

# FRG LTD

England & Wales · Charity number 1015665

## Details

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Other names	FAMILY RIGHTS GROUP
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	<a href="#">02702928</a>
Registered	1992-12-14
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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**Address** Family Rights Group  
101 Pentonville Road  
London  
N1 9LG

**Phone** 02079232628

**Email** [office@frg.org.uk](mailto:office@frg.org.uk)

**Website** [www.frg.org.uk](http://www.frg.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO RELIEVE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO ARE IN NEED OR DISTRESS.

**Activities:** Family Rights Group is the charity in England and Wales that advises families whose children are involved with or need children's services because of welfare needs or concerns. We promote policies and practices that help children to be raised safely within their families, and campaign for effective support to assist family and friends carers who are raising children that cannot live at home

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** ENGLAND AND WALES
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,310,346	£2,306,145	£1,036,685	26
2024-03-31	£2,313,422	£2,011,880	£1,032,484	28
2023-03-31	£1,795,440	£1,723,986	£730,942	36
2022-03-31	£1,413,738	£1,508,937	£659,488	26
2021-03-31	£2,796,297	£2,563,108	£754,687	32

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Dr Kathryn Morris</b>	Chair	2025-11-20
Christopher Alan Nicholson		2019-07-17
Dr Sharmila Kar		2021-12-23
Emma Smale		2022-03-10
JEREMY JAMES WESTHEAD		2018-09-18
Jason Hillel Nisse		2018-09-18
John Aneurin Varley Trevor-Allen		2018-09-18
Jonathan Scourfield		2021-12-08
Katherine Onagh Tilley		2025-12-16
Matthew John Patterson		2024-03-21
Stuart Robert Black		2019-07-17

**FRG LTD**

England & Wales - Charity number 1015665

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# Accounts

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**Family  
Rights  
Group**

# Annual Report And Financial Statements

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for the year ended 31 March 2025



# FRG Ltd

## Legal & Administrative Information

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### Patron

The Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson

### Trustees

Angela Frazer-Wicks MBE  
*(Chair of Trustees)*

Kathryn Morris  
*(Vice-Chair)*

Jeremy Westhead  
*(Treasurer)*

Stuart Black

Jacqueline Campbell

Ann Chavasse

Sharmila Kar

Chris Nicholson

Jason Nisse

Matt Patterson

Jonathan Scourfield

Emma Smale

John Trevor-Allen

### Secretary

John Loveday

### Charity number (England and Wales)

1015665

### Charity number (Scotland)

SC047042

### Company number

2702928

### Principal address

101 Pentonville Road  
London  
N1 9LG

### Registered office

101 Pentonville Road  
London  
N1 9LG

### Auditor

Kreston Reeves LLP  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Springfield House  
Springfield Road  
Horsham  
RH12 2RG

### Bankers

Unity Trust Bank plc  
Nine Brindley Place  
Birmingham, B1 2HB

# Family Rights Group

## Our vision

Family Rights Group's vision is a society in which children can thrive in their families, and have loving relationships to turn to throughout life.

## Our mission

To ensure that the child welfare and family justice system supports children to live safely and thrive within their family, while strengthening the family and community ties of those children who cannot live at home.

## This report

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025. The Trustees' Report is also a Directors' Report for the purposes of company law, incorporating the Strategic Report as required by the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013.

The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities to undertake.

The Trustees regularly update the charity's risk register to identify and mitigate the major risks to which FRG Limited is exposed. The register incorporates both financial and non-financial risks and systems in place to reduce those risks to a reasonable level.

The objects of the charity are to relieve families with children who are in need or distress.

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# Chief Executive's Welcome



**Cathy Ashley OBE,**  
Chief Executive

**This was a momentous year - in which Family Rights Group celebrated our golden anniversary. 50 years from our humble beginnings around a kitchen table in 1974, to a national charity shaping and influencing legal and wider practice reform across the child welfare and family justice system.**

We ran a series of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities – including the creation of a [short film](#) which showcases our work, our impact and the many people who have been so key to our success.

In October, we held a Parliamentary reception to mark 50 years, with speakers including Bridget Phillipson MP, Secretary of State for Education. She took to the stage to celebrate Family Rights Group's role in championing family group conferences, describing them as 'solutions for children designed with the people who know them and love them.' She praised our work in creating Lifelong Links so that all children can maintain positive and lasting relationships throughout their lives.

Our anniversary celebrations culminated in a legal lecture, dinner and fundraising auction. The lecture was delivered by Lady Hale, former President of the Supreme Court, who reflected on the plentiful achievements of the charity over the past half century. She reminded us that when Family Rights Group was created councils could assume parental rights over a child, simply by councillors passing a resolution, without even involving their parents. Some councils even did it in bulk without individual consideration! Lady Hale recounted the role of Family Rights Group in influencing the Children Act 1989 and in the Review of Adoption Law, and its recommendation for Special Guardianship Orders in order that children could live permanently and securely with wider family or friends if they are unable to remain at home. She pointed out that the charity did not see the rights of children and the rights of families as polar opposites: "Family rights are important because families are important to children. That's what Family Rights Group is all about".

Looking forward, the need for the charity is greater than it ever was. There were more than 83,000 children in the care system in England last year. They are often isolated and alone, living far away from family and friends. Social work practice has become too focused on investigating and assessing rather than supporting families. Children and families are frequently not getting the help they need early enough to prevent difficulties escalating, whilst poverty and deprivation are making it harder for families to cope. The result is a system which is overstretched and overwhelmed.

More children who cannot live at home could be raised in kinship care; however this option is too often not explored.

