



2018-19 at a glance

- 198 families (380 people) accessed frontline advice
- 72% received s.17 support following our intervention
- 26 training sessions delivered
- 251 telephone advice line calls from professionals
- 280 members of the online Section 17 Hub
- Seen and Heard campaign launched, centralising children's experiences of s.17 support
- Information Tribunal case settled out of court, confirming right to access local authority policies and procedures

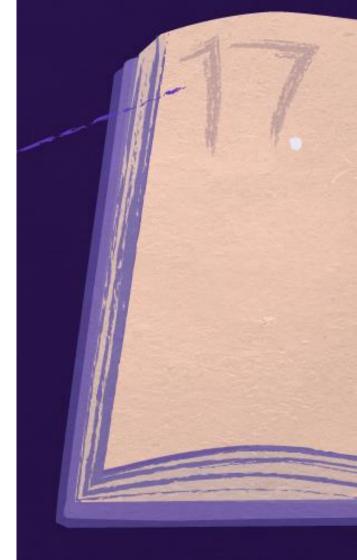
Mission and vision

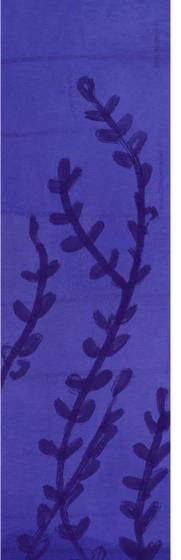
Project 17 is an organisation working to end destitution among migrant children. It works with families experiencing exceptional poverty to improve their access to local authority support.

We believe that all children have the right to a home and enough to eat, regardless of their parents' immigration status. To achieve our vision, we provide advice, advocacy and support for individuals. We build capacity in other organisations and we campaign for the improved implementation of statutory support.

Project 17 works towards ensuring that local authorities comply with the duties imposed on them by Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need. Section 17 enables local councils to provide accommodation and financial support to avoid children being taken into the care of the local authority.

This duty exists even if the family has no right to work, no access to welfare benefits and social housing and no leave to remain in the UK. Project 17 exists to ensure that individuals eligible for support under Section 17 are able to access it effectively.





Introduction

2018-19 has been a particularly challenging year for Project 17. Our capacity building and policy work grew in size and scope, but our advice service suffered a loss of funding that led to a reduction in frontline work. Although the situation has now improved, we are conscious of the many families we had to turn away from the service because of a lack of capacity.

We have seen an improvement in the way section 17 support is implemented in some local authority areas following sustained influencing work from Project 17 and like-minded organisations.

However, these positive developments are in sharp contrast with the increasingly rigorous assessment processes adopted by some other authorities, whose procedures appear designed to undermine the credibility of families requesting help.

This year we have tried to focus on children's experiences of accessing section 17 support, using research and campaigns to draw attention to the children facing homelessness and extreme poverty because their parents are excluded from mainstream welfare.

Who we are

Abi Brunswick, Director: Abi is the Director and one of the founders of Project 17, and is responsible for the overall running of the organisation. She has worked in the migrants' rights sector since 2008. Prior to establishing Project 17 she ran a small generalist advice service for migrants and refugees. Abi has an MA and a Graduate Diploma in Law.

Amy Murtagh, Adviser/Interim Director from August 2018: Amy joined Project 17 in 2014 as an Adviser. In 2018 she took on the role of Interim Director while Abi was on maternity leave. Amy has a Graduate Diploma in Law and an MA in Human Rights. She previously worked at the legal charity Rights of Women and worked with survivors of trafficking at Ashiana Sheffield.

Afsana Aramesh, Outreach Adviser: Afsana has worked with us since December 2016. She covers advice sessions at various centres in Greenwich, Hackney, Haringey and Lambeth. She previously worked at Coram Voice for 12 years as a specialist advocate, providing advocacy for young refugees, migrants, looked after children and care leavers.

she stepped-up to the Interim Director role. Unfortunately, a loss of funding meant that this position was cut short. Emma is a qualified social worker and completed local authority placements before coming to Project 17. She has an MSc in social work and an undergraduate degree in Philosophy.

