

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 2018

CHARITY COMMISSION
FIRST CONTACT
22 NOV 2018
ACCOUNTS
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VOICES FROM CARE

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VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

CEO Forward

It has been a very exciting and busy year for Voices from Care Cymru and I have seen exceptional work from our children and young people whom have been involved in the service development and service delivery of the organisation.

Key areas of activity has been to further establish our regional work and reach through our national/regional groups of which has been key in various national discussions. The main aim of this work is to continue to support and strengthen the outcomes for our members in partnership with key agencies.

Our "Listen Up!" events took place across the five regions, covering every local authority in Wales, throughout the year. Our workshops covered a range of themes and we worked in partnership with key agencies across Wales.

Another key event was to host Careday, which has gone international this year with Australia and New Zealand joining in on the celebrations; we will continue to build the momentum of this very important initiative.

We also, for the second year, hosted our Proud to Be Me event, which brings young people and professionals together to celebrate the achievements of the care experienced community. This year the event was held at the SWALEC Stadium in Cardiff and featured a variety of workshops including poetry writing, Q&A sessions, round table discussions and the chance to hold a whole host of exotic animals! Our young people did a fantastic job of hosting and one of our members from North Wales gave an inspirational speech on her experiences and all the things she is proud of. Feedback from the event was really positive, with 97% of attendee's surveyed saying that they enjoyed the event and 100% agreeing that it was important to bring young people and professionals together in this way.

~~Our influencing work continues with our involvement in The Ministerial Advisory Group, All party Group, Voting for 16 year old/Electoral reform, The Public Scrutiny Committee, to mention a few. It has been a great privilege to work in partnership on these very important areas.~~

Throughout the year our partnership work has developed further and has ensured a collaborative approach with similar organisations across the 5 nations along with Children in Wales, Tros Gynnal Plant, NYASC being some of the key partners with a mutual approach in establishing better outcomes for care experienced children and young people.

Finally all of this work could never have been achieved without the support and commitment of our staff and of course the children and young people. It is a real privilege to work alongside you, I look forward to another exciting year.

Deborah Jones
Chief Executive Officer

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

Co-Chairs' Forward

We have been pleased to Co-Chair another year of the Board of Trustees of Voices From Care which has gone from strength to strength. The active participation of care experienced young people throughout the organisation, including a Co-Chair and Members of the Board and its Finance and HR Sub Committee, has continued to reflect the core values of the organisation where the strategic direction has been centrally influenced by young people.

The tireless work of staff and young volunteers has resulted not only in an extension of the reach of the organisation through local and national activity, but also a widening of the type of activities beyond those directly related to social care into those that have effectively increased the self-esteem of care experienced young people through the arts, sport and music. We have learned a great deal about the value of these activities and it was with pride that the Voices From Care Choir performed in the Millennium Centre in Cardiff in the 2018 Festival of Voice. In December 2017 Voices From Care took part in Street Football Wales's Women's Cup Competition and won the 'Women's Cup Runners Up' award.

The increasing numbers of care experienced children and young people and the issues that care leavers have faced during the year continues to be a major cause for concern and we have listened not only to their real concerns but also to the ideas they have for improvements which may be based on good care experiences they have had. We have endeavoured to be as influential as possible with politicians and other policy makers and promoting corporate parenting has been central to our work.

Our thanks go to everyone involved, including our funders as we cannot carry out this important work without you.

Catriona Williams OBE
Co-Chair

Dan Pitt
Co-Chair

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements 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).

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

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 (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

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

Achievements and performance

Participation

Regional Groups

Our "Listen Up!" events took place across the five regions, covering every local authority in Wales, throughout the year. Our workshops covered a range of themes including:

- Health & Wellbeing workshop in partnership with Children in Wales
- Article 31 of the UNCRC – a child's right to relax and play
- The educational experiences of care experienced young people

During the summer meetings we were joined by the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Sally Holland, giving young people the chance to directly influence the issues that matter to them.

The fun activities included rock climbing, canoeing and trampolining, as well as visits to the zoo, Parc y Scarlets rugby stadium and the Wales Millennium Centre.

Policy Group

This year our Policy Group has been focusing on the issues of contact and passports for young people leaving care.