Our new [10-year strategy](#) demonstrates our resolve in tackling a child welfare system in crisis. The strategy reflects the values that underpin our organisation, not least, that we challenge when needed, provide solutions, collaborate with, and learn from, young people and families with experience of the system and those working within it.

Already, we are starting to deliver on our 10-year goals.

Our specialist advice service answered 7,456 enquiries and calls from parents and kinship carers, and we had nearly 900,000 visitors to our website and on-line forums. Using an updated evaluation model, we found that the service saves £32.20 in public spending, including averting children entering the care system, for every £1 invested. We are working with 42 local authorities in the UK to offer Lifelong Links, with 1,167 children and young people in the care system and care leavers benefiting from the approach over the last year.

We led the law reform campaign which has resulted in the first statutory definition of kinship care in guidance and soon in primary legislation. And it is Family Rights Group that persuaded Government to include in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill a requirement on local authorities to draw up a local kinship care offer, so kinship families get the support they need, and children can thrive.

We have worked, together with young people and families, to help shape the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill. We have long campaigned for families to have a right to an offer of a family group conference when children's services are involved. The Bill includes a new mandate for local authorities to offer families the opportunity to come up with solutions for their children's welfare, to safely avert children entering the care system.

Our family engagement approach is proving instrumental in changing behaviours and thinking. For example, for the first time parents and kinship carers now sit on the President of the Family Division of the High Court's Public Law Working Group which is exploring the reforming of care proceedings. We were delighted that our adviser and family participation officer Beverley Campbell was awarded an MBE for her services to children and families.

I would particularly like to thank our empathetic, knowledgeable and hard-working staff team and the openness of the practitioners and decision-makers with whom we work. The charity is very fortunate to have such committed trustees. We appreciate all who have generously supported our work throughout the year. We are immensely privileged to work with phenomenal young people, parents and kinship carers. We continually learn from their insights, expertise and determination.

**October 2025**

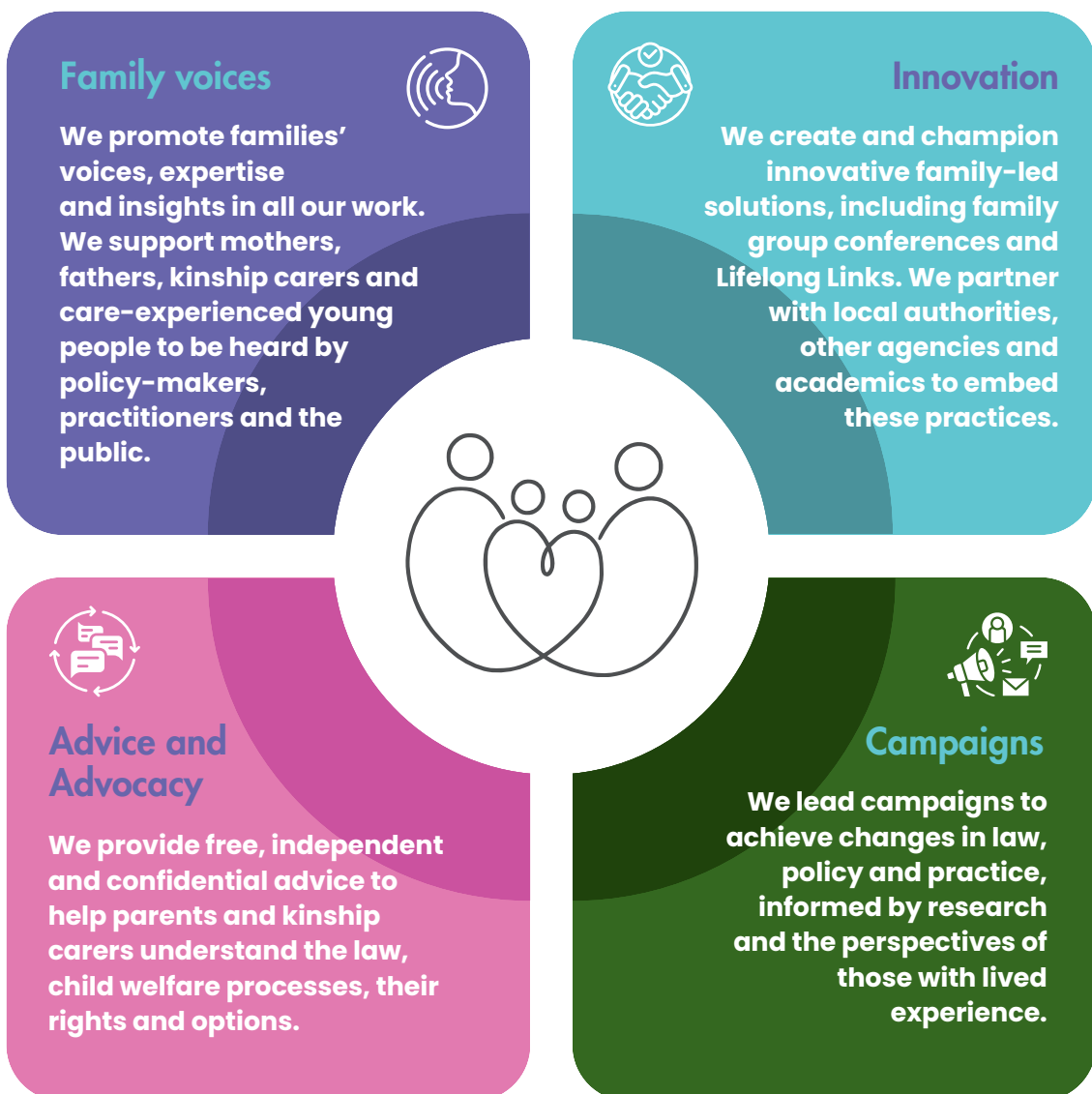
# Impact Report: 2024/25

## Our 10-year strategy

Our [strategic plan](#) for 2025-34 was launched in April 2025 and sets out our ambitious plans to enable the building of an effective child welfare system that puts children and families first.