Eve Dickson, Policy Officer: Eve is responsible for Project 17's policy and campaigns work. She also undertakes research into no recourse to public funds and supports families to make complaints about local authorities.

Alongside her work at Project 17, Eve runs Akwaaba's children's project and and helped set up NELMA's

Emma Bulmer, Adviser (August 2018-February 2019) Emma worked as an Adviser covering Amy's post while

Madeleine Ellis-Petersen, Training and Development Officer: As well as providing frontline advice, Madeleine delivers training to professionals across England. She also provides advice on Project 17's advice line for

delivers training to professionals across England. She also provides advice on Project 17's advice line for advisers, and develops our online resources. Madeleine previously worked in social policy research at the New Economics Foundation and volunteered at Hackney Migrant Centre.

Special thanks to our volunteers and trustees. We wouldn't exist without their hard work and commitment.

Volunteers

Trustees

Ifeltayo Akingbehin

Clare Jennings

Roli Aiyemo

Sue Ponter

Bethany Eldon Kerr

Sue Causton

Ivy Kwayisi

Claire McGuinness

Felicia Owokoniran

Felicia Owokoniran

Rosanna Ellul

Rupinder Parhar

Sydney Shea

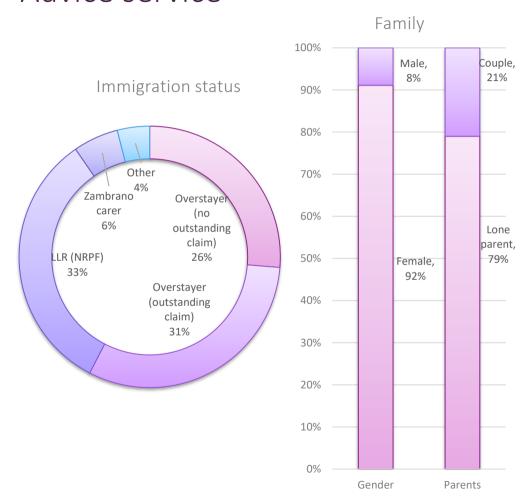
Gwawr Thomas

Kameal Thomas

Kofo Williams



Advice service



This year we worked with 318 clients, including 198 new clients.

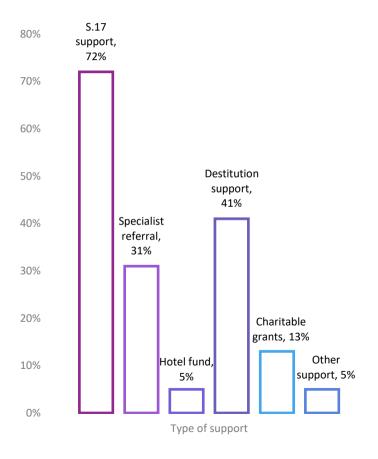
52% were homeless when they approached us

100% were struggling to meet basic needs

Clients came from 33 local authorities across London and the South East

65% had already asked the council for support before they came to us

Results



72% of clients accessed s.17 support with our help

Explanatory notes

'S.17 support' is accommodation and/or subsistence support under s.17 Children Act 1989

'Specialist referrals' include referrals to immigration advisers and community care solicitors, independent social workers and other specialists

Clients benefited from the Hotel Fund when Project 17 paid for hotels while refusals of s.17 support were challenged

'Destitution support' includes small emergency payments from Project 17 (normally £20), foodbank vouchers, toys, clothes or food

Charitable grants come from small grant-making organisations and normally range from £100 to £300

Other support includes accessing healthcare, free prescriptions and school meals. It also includes child maintenance, relevant benefits and declarations of parentage



Feedback

We asked a random selection of clients for feedback. We got 28 responses, and these are the results.

97% of clients said we understood their situation well.

