for taking the time to share their expertise and experiences with us.

In addition to the events programme, 19 SRA training courses were delivered in Scotland this year.

Looking to next year, the Committee will be hosting a panel event on 'Where next for the random probability survey' and events to celebrate the SRA's 40th anniversary.

SRA Ireland branch- *Kieran O'Leary*

SRA (Ireland) has continued to grow during 2016-17, and now has 45 members – a significant increase on last year, which can be attributed to the membership drive last year. It also continues a trend of year-on-year growth that has been seen in each of the past few years. Attendance at our events and courses – which this year including Research data management – and requests to join our mailing list have both increased this year.

SRA (Ireland) continues to attract followers on Twitter; with over 450 national and international researchers and organisations following our informative tweets about new research, funding opportunities, vacancies and events across the UK and Ireland: @SRAIreland

On a personal note, just to mention that I am very pleased to have joined Noelle Cotter as an SRA trustee in Ireland.

London events - *Patten Smith*

A group of volunteers is responsible for devising SRA events in London, working with the SRA office. We are very grateful for their strong commitment.

In October 2016 we held an event with the 'New Social Media, New Social Science' group on 'An introduction to tools for social media research'.

The annual conference in December 2016, 'Making the links: new directions for social researchers' featured an excellent group of plenary speakers and workshop presenters, and attracted an audience of 210 researchers and research users to the British Library.

In May 2017 we held the fourth Roger Jowell lecture, jointly with NatCen Social Research and City University, where Professor Anand Menon spoke on 'UK in a changing Europe'.

The 2017 Summer Event in June was titled 'Where now for the random probability survey?' with speakers from agencies and government addressing key issues around the viability of the method. (This event was repeated in Edinburgh some months later.)

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Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

The trustees (who are also directors of The Social Research Association for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the 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 incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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.

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Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the Year Ended 31 July 2017

		Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2017	Total Funds 2016
	Note	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	3	58,975	58,975	54,131
Investment income	4	276	276	308
Incoming resources from charitable activities	5	389,751	389,751	344,780
Total incoming resources		<u>449,002</u>	<u>449,002</u>	<u>399,219</u>
Resources expended				
Charitable activities	6	<u>419,286</u>	<u>419,286</u>	<u>342,496</u>
Total resources expended		<u>419,286</u>	<u>419,286</u>	<u>342,496</u>
Net movements in funds		29,716	29,716	56,723
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>174,079</u>	<u>174,079</u>	<u>117,356</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>203,795</u></u>	<u><u>203,795</u></u>	<u><u>174,079</u></u>

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2017

1 General information

The company is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England & Wales.

The address of its registered office is:

70 Royal Hill
Greenwich
LONDON
SE10 8RF

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 15 November 2017.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102). The Trustees have evaluated the funding and operating activities and reserves position and have no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. This is the first year that the accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS102. Accordingly, the date of transition to FRS102 was 1 August 2015. In the transition to FRS102 no measurement or recognition adjustments were made and there are no restatements included in the financial statements.

Fund accounting policy

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 18.

Incoming resources

Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

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 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.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes income recognised as earned (as the related goods or services are provided) under contract.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2017

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4 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2016 £
Interest on cash deposits	276	276	308

5 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2016 £
Charitable activity			
Events	39,723	39,723	26,394
Training courses	327,432	327,432	298,130
Advertising	21,690	21,690	19,680
Foreign currency (gains)/losses	906	906	576
	<u>389,751</u>	<u>389,751</u>	<u>344,780</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2017

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7 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustees received any remuneration in the year (2016: £nil).

During the year the charity incurred £6,338 (2016: £5,251) to FMR Research, a company in which Dr Simon Haslam, a trustee of the charity, has an interest, and also £2,332 (2016: £1,825) to We Research It Ltd, a company in which Dr Helen Kara, a trustee of the charity, has an interest. These payments were fees for the delivery of training courses, all at standard trainer's rates. At the end of the year there was no amount outstanding between the charity and either of these companies (2016: £nil).

With the exception of the above, no trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2016: £nil).

Two trustees (2016: three) received reimbursement for travel expenses incurred on behalf of the charity that totalled £725 (2016: £1,335).

8 Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2017 £	2016 £
Foreign currency gains	(906)	(576)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	845	1,683

9 Employees' remuneration

The average number of persons employed by the charity (including trustees) during the year was as follows:

	2017 No.	2016 No.
Charitable activities	3	2

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

	2017 £	2016 £
Wages and salaries	72,953	44,935
Social security	3,225	839
Other pension costs	506	793
	76,684	46,567

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2017

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13 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2017 £	2016 £
Trade creditors	3,697	8,134
Other creditors	85	-
Accruals and deferred income	60,404	59,959
	<u>64,186</u>	<u>68,093</u>

Creditors amounts falling due within one year includes deferred income:

	2017 £	2016 £
As at 1 August 2016	54,317	37,917
Amount released to incoming resources	(54,317)	(37,917)
Amount deferred in the year	54,427	54,317
As at 31 July 2017	<u>54,427</u>	<u>54,317</u>

14 Members' liability

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

15 Operating lease commitments

As at 31 July 2017 the charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

Operating leases which expire:

	Land and Buildings	
	2017 £	2016 £
Within two and five years	<u>11,500</u>	<u>-</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2017

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19 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2017	Total Funds 2016
	£	£	£
Tangible assets	634	634	1,479
Current assets	267,347	267,347	240,693
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(64,186)	(64,186)	(68,093)
Net assets	<u>203,795</u>	<u>203,795</u>	<u>174,079</u>

20 Analysis of 2016 SOFA

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2016 £
Incoming resources		
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>		
Voluntary Income	54,131	54,131
Investment income	308	308
Incoming resources from charitable activities	344,780	344,780
Total incoming resources	<u>399,219</u>	<u>399,219</u>
Resources expended		
Charitable activities	342,496	342,496
Total resources expended	<u>342,496</u>	<u>342,496</u>
Net movements in funds	56,273	56,723
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	117,356	117,356
Total funds carried forward	<u>174,079</u>	<u>174,079</u>