## Our work

Our work is unique in bringing together legal and social work expertise with the direct voice and insights of young people and families. Children and families' voices and experiences are central to influencing attitudes, policies and practices.



## We have set five goals in our new [10-year strategy](#):

### **1) Access to advice and access to justice**

Ensuring that families have a right to independent legal and practical advice and advocacy, adequately funded by government, when there are care or protection concerns about their child.

### **2) Family-led decision making**

We want all families to be supported to make safe plans for their children, with the right to a family group conference if there are care or protection concerns.

### **3) Championing kinship care**

Kinship care is valued and properly supported as the first option when children cannot live at home.

### **4) Lifelong Links**

Lifelong Links, our approach which builds lasting support networks for children in care and care leavers, is offered to all care experienced children and young people.

### **5) Families shaping the system**

We believe that children and families with experience of the child welfare and family justice system should help shape it, at local and national level.



**A summary of key achievements of the year is set out in the following pages.**

# 1) Access to advice and access to justice



*The advice gave us the confidence to liaise with the various agencies, to understand the system and processes and be able to ensure that procedures were being followed correctly. While going through an horrendous and difficult time in our lives, it was an enormous help both emotionally and mentally to speak with a person who was able to understand completely what we had been subjected to, offering help, support, advice and reassurance.*

**Grandfather who called the advice line, and was advised on three occasions**



*Thank you so very much for the information you sent to me. This is perfectly put by you in clear basic guidance for myself and my son to be able to comprehend and follow. The template is fab I feel so much more at ease over the current situation we are facing now, after reviewing and receiving all the information you have formatted for us. With great gratitude and the very kindest of regards.*

**Grandmother who called the advice line and received follow up support**



# 82%

**of families who contacted us say that the advice they received helped their ability to cope.**

## At Family Rights Group we support families who need it most.

Our specialist advice and advocacy service assists families when they are involved with children's services in England or need their help. Our advisers, who are experienced lawyers, social workers and family advocates, provide free, independent advice to parents, and kinship carers (relatives and friends stepping in to raise a child who cannot remain at home). The service helps families to understand their rights and options, navigate complex child welfare processes and get the support their child needs.



### In 2024/25 we:

- answered a total of 7,456 advice enquiries
- increased the number of visitors to our website and online forums by 23%, to nearly 900,000
- answered over 5,000 calls from the public.



We provide an entirely free, blended service with online advice resources, a telephone advice line, webchat, on-line advice forums and a web-based enquiry form, as well as self-advocacy support.



We updated our evaluation model for the service. Our updated analysis in 2025 indicates that £32.40 is saved in public spending for every £1 invested in our advice line. When considering the costs of long-term statutory care, this equates to over £23 million saved over the last year alone.



Funding secured from the Improving Lives Through Advice (ILTA) grant, awarded by the National Lottery Community Fund, is enabling us to focus further on improving accessibility to the service.

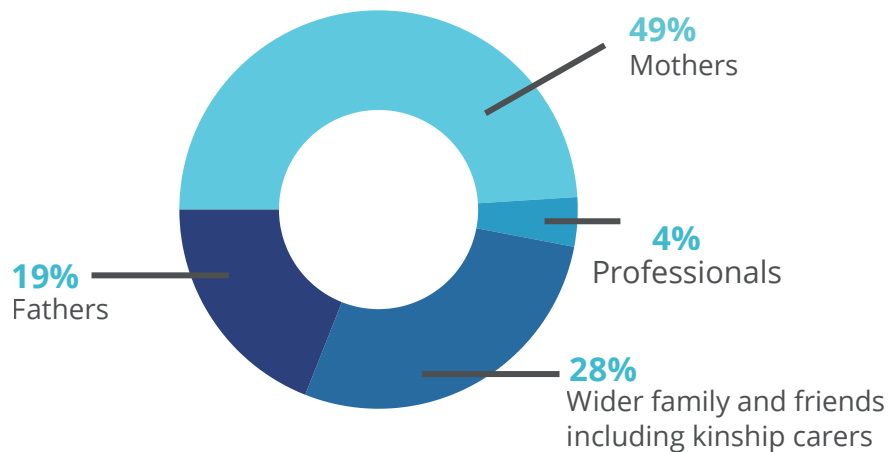


Mutual arrangements with partner organisations - including Become, Family Action, and Help on Your Doorstep - mean we can directly link families through to additional help and support where needed.