88% said we helped them to progress their case.

87% rated their overall experience of the service as 10/10.

"There's a huge difference now. [The adviser] helped me and now me and my daughter have a place to sleep and we are eating. I'm really thankful."

Case study*

Taniyah approached us for support because she and her baby, Martin, were homeless. They had been staying with a friend for several years, sleeping on the living room floor. Taniyah's friend could no longer support them and they had nowhere to go.

Martin was a British citizen, but Taniyah was undocumented and couldn't work or claim benefits for Martin. She had been advised that she could apply to the Home Office for leave to remain, but could not afford a solicitor or pay the application fees.

We referred her and Martin to the local council for support under section 17. A member of staff spoke to her aggressively, saying 'we can't help you, so why don't you go back' and 'in situations like these we would normally take your child away from you.' These statements are wrong and illegal.

With advocacy from Project 17, Taniyah and Martin were housed and given financial support. But there were rats in the property and no cot was provided for Martin, so he kept falling out of the single bed he had to share with Taniyah. Subsistence payments were often late, leaving the family with no money to buy food.





With advocacy, subsistence payments became more regular and a cot was provided. A partner organisation helped them to access free immigration advice and eventually Taniyah was able to regularise her immigration status, enabling them to move out of local authority support

Project 17 worked with Shelter to submit a group complaint to the council, raising issues experienced by several families in the area, including Taniyah. The complaint demonstrated the inadequacy of the service provided to families with no recourse to public funds. It was upheld and Taniyah received compensation.

*Names and other identifying features have been changed to protect the identity of our client.

Training for professionals

26 training sessions, including 8 sessions outside London

462 participants

81% rated the training as Excellent

99.7% rated it as Good or Excellent

"Trainer was very knowledgeable. Really well-facilitated. Very clear, informative and well explained. One of the best trainings I've ever participated in"

Participant at Migrant Action, Leeds (June 2018)

"Clear, comprehensive and well structured. One of the best workshops we've had."

Participant at Asylum Welcome, Oxford, (September 2018)



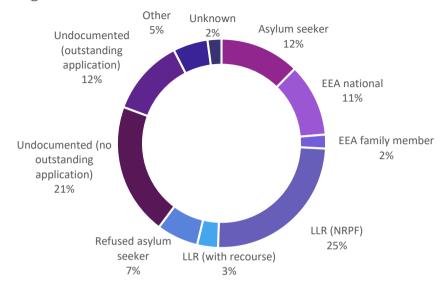
Telephone advice for professionals

251 calls

171 organisations

86 local authority areas

Immigration status



places a duty on local authorities to
safeguard and promote the welfare of
children 'in need' in their area.*



Expanding our reach

This year we focused on developing online resources, supporting self-advocacy and creating materials for frontline workers, lawyers and those involved in strategic work.

We worked in partnership with Youth Legal to establish the Section 17 Hub, a members' area of our website that houses policy documents from all local authorities in England, obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests. We are also uploading anonymised case data to help practitioners identify trends in bad practice and call for change. The Hub now has 280 members.

Policy and campaigns

Our policy work aims to create longer term change through research, consultation, complaints and litigation. This year our work included:

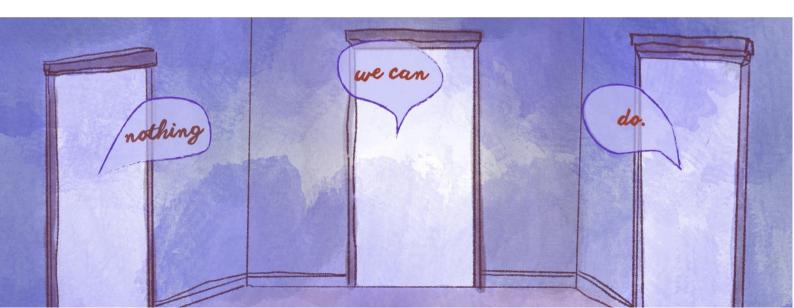
- Following pressure that involved engagement, group complaints and litigation, Lewisham Council undertook an independent review of its NRPF services; removed its embedded Home Office officer and significantly improved decision-making.
- We worked with Kate Osamor MP and Just Fair to establish the All-Party Parliamentary Group on No Recourse to Public Funds. The first meeting will take place in May 2019.
- Our research into children's experiences of NRPF led to the creation of a report, an animation and a best practice charter for local authorities.