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

Care Day

Care Day is the world's biggest celebration of care experienced children and young people, and this year it took place on 16th February. We joined our sister organisations from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in holding events that flipped the stigma attached to being care experienced.

We kicked the day off with an early morning conference call with our New Zealand counterparts, followed by two of our young people being interviewed live on BBC Radio Wales.

During Care Day we premiered our "Questions Not to Ask" video across Wales, with a group of young people in Cardiff meeting with David Melding AM to watch the film at the Welsh Assembly building.

We brought the day to a close with a visit to Cardiff City Hall which was lit up in green in recognition of VFCC and Care Day.

This was the second year that we hosted our Proud to Be Me event, which brings young people and professionals together to celebrate the achievements of the care experienced community.

Proud to be Me

This year the event was held at the Swalec Stadium in Cardiff and featured a variety of workshops including poetry writing, Q&A sessions, round table discussions and the chance to hold a whole host of exotic animals! Our young people did a fantastic job of hosting and one of our members from North Wales gave an inspirational speech on her experiences and all the things she is proud of.

Feedback from the event was really positive, with 97% of attendees surveyed saying that they enjoyed the event and 100% agreeing that it was important to bring young people and professionals together in this way.

Downing Street Christmas Party

On 11th December two of our young people attended the annual Prime Minister's Children's Christmas Party. They travelled to London for the day where they managed to fit in a spot of sightseeing before heading off to number 10 Downing Street.

At the party the young people played lots of games and got the chance to meet celebrities and other children from all around the country. They had a lot of fun and made some fantastic memories.

Alfie's Army

Gareth 'Alfie' Thomas trained and worked with 100 young people from across Wales to run in the Cardiff half marathon, five of whom were from Voices from Care Cymru. All five of our young people ran and completed the Cardiff Half Marathon on 1st October.

Gareth said "Ages 17-21 can be a very troublesome time, but it can also be the one time in your life where you can find something or do something that inspires you for the rest of your life, and that's ultimately why I wanted to go for this age group."

Pen-y-Fan Walk

On the 17th November a team of 15 young people and members of staff walked up Pen Y Fan in the Brecon Beacons to celebrate BBC Children in Need and raise awareness of Voices From Care Cymru's services. The team took two Blush bears with them and wore their Blush ears to show their support.

Everyone who took part made it to the summit and kept a positive attitude all the way there and back. The young people were really proud of what they achieved and many would be interested in taking part in a similar challenge next year.

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

Influencing

Public Accounts Committee

The public accounts committee has been looking into services for care experienced young people and whether money has been spent in the right way.

This involved speaking to young people to get an overview of their experience of being in care to see how this can be improved for all children and young people in care in the future.

Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) for Looked After Children

The MAG was established in 2016 and is chaired by David Melding AM and reports to the Minister for Children and Social Care, Huw Irranca-Davies AM. The Vice-Chair is Daniel Pitt who is one of VFCC's young Trustees.

The work of the Group focusses on:

- identifying early and preventative action to help reduce the numbers of children taken into care
- improving outcomes for children already in care
- improving outcomes for care leavers.

Cross Party Group (CPG) on Looked After Children

The CPG on Looked After Children aims to improve the standards of services provided to care experience children and young people. The group meets to look at the different issues which affect looked after children in Wales and to consider the policy implications. The meetings also provides the opportunity for staff from different organisations to meet with Assembly Members to discuss issues of concern for looked after children.

VFCC continues to attend and provide the secretariat duties for the Welsh Government Cross Party Group on Looked After Children which is chaired by David Melding AM.

Votes at 16

Young people were consulted on various issues relating to electoral reform, and this included the proposal to lower the voting age in Welsh elections to 16.

The young people identified a number of reasons why this would be a good thing, such as giving them more influence over their own future and an opportunity to engage with the democratic system.

They also noted some downsides to the proposal, such as the lack of political education available to young people and the perception that voting is futile and will not make a difference to who is in power.

Internal Influencing

AGM

This year our Annual General Meeting was held at the Future Inn in Cardiff Bay. It gave us the chance to recap the events VFCC had held in the preceding year as well as reflect on the values of the organisation. VFCC members were able to review the year's finances.