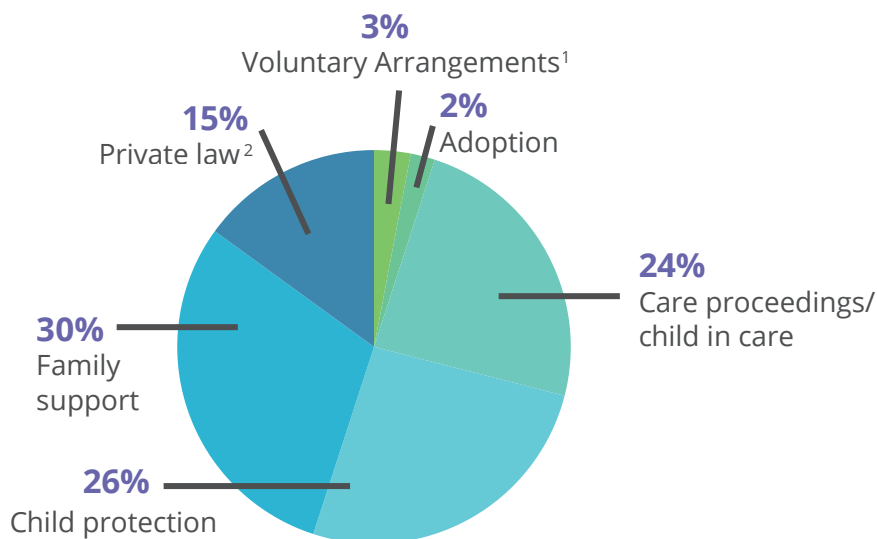
## In 2024/25, our advice and advocacy service:

- Responded to **7,456** advice enquiries via our free telephone advice line and digital service. Due to funding constraints and a high level of demand, we are only able to answer 4 in 10 callers to our free telephone advice line.
- Received **891,267** unique visitors to our online advice resources including over 500,000 people who visited our online forums for parents and kinship carers.
- Provided self-advocacy support to **578** families.

### Who we advised:



### The topics we were asked for advice on:



<sup>1</sup> When children are 'looked after' by children's services but with no court order.

<sup>2</sup> Where there is a dispute about a child's upbringing between two members of the family.



## The top 6 reasons given by our callers for children's services involvement:

**25%** domestic abuse

**14%** parental mental ill-health

**13%** parental separation or divorce

**12%** parental substance misuse

**10%** support for a disabled child

**8%** sex offence or alleged sex offence



### In the week after contacting us:

**82%** of families felt that they were better able to cope as a result of their contact with us

**80%** of respondents felt that they understood the law better.



### 4 – 6 months after contacting us:

**40%** of families agreed that they understood their rights, responsibilities and options better

**30%** agreed that the support they received made a positive difference to the local authority plan and services for their children.



The evaluation estimates that **every £1 invested in our service saves the state £32.40**. That equates to £23 million in the last two years.

# Our legal work and access to justice



Our legal team was named Children Law Team of the Year at the Lexis Nexis Family Law Awards, the first voluntary sector legal team to win in this category. This award recognises the team who have displayed outstanding work in the areas of family law regarding children. In winning, the legal team have further cemented Family Rights Group's role as a leading authority on child welfare law and policy.

We successfully concluded our Reimagining pre-proceedings work, including the pilot in Dorset and securing a further 11 months of funding to disseminate the learning and academic evaluation of the project.

- The work included a Dorset local family justice area pilot. Dorset Council has since received an 'Outstanding' Ofsted report which refers to our work with them.
- An 11-month LEF funding extension will allow us to widely disseminate [public legal education tools developed through the project](#) and findings from an independent evaluation.



Also of note is the rising profile of our Deprivation of Liberty legal aid reform work amongst the legal and access to justice sectors.



**Our young parents project, including a direct legal advice pilot, generated deeper insights into the experiences and advice needs of care experienced young parents. It has also generated public legal education opportunities and a new direct legal advice model to complement our Advice & Advocacy service.**

## **Supporting the next generation of social justice lawyers:**

Our time as a Justice First Fellow host came to an end with Fellow, Myriam Naoual, successfully concluding her two-year training contract with our legal team in March and qualifying as a solicitor thereafter.

## **Public legal education:**

Over the year our legal team crafted numerous online public legal education resources including accessible information about secure care and children's deprivation of liberty. They also developed and delivered learning opportunities for local family justice areas, legal networks and Regional Adoption Agency practitioners on topics ranging from latest legal developments in kinship care to children's access to adoption records.

## 2) Family-led decision making

- This year marked the recognition of the importance of family-led decision making at government and local level, with its inclusion in the Children's Wellbeing & Schools Bill. This is a landmark achievement that Family Rights Group has long campaigned for.
- The government's endorsement of the evidence of family group conferences in addressing concerns about a child's welfare or care is a critical step in achieving our goal of every local authority providing an accredited family group conference service.



# Family Rights Group's pioneering, innovative approaches lead to system change.

**We introduced the family group conference (FGC) approach to the UK from New Zealand, which brings together a child's family and friends to make a safe plan to address concerns about their welfare, protection or care.**



## In 2024/25:

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill includes a mandate for local authorities to offer families a family group decision making (FGDM) meeting, prior to a local authority decision. This is the result of years of campaigning and hard work by the charity.

We want to ensure that family group conferences – the only internationally recognised, well evaluated family-led model that effectively and safely keeps children with their families – are fully adopted.

We are therefore publishing a new family group conference toolkit later this year to embed best practice.

Commissioned by Foundations, we collaborated with the charity Coram on two projects to understand more about which families are currently offered an family group conference and why, and what the outcomes are.

We continue to provide expert consultancy advice to local authorities who recognise the importance and benefits of a family group conference service in their locality.

- We want families to be supported to make safe plans for their children, with the right to a family group conference if there are care or protection concerns.
- As the foremost experts on family-led decision making, our aim is that by 2034:
  1. all local authorities have an accredited family group conference service;
  2. family group conferences are offered to all families when they come into contact with the child welfare system.
- We continue to be the leading authority on family group conferences in England and host of the national FGC Network.
- We promote consistently high standards, we are the principal source of legal expertise, and we pioneer research and practice developments. Far greater focus is needed on supporting children to successfully return home from the care system. We advocate nationally and locally for this and demonstrate how family group conferences are key to effectively planning the reunification of children with their families.