Not Seen, Not Heard

In February we published the research report 'Not Seen, Not Heard: Children's Experiences of the Hostile Environment'. The report explores the challenges faced by children living in families with no recourse to public funds.

The report shows that the barriers to accessing local authority support and the failure to meet children's essential needs have a significant emotional and physical impact on young people. The children we spoke to had been left street homeless, in inadequate or unsafe accommodation, and without enough money to eat. They told us that they were left feeling socially isolated, distressed, ashamed and unsafe. You can read the full report on our website.





The Children's Charter

'Not Seen and Not Heard' inspired us to create a Children's Charter. Working with consultants Sue Lukes and Minda Burgos-Lukes, we developed a Children's Charter for local authorities to adopt. The charter is a mechanism for councils to formally demonstrate their commitment to upholding the rights of children living in families with no recourse to public funds. So far, Hackney council has adopted the Charter and Islington council is working towards adopting it.

We made an animated film telling the story of Joel, a child facing homelessness and extreme poverty with his mother while trying to access support under s.17. You can watch the film <u>on our website</u>. It has been viewed over 1,300 times.



Looking ahead Our priorities for next year include

Growing the frontline advice service to assist more families facing destitution because they have NRPF. We hope to employ 3 advisers

Developing more training sessions for specialist workers so we can encourage non-traditional allies to make s 17 referrals

Using the APPG on NPRF to raise the profile of the issues our clients face and call for change on a national platform

Working with partners to grow the S17 Hub so that it includes case data from more frontline organisations, making it easier to identify trends

Involving service users in
the planning and
delivery of our policy
work by supporting
those with lived
experience of NRPF to
call for change on issues
that matter to them

Financial information

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2019	Total funds 2018
INCOME				
Grants & donations	£33,581	£194,716	£228,297	£176,199
Other income	£2,625		£2,625	£3,867
Total income	£36,206	£194,716	£230,922	£180,066
EXPENDITURE				
Charitable activities	£36,877	£176,391	£213,268	£174,123
Governance costs	£10		£10	£28
Total expenditure	£36,887	£176,391	£213,278	£174,151
Net income	(£681)	£18,325	£17,644	£5,915
Reconciliation of funds				
Funds brought forward	£45,551	£84,586	£130,137	£124,222
Transfer between funds	(£1,489)	£1,489	£124,222	
Funds carried forward	£43,381	£104,400	£147,781	£130,137

A full copy of these accounts can be obtained by emailing info@project17.org.uk

Funders

Trust and foundations

A B Charitable Trust

Family Holiday Association

The Hilden Charitable Trust

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

London Catalyst

Metropolitan Migration Foundation

Stephen Clark Charitable Trust

Lloyds Bank Foundation

Oak Foundation

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Strategic Legal Fund

The Sam and Bella Sebba Trust

Trust for London

Tudor Trust

Support of our funders means we can continue our work

Other sources

Deep Throat Choir

Fundraising events

Individual donations

Training income

Grants for clients

Buttle Trust

Glasspool Charity

Heinz Carol and Anna Koch Foundation

Mary Strand Trust

Positive Action in Housing



Special thanks

1MCB Chambers for organising and hosting a fundraising quiz

James Costerton for pro bono website management

Catherine Cunningham for pro bono independent examination of our accounts

Clare Jennings, Matthew Gold & Co. Ltd for pro bono legal advice and representation