Two of the existing board members were re-elected, and as there was a vacancy Brittany Davies was newly elected as a trustee.

Membership Committee

The membership committee gives all of our members a chance to have a say on how they would like VFCC to be run and to decide on what they want us to focus on going forward. Most recently we have been discussing how the membership committee itself can evolve and what direction that might take.

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

Research

Public Involvement Achievement Award 2017

In October 2017 CASCADE and Voices from Care Cymru received their Public Involvement Achievement Award 2017 at the Health and Care Research Wales Conference 2017. The award recognises and celebrates excellent public involvement from across Health and Care Research Wales.

The CASCADE case study submitted to the award panel was that of the 2015 Looked After Children and Education project, carried out by CASCADE in collaboration with Voices from Care Cymru. The project, led by Dr Dawn Mannay, involved training care-experienced peer researchers, and using creative research methods to find out about the educational experiences and aspirations of care-experienced children and young people in Wales.

The findings from the project were detailed in 17 recommendations to Welsh Government and were incorporated in to the Welsh Government Strategy for Looked After Children Education.

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 £505,968 (2017: £518,100). Direct charitable expenditure including support costs amounted to £476,072 (2017: £454,649) and governance costs totalled £4,111 (2017: £4,299). This resulted in net incoming resources of £25,785 (2017: £59,152), of which was an unrestricted surplus of £99 and a restricted surplus of £25,686. The restricted surplus will be spent in 2018-19.

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 £133,037 (2017: £133,219) and the level identified to enable the organisation to continue for six months is £181,373.

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.

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

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.

Future plans

VFCC has always had three strands to its work participation, influencing and advice & support. The Participation and influencing work has grown significantly over the last few years, as can be seen from the report. It is VFCC's plan to grow the advice and support element of work as well. We are seeking funding to develop a therapeutic service with links to counselling that provides a truly Wales wide provision. The principle being that young people involved with VFCC would have access to practical and emotional support through internal referrals to the services, whilst those not currently involved could access the support through a one stop shop for care experienced young people.

VFCC's constitution is currently being reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose and recognises the changes in governance approaches, especially in terms of the use of technology. We expect this revised constitution to be adopted at the next Voices From Care AGM. The new constitution will allow for a modern approach to governance, which ensures the young people have the greater say in the direction of the organisation.

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.

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

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.

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

Lisa Armstrong - resigned 20 January 2018

Louise Roberts

James Dovey-Yorgensen

Tiffany Evans - resigned 3 September 2018

Jeffery Champney-Smith - appointed 5 April 2018

Brittany Paige Davies - appointed 20 January 2018

Ian Harvey - appointed 5 April 2018

Secretary

D A Jones

Chief Executive

D A Jones

Registered Office

45 The Parade, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3AB

Auditors

MHA 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.

VOICES FROM CARE

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

Ms C Williams

.....
Ms C Williams - TRUSTEE

Dated: 1/11/18.....

VOICES FROM CARE

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

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 financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the 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 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 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 financial statements 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 TRUSTEES OF VOICES FROM CARE

Opinion

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

In our opinion, the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

VOICES FROM CARE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES 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 in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

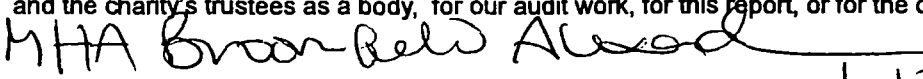
We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. 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 the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.


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

11/11/18

MHA Broomfield Alexander 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 2018

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>					
Donations and legacies	3	20	-	20	-
Charitable activities	4	159,424	343,123	502,547	508,786
Investments	5	107	-	107	112
Other income	6	3,294	-	3,294	9,202
Total income		162,845	343,123	505,968	518,100
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Charitable activities	7	162,746	317,437	480,183	458,948
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		99	25,686	25,785	59,152
Fund balances at 1 April 2017		140,437	18,454	158,891	99,739
Fund balances at 31 March 2018		140,536	44,140	184,676	158,891