### 3) Championing kinship care

- Our goal is that kinship care is valued and properly supported as the first option when children cannot live at home.
- Kinship care will be enshrined in law for the first time and English local authorities will be required to publish a local kinship offer setting out the support they provide to families in their area.
- Our legal and policy work around financial allowances and employment leave has contributed to Government recognition of these issues.
- Our work facilitating the All Party Parliamentary Group on Kinship Care has helped build consensus on the importance of kinship care across the political spectrum.



**For decades, Family Rights Group has led the way in championing kinship care. We have done so with families every step of the way.**

**Kinship carers are relatives or friends who raise children who cannot safely live with their parents. Across the UK more than 180,000 children are being brought up by kinship carers – significantly more than are in the care system and many more than are adopted. This makes kinship care a key element of the children’s social care system; yet it is widely unrecognised and unsupported.**

- Our Time To Define proposal for a written definition of kinship care enshrined in law was a huge success. We continue to campaign to ensure that what is set out in legislation is what happens in reality.
- Recent research on local kinship care policies found that a third of local authorities are failing in their obligation to set out what support they will provide to kinship families. We are campaigning for tougher regulations and a requirement for local authorities to set out a local offer to kinship families.
- We provide the secretariat to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Kinship Care. The group has grown from strength to strength in the last year, recently focusing on support for special educational needs and disabilities.
- We service the Kinship Care Alliance and its Race Equality sub-group. The latter is exploring structural racism, as experienced by children, parents and kinship carers, and is chaired by Sharon McPherson, co-founder of Families in Harmony and a kinship carer.
- Half of kinship carers have to give up work to take on the children, facing significant hardship. We have long campaigned for a right to paid employment leave for kinship carers to prevent them from being forced out of work.
- We are planning to launch a major law reform proposal and campaign for a bespoke form of kinship care legal aid, so that prospective kinship carers can understand their rights and options from the outset.

## 4) Lifelong Links



**Too often the care system breaks not builds relationships for children in care. We coproduced the Lifelong Links approach, which involves connecting children in the care system with people who care about them. It aims to ensure that children and young people have a positive, loving support network that they can rely on.**

- 23 local authorities successfully secured government funding to sustain and extend their Lifelong Links service.
- Our work with Adoption England to develop Lifelong Links for young people who have been adopted has made significant progress: work has taken place with seven young people. We recently received an extension to continue this work up to March 2026.
- Our work with the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund to ensure children in children's homes benefit from Lifelong Links continues. We are working with three local authorities to ensure that children living in children's homes benefit from Lifelong Links.
- Circles is our ground-breaking interactive on-line app which enables social workers and Lifelong Links co-ordinators to explore with children and young people who is important to them. It is popular with young people and local authorities, and is used by Family Rights Group to measure the impact of Lifelong Links.
- Our Lifelong Links London care leavers project, generously supported by a high net worth individual and the KPMG Foundation, is going from strength to strength. This work will pave the way for Lifelong Links to be a universal offer for all care leavers aged 17 and 18. 155 young people aged over 16 in London have already benefitted and we are looking to expand the number of London local authorities who offer Lifelong Links.

## **Achievements across the year:**

**During 2024/25 we provided training and consultancy to 42 local authorities in the UK to support them to establish, deliver and sustain a Lifelong Links service to children and young people in the care system.**



**Over 4,000 children and young people have now benefited from Lifelong Links since its inception in 2017, including 1,167 in 2024/25.**

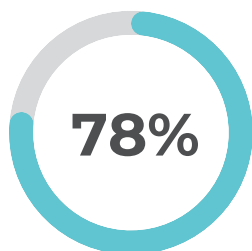
**We held 9 Lifelong Links training courses, with a total of 108 coordinators trained.**



# Independent evaluations of Lifelong Links has led to:

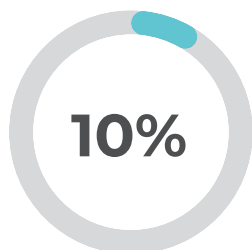
## Improved mental health and wellbeing

A significant improvement in the mental health and well-being of young people who participated in Lifelong Links



### Improved sense of identity

78% of children and young people felt an improved sense of identity.



### Reduced risk of homelessness

Young care-experienced people who live in areas which offer Lifelong Links are 10% less likely to become homeless when they leave care.



**Our Lifelong Links programme provides value for money: every pound invested is more than recovered in public savings.**

**One local authority (Hertfordshire Council) calculated they had avoided costs of £836,998 in one year by adopting Lifelong Links.**

## 5) Families shaping the system

- Our uniqueness as an organisation lies in our combination of expertise, practice and experience.
- Our goal is that children and families with experience of the child welfare and family justice system continue to help shape it, at local and national level.



**Our parents' and kinship carers' panels were established 11 years ago and are flourishing. They meet online at least every two months, with one or two new members joining the panel at each meeting, thus allowing for both continuity and new perspectives.**

Panel members have been instrumental in helping shape our 10-year strategy and our campaign work on family group decision making. They have informed the Government's kinship care strategy, as well as reforms to bring more transparency to the Family Court. They were instrumental in the Charity's Time to Define Kinship Care campaign, working with the Principal Legal Adviser throughout, shaping our thinking, writing blogs and advocating as to the importance of why kinship care needs to be defined in legislation. It is a landmark moment that The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill will define kinship care in primary legislation for the first time.

### **Diversity of panels:**

Panel members have direct experience with children's services, including early help, child protection, reunification, and kinship care under various legal arrangements.