Deep Throat Choir for donating the proceeds of their Christmas concert

Andrew Lane, Blake Morgan for pro bono advice on the terms of our premise

Matthew Gold & Co. Ltd for fundraising efforts

Eric Metcalfe, Monckton Chambers – for pro-bono advice and representation

Kate Osamor MP for chairing the APPG on NRPF

The Salvation Army, Catford, for donating Christmas presents for our clients' children

Nick Watts, Together with Migrant Children for advice and support with our research

Everyone who walked with us at the London Legal Support Trust

The individuals who give regular and one-off donations to support our work

The illustrations in the report are by Maddie Dai and come from our animation, 'Not Seen, Not Heard'



Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Project Seventeen

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2019.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under the section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act.
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

have not been met, or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Dr Catherine Cunningham

Relevant professional qualification or body: Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address: 28, Whitehall Park, London N19 3TN

Date: 7th August 2019

Project Seventeen Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 March 2019

Income:	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2018 £
Grants & donations	2a	33,581	194,716	228,297	176,199
Other trading activities	2b	2,625	-	2,625	3,867
Total income		36,206	194,716	230,922	180,066
Expenditure on:	3				
Charitable activities Governance Costs		36,877 10	176,391	213,268 10	174,123 28
Total expenditure		36,887	176,391	213,278	174,151
Net income	4	(681)	18,325	17,644	5,915
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward Transfer between funds		45,551 (1,489)	84,586 1,489	130,137	124,222
Total funds carried forward		43,381	104,400	147,781	130,137

Project Seventeen Balance Sheet 31 March 2019

	Note	_	2019	2018
Current assets		£	£	£
Debtors	5	1,516		2,348
Cash at bank and in hand		150,386		127,789
Creditors: Amount falling				
due within one year	6	4,121		-
Net current assets			147,781	130,137
Total assets less current liabilities			147,781	130,137
Net assets	7	_	147,781	130,137
Funds	8			
Restricted Funds			104,400	84,586
Unrestricted Funds			43,381	45,551
Total funds			147,781	130,137

The notes on pages 3 to 8 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the Trustees on 2 November 2019 and signed on their behalf.

Sue Ponter

1 Accounting policies and Company Information

1.1 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 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.

1.2 Incoming resources

Income is recognised in the financial statements when the charity becomes entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Voluntary income is received by way of grants and donations and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where the entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

1.3 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on the accrual basis as a liability is incurred.

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 costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly. Other costs are allocated on an appropriate basis such as staff time or estimated usage.

1.4 Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible Fixed Assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets less their estimated residual value over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Furniture and Equipment: 20% straight line basis

1.5 Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the funder. Expenditure which meets these criteria is identified to the specified fund together with any other costs agreed by the donor.

1.6 Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are grants, donations, self-generated and other income received by the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds and expendable in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

1.7 Company Information

Project Seventeen is a charitable incorporated organisation, Charity Registration number 1152621, registered on 27 June 2013 and is governed by the constitution which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable organisation. The registered address is Project Seventeen St Joseph's Hospice, Mare St, London E8 4SA

2a Grants and donations

2b

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
A B Charitable Trust			£ -	£ 10,000
Buttle Trust		380	380	820
Deep Throat Choir		1,300	1,300	-
Family Holiday Association		240	240	
Glasspool Charity		895	895	
Heinz, Anna & Carol Koch Foundation		1,635	1,635	
Hilden Charitable Trust		7,000	7,000	-
Individual donations	4,349	50	4,399	9,259
Lloyds Bank Foundation	•	24,216	24,216	23,741
London Catalyst		,	-	1,500
Mary Strand Trust		2,210	2,210	1,411
Metroplitan Migration Foundation	10,000		10,000	
Oak Foundation		49,347	49,347	30,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation		24,633	24,633	-
Positive Action in Housing		225	225	1,913
Project 17 fundraising events	2,232		2,232	1,929
Stephen Clark Charitable Trust	7,000		7,000	
Strategic Legal Fund		8,189	8,189	7,228
The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust		34,896	34,896	29,398
The Sam and Bella Sebba Trust	10,000		10,000	10,000
Trust for London		9,500	9,500	19,000
Tudor Trust		30,000	30,000	30,000
Total Voluntary income	33,581	194,716	228,297	176,199
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Other trading activities				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2019	Total 2018
	£	£	£	£
Training income	2,625	-	2,625	3,867
External fundraising events	,		-	-
Sundry Income			-	
	2,625		2,625	3,867