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 2018

	Notes	2018		2017	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		7,499		7,218
Current assets					
Stocks	14	1,456		1,456	
Debtors	15	19,090		29,055	
Cash at bank and in hand		175,569		150,199	
		<u>196,115</u>		<u>180,710</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(18,938)</u>		<u>(29,037)</u>	
Net current assets			177,177		151,673
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>184,676</u>		<u>158,891</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	17		44,140		18,454
Unrestricted funds			140,536		140,437
			<u>184,676</u>		<u>158,891</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 2018, 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 financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements 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 financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 1st November, 2018



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 2018

	Notes	2018 £	£	2017 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	24		28,763		61,301
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(3,500)		(5,478)	
Interest received		107		112	
Net cash used in investing activities			(3,393)		(5,366)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			25,370		55,935
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			150,199		94,264
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			175,569		150,199
Short term deposits included in current asset investments			-		-
Bank overdrafts included in creditors payable within one year			-		-

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Accounting convention

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

The financial statements 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

The charity reported an unrestricted inflow of £99 for the year to 31 March 2018. At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

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 financial statements.

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.

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the organisation, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

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

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Resources expended

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

Governance

These costs include such items as audit, legal advice for trustees and costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

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 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.8 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.

1.9 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.

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

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.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 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.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

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.

1.12 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 2018

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

	2018	2017
	£	£
Donations and gifts	20	-
	<u>20</u>	<u>-</u>

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

4 Charitable activities

	2018	2017
	£	£
Advice, Support, Participation & Collaboration	83,174	103,968
Corporate Parenting	-	30,000
Awareness & Training	2,666	9,050
Grants	416,707	365,768
	<u>502,547</u>	<u>508,786</u>

Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	159,424	
Restricted funds	343,123	
	<u>502,547</u>	

For the year ended 31 March 2017

Unrestricted funds		143,018
Restricted funds		365,768
		<u>508,786</u>

Performance related grants

S.S.S.G. (Welsh Government)	279,755	294,479
Children in Need	40,318	38,796
Lloyds Foundation	-	3,960
Comic Relief	23,050	-
Erasmus+ (Citizenship)	-	28,533
National Lottery Awards for All	8,900	-
NYAS	39,684	-
Paul Hamlyn Fund	25,000	-
	<u>416,707</u>	<u>365,768</u>

5 Investments

	2018	2017
	£	£
Interest receivable	<u>107</u>	<u>112</u>

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

6 Other income

	2018	2017
	£	£
Other Income	<u>3,294</u>	<u>9,202</u>

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

7 Charitable activities

	Citizenship Engagement	Advice, support & advocacy	S.S.S.G.	Facilitation, Participation & Collaboration	Total 2018	Total 2017
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	3,751	20,245	115,829	49,114	188,939	247,020
Depreciation and impairment	-	-	3,219	-	3,219	3,335
Travel	933	-	5,151	5,084	11,168	11,901
Volunteer expenses	2,045	580	4,130	620	7,375	44,389
NYAS re-imbursement	-	-	49,916	-	49,916	52,968
Audit Fees	-	-	-	-	-	5,075
Consultancy	174	-	10,097	14,605	24,876	19,633
Payroll/Pension preparation	17	-	687	237	941	-
Occupancy	447	-	12,766	6,194	19,407	29,395
HR, legal & professional	35	-	1,954	489	2,478	9,415
Office running costs	260	-	8,188	2,906	11,354	14,283
Communications / Facilitation	167	2,106	4,526	2,325	9,124	8,675
Bank Charges	-	-	515	-	515	430
Bad debt	-	-	-	-	-	229
Development/Activity (NFF)	-	-	-	-	-	7,901
ERASMUS reimbursement	-	-	4,732	-	4,732	-
Training & meeting costs	800	4,315	24,693	10,470	40,278	-
	<u>8,629</u>	<u>27,246</u>	<u>246,403</u>	<u>92,044</u>	<u>374,322</u>	<u>454,649</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	2,070	8,677	63,976	27,027	101,750	-
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	75	-	3,000	1,036	4,111	4,299
	<u>10,774</u>	<u>35,923</u>	<u>313,379</u>	<u>120,107</u>	<u>480,183</u>	<u>458,948</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	2,145	8,677	123,861	28,063	162,746	
Restricted funds	8,629	27,246	189,518	92,044	317,437	
	<u>10,774</u>	<u>35,923</u>	<u>313,379</u>	<u>120,107</u>	<u>480,183</u>	
For the year ended 31 March 2017						
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>