The panels include grandparents, aunts, great-aunts, cousins, sisters, and family friends, as well as kinship foster carers, ensuring representation across the spectrum of kinship care arrangements.

30% of panel members are from Black and minoritised ethnic communities, reflecting a commitment to inclusive representation.

The panels are religiously and geographically diverse, ensuring a wide range of perspectives and lived experiences.



### **Birth family mapping**

In May 2024, Family Rights Group launched an [interactive map of support services for birth relatives](#) of children who have been adopted, are being adopted, or may be adopted. This was a landmark moment in FRG's efforts to improve visibility and access to support for birth families across England.

This work has helped position the charity as a national authority on post-adoption support for birth families, reinforcing its influence on policy and practice.

## Public Law Working Group

Following consistent lobbying by Family Rights Group, parents and kinship carers now sit on the President of the Family Division of the High Court's Public Law Working Group on reforming care proceedings. Panel members also participated in research led by Birkbeck University designed to inform the Group's recommendations.

In 2024 we also publicly welcomed the Public Law Working Group's 2024 report on adoption as a 'ground-breaking' step towards modernising adoption practices in England and Wales. The report placed a renewed emphasis on maintaining familial connections for adopted children, especially with birth parents, siblings, and extended family, where safe and appropriate. This work is aligned with our broader goals of promoting early, effective family engagement and reducing unnecessary separation of children from their families.

## Kempe International Conference: Call to Action to Change Child Welfare

Members of both our parents' and kinship carers' panels presented to this international conference on the significance of those with lived experience working with Family Rights Group and the work we have been able to achieve over the past ten years. This is the sixth year we have presented at the Conference.

## Young people

Our ambition is to embed young people's participation in the charity to the same degree as our thriving parents' and kinship carers' panels. We are therefore developing and strengthening our young people's participation infrastructure to focus on young people experiencing Lifelong Links, and subsequently young people raised in kinship care. We helped to organise an event at the Labour Party Conference featuring care experienced young people who shared their stories.

## Half of our Board of Trustees continues to be parents or kinship carers with experience of children's services.

# Our goals with our family voices work are that:

All local children's services, central government and other child welfare and family justice agencies have mechanisms by which young people, parents and kinship carers influence policies, practice, research and evaluation and the commissioning of services.

Young people and families with experience of the child welfare system are directly involved in the co-production and co-delivery of education, training and professional development for legal and social care practitioners.

## In collaboration with young people and families we will:

- Support agencies, to embed family participation structures, policies and practices.
- Co-deliver training and consultancy support and produce resources for practitioners and families.



Beverley Campbell MBE with members of our family panels at the charity's 50th anniversary parliamentary reception

# The Legal Form of the Company

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The charity number (England & Wales) is 1015665, (Scotland) is SC047042. The charity is a company limited by guarantee, the company number is 02702928. The governing document of FRG Limited is the memorandum and articles of association incorporated 1st April 1992 and as amended by special resolution dated 22nd April 1993.

## Thank you to staff

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The Board of Trustees would like to register their immense gratitude to the staff team at Family Rights Group, who have contributed so much, and in multiple ways, to the success of the charity. We would like to thank them for their passion, creativity, empathy and hard work on behalf of Family Rights Group.

## Structure, governance and management

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Angela Frazer-Wicks MBE (Chair of Trustees)

Stuart Black

Jacqueline Campbell

Ann Chavasse

Sharmila Kar

Kathryn Morris (Vice-Chair)

Chris Nicholson

Jason Nisse

Matt Patterson

Jonathan Scourfield

Emma Smale

John Trevor-Allen

Jeremy Westhead (Treasurer)

The liability of the trustees is limited to £1, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charity in the event of the same being wound up while they are a member. The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities as detailed on page 28 for the preparation of the charity's annual financial statements, upon which the auditors are obliged to report to the members of the charity.

## Appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed to the board upon delivery of an application for admission in accordance with the wishes of the board, and with the board's approval. Trustees are appointed for a term of three years; this is renewable up to a period of no more than nine years.

## Reserves Policy

The trustees continue to maintain a target of free reserves at between three and six months, allowing for changes in expenditure patterns and the fundraising climate. The current level of reserves now exceeds three months' expenditure, but falls short of six months' expenditure.

Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future in particular given the level of committed funding. Furthermore, the trustees are confident that there are no material uncertainties that may cast doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The reserves policy will be kept under review and reserve levels adjusted as perceptions of risk and other factors change.

## Asset cover of funds

The notes to the accounts set out an analysis of the assets attributable to the various funds. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund-by-fund basis.

## Additional note

Included within other debtors is a receivable for £323,600 in relation to committed future donations. Were these not to be received (and therefore written down in value) there would be an equal and opposite reduction in Deferred Income such that there would be no reduction in the Charity's Reserves.

## Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the directors has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditors are aware of such information.