3 Expenditure

Resources expended represents the following direct and apportioned costs

	Costs of generating voluntary income	Charitable activities	Govern- ance costs	2019 Total	2018 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries		154,268		154,268	131,487
Social Security costs		3,430		3,430	9,694
Pension contribution		4,068		4,068	3,125
Volunteers Expenses		1,439		1,439	994
Hotel fund		1,988		1,988	2,490
Client grants		7,310		7,310	6,459
Tel, Internet, Fax		1,538		1,538	1,567
Rent		12,981		12,981	11,194
Freelance workers		12,600		12,600	200
Staff expenses		581		581	1,368
Trustee expenses			10	10	28
Snacks - clients		63		63	10
Photocopying		1,966		1,966	910
Publicity/Web Site		2,000		2,000	179
Venue hire		1,864		1,864	1,707
Insurance		387		387	340
Office supplies		6,785		6,785	2,193
Bad Debt Provision				0	206
		213,268	10	213,278	174,151
Analysis by fund:					
Restricted		176,391		176,391	165,491
Unrestricted		36,877	10	36,887	8,660
	-	213,268	10	213,278	174,151

4 Net income for the year

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THE HELLINGON	ic for the ye	zai is stateu	arter	CHAIRING.

Independent Examiner's Remuneration	2019 £	2018 £
- Accountant fee	<u>-</u>	-
Staff costs		
Staff costs during the year were:	2019	2018
	£	£
Salaries and wages	154,268	131,487
Social Security costs	3,430	9,694
Pension contribution	4,068	3,125
	161,766	144,306

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 p.a.

No Trustees received emoluments

The average monthly number of employees during the year, calculated on a head count basis was 5.6 (4.8 2017-18)

Related Party Payments:

There were no related third party payments

Trustee Payments:

Expenses in the year totalled £10 (£28 2017/18), with 1 trustee reimbursed travel expenses of £10

5 Debtors

	2019 £	2018 £
Training participants	300	650
Partner organisations	110	240
Season ticket loans		1,445
Pension overpayment	179	13
Rental Deposit	927	
Bad debt provision		
	1,516	2,348

The bad debt provision has been set as a 0% of outstanding training participants due to age and likeliness of recovery.

6 Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:

Amounts family due within one year.	2019 £	2018 £
Employees Accrued expenditure Social Security and other taxes	4,121	-
	4,121	

7 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£
Fund Balances at 31 March 2019 are represented by:			
Current Assets	43,381	104,400	147,781
	43,381	104,400	147,781

8 Funds

Fund movements were as follows:

	At 01-Apr	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers between funds	At 31-Mar
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds					
Client Grants	10,101	6,695	(9,298)		7,498
Advice Project	42,789	85,528	(87,807)		40,510
Capacity Building	20,711	49,347	(29,000)	1,489	42,547
Policy	10,984	53,146	(50,285)		13,845
Total Restricted Funds	84,586	194,716	(176,391)	1,489	104,400
Unrestricted funds:	45,551	36,206	(36,887)	(1,489)	43,381
Total funds	130,137	230,922	(213,278)	0	147,781

Fund Descriptions:

Client Grants and Destitution Fund: Monetary support for destitute families.

Advice: Providing direct advice and advocacy to destitute migrant families

Capacity building: Supporting other organisations to work with destitute migrant families

Policy: Improving implementation of support through campaigning and lobbying

Unrestricted funds:

General reserves to be used to further Project Seventeen's charitable objectives at trustees' discretion.