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

7 Charitable activities (Continued)

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2018	2017	Basis of allocation
	£	£	£	£	
Staff costs	80,975	-	80,975	-	
Occupancy costs	11,894	-	11,894	-	
HR costs	1,519	-	1,519	-	
Office running costs	6,959	-	6,959	-	
Payroll	403	-	403	-	
Audit fees	-	4,111	4,111	4,299	Governance
	<u>101,750</u>	<u>4,111</u>	<u>105,861</u>	<u>4,299</u>	
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>101,750</u>	<u>4,111</u>	<u>105,861</u>	<u>4,299</u>	

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £4,111 (2017- £4,299) for audit fees.

9 Net movement in funds

	2018	2017
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's financial statements	4,111	4,299
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	<u>3,219</u>	<u>3,335</u>

10 Trustees

5 trustees (2017: 5) received £741 (2017: £4,230) in relation to travel and training expenses during the year.

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year.

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

11 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2018 Number	2017 Number
Direct Charitable expenditure	7	7
Management and administration	3	3
	10	10
	10	10

Employment costs

	2018 £	2017 £
Wages and salaries	240,971	226,531
Social security costs	19,779	16,551
Other pension costs	9,164	3,938
	269,914	247,020
	269,914	247,020

Wages and salaries include redundancy payments of £nil (2017: £15,950).

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

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2017	16,370	49,800	66,170
Additions	-	3,500	3,500
	16,370	53,300	69,670
At 31 March 2018	16,370	53,300	69,670
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2017	12,391	46,561	58,952
Depreciation charged in the year	995	2,224	3,219
	13,386	48,785	62,171
At 31 March 2018	13,386	48,785	62,171
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2018	2,984	4,515	7,499
	2,984	4,515	7,499
At 31 March 2017	3,979	3,239	7,218
	3,979	3,239	7,218

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

13 Financial instruments	2018	2017
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	186,514	172,576
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	18,938	29,037
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
14 Stocks	2018	2017
	£	£
Finished goods and goods for resale	1,456	1,456
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
15 Debtors	2018	2017
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	10,885	21,850
Other debtors	60	527
Prepayments and accrued income	8,145	6,678
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	19,090	29,055
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2018	2017
	£	£
Trade creditors	14,438	24,046
Accruals	4,500	4,991
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	18,938	29,037
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

17 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 2017 £	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2018 £
		Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	
BBC Children In Need	4,540	40,318	(37,892)	6,966
Lloyds Foundation	3,333	-	-	3,333
WAG Structural Review	112	-	-	112
Sustainable Social Services Grant	1,728	279,755	(273,681)	7,802
European Fund (Erasmus+)	8,741	-	(5,864)	2,877
Comic Relief	-	23,050	-	23,050
	<u>18,454</u>	<u>343,123</u>	<u>(317,437)</u>	<u>44,140</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 of the risk register.

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

Erasmus+ is funding provided for National Youth meetings.

Comic Relief grant is to support staff costs.

18 Restricted funds- previous year

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>

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2018 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	7,499	-	7,499
Current assets/(liabilities)	133,037	44,140	177,177
	<u>140,536</u>	<u>44,140</u>	<u>184,676</u>

20 Analysis of net assets between funds - previous year

	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>

21 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 2018, the Company being limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.

22 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:

	2018 £	2017 £
Within one year	33,194	31,253
Between two and five years	11,767	44,834
	<u>44,961</u>	<u>76,087</u>

23 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2018 £	2017 £
Aggregate compensation	<u>87,891</u>	<u>73,880</u>

VOICES FROM CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

23 Related party transactions (Continued)

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2017 - none).

24 Cash generated from operations	2018	2017
	£	£
Surplus for the year	25,785	59,152
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(107)	(112)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	3,219	3,335
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	-	1,552
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	9,965	(5,874)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(10,099)	3,248
Cash generated from operations	<u>28,763</u>	<u>61,301</u>