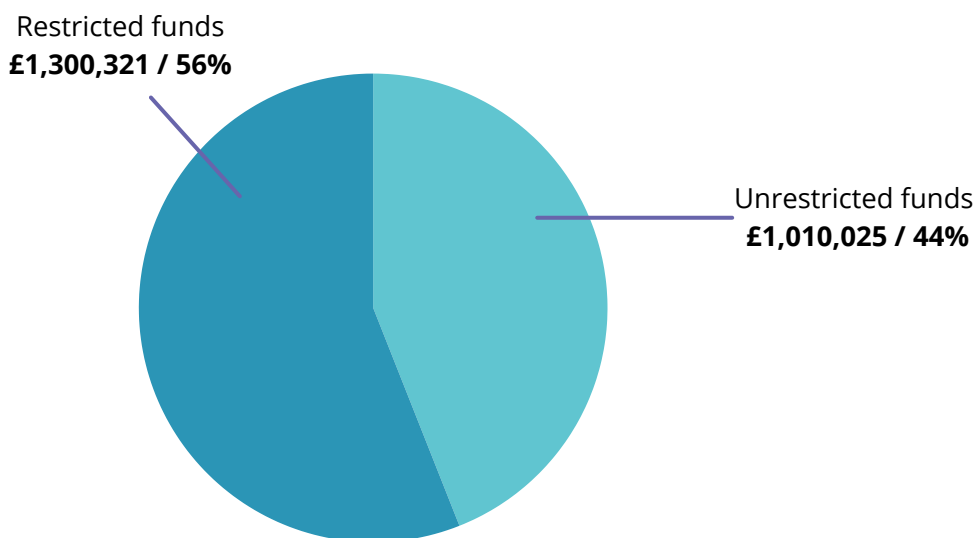
## Auditors

Kreston Reeves were re-appointed auditors to the company, following approval from the trustees.

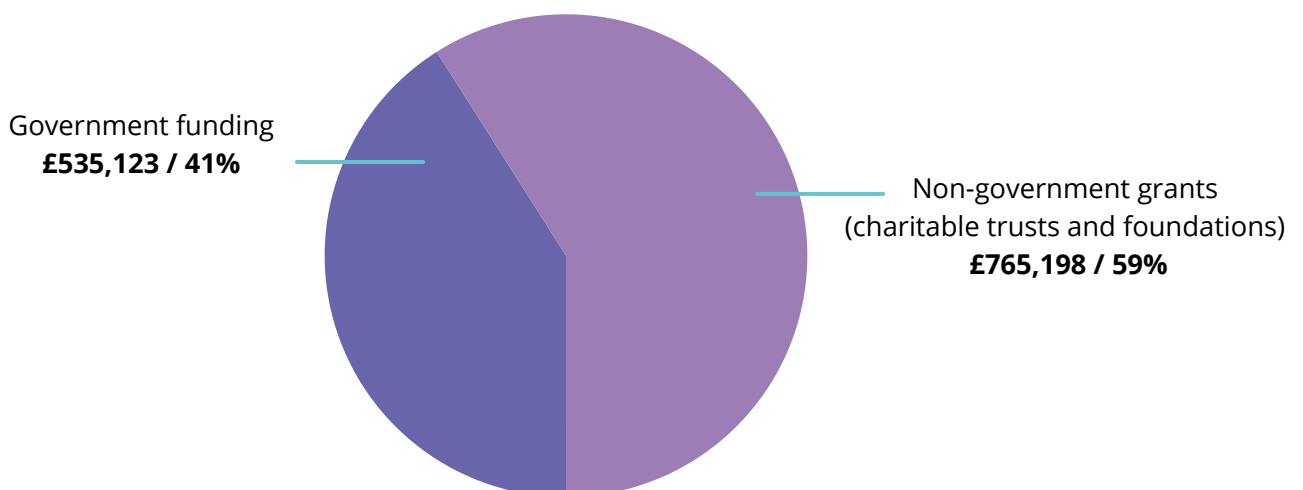
# 2024/25 Financial Results

During the year the charity raised £2,310,346 (2024: £2,313,422) and spent £2,306,145 (2024: £2,011,880). This resulted in a surplus of £4,201 (2024: £301,542). Restricted income from government grants (23%) and charitable trusts (33%) made up 56% of total income (2024: 51%). Unrestricted income from grants, services, subscriptions, donations and fundraising events made up 44% of total income (2024: 49%). Unrestricted (free) reserves at the end of the year (including designated reserves) were £703,514 (2024: £725,055).

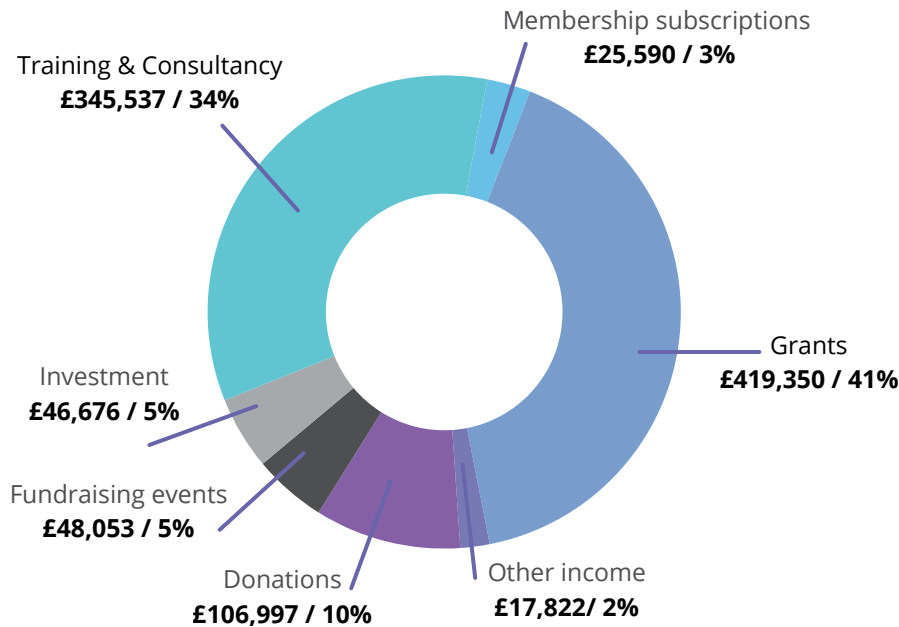
## TOTAL INCOME = £2,310,346



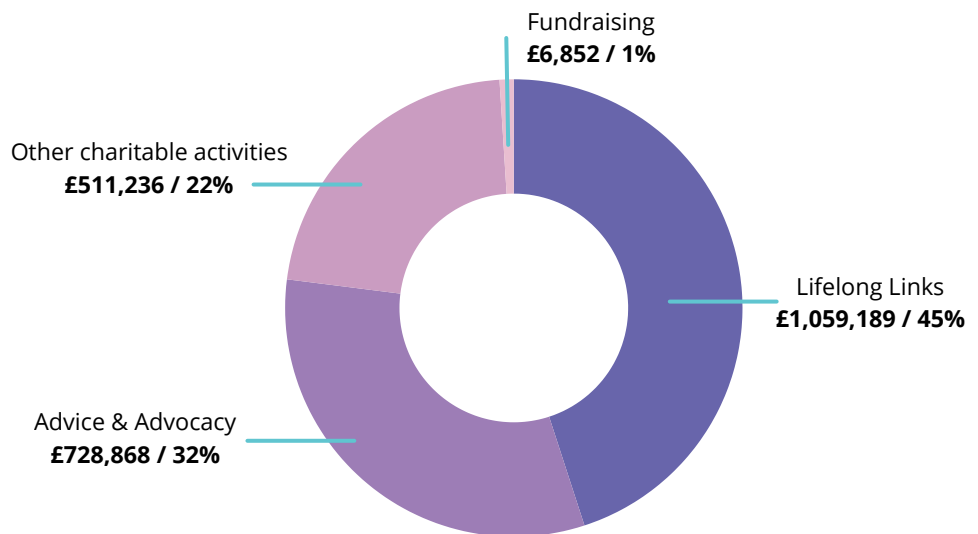
## RESTRICTED INCOME BY FUNDER



# UNRESTRICTED INCOME = £1,010,025



# EXPENDITURE = £2,306,145



## Unrestricted funds

The charity raised £1,010,025 (2024: £1,126,058) of general or unrestricted income. Expenditure of £1,031,566 (2024: £877,990) was set against this, leaving a deficit of £21,541 (2024: £248,068). When added to the fund balance brought forward of £725,055, total unrestricted funds at the end of 2024/25 were £703,514.

Income from training, consultancy and subscriptions made up 37% of total unrestricted income (2024: 31%), grants made up 41% (2024: 52%), donations and supporters' fees made up 10% (2024: 9%) and fundraising events made up 5% (2024: 1%).

## Designated funds

The trustees had previously designated £100,000 of unrestricted funds to cover staffing contingencies. A further £50,00 has been set aside in this financial year to support ongoing unrestricted projects. This brings the total fund to £300,000 making up part of the total free reserves, and remains unused in the year.

## Restricted funds

A total of £1,300,321 (2024: £1,187,364) of restricted income was received in the year. Expenditure of £1,274,579 (2024: £1,133,890) was set against this and, after bringing forward funds of £307,429, the balance of restricted funds was £333,171. All of the restricted income received during the year was made up of grants.

## Funders and Fundraising

We are immensely grateful for the generous support received from a variety of funders and individuals. The following funders supported projects and activities during the year and without them we would have been unable to continue our work: the Access to Justice Foundation, the Department for Education, the Dulverton Trust, the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, the Fidelity Foundation, Foundations, the Hugh Fraser Foundation, the KPMG Foundation, the Law Society, the Legal Education Foundation, the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, the Regional Adoption Agency, the Sally and John Rideal Trust, the Robertson Trust, and the Segelman Trust.

We would also like to thank all those individuals, organisations and small trusts and foundations who supported us throughout the year. We continue to learn, collaborate with and benefit from being hosted by Sense, the charity for people with complex disabilities.

In 2024/25, our 50th anniversary year, we raised a total of £48,053 from our fundraising events, smashing previous records. A range of events was organised by staff and trustees, including the London Legal Walk, the Great North Run, the Royal Parks Half-Marathon, and the Big Give, making a hugely significant contribution. We thank everyone who took part and gave so generously.

The events of the year culminated in our 50th anniversary legal lecture and dinner on 27th March 2025, which included a charity auction and raised a total of £38,000. Organising and participating in these events is a huge collective effort, and special thanks are owed to Ann Chavasse, to everyone who sits on the Fundraising Sub-Committee, and to those who sponsored our events or donated auction prizes, as well as all our staff.

# FRG LIMITED

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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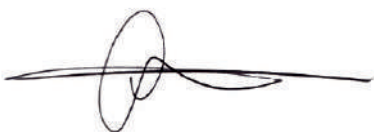
The Trustees, who are also the directors of FRG Limited for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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; 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, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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.



**Angela Frazer-Wicks MBE, Chair of Trustees**

Date: 18 September 2025

# Auditor's Report & Financial Statements

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of FRG Ltd (Operating as Family Rights Group) (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, 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 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

## Responsibilities of Trustees

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

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

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 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 Auditors' 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

### *Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities, including fraud*

Based on our understanding of the charity and the sector as a whole, and through discussion with the Trustees and other management (as required by auditing standards), we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to safeguarding, health and safety and employment law. We considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements.

We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Second Edition (released October 2019), the Companies Act 2006, taxation and pension legislation. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries and management bias in accounting estimates and judgmental areas of the financial statements. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management and assessment of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations (including health and safety) and fraud; and
- Assessment of identified fraud risk factors; and
- Review of expenditure to confirm no evidence of personal benefit; and
- Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls that management has in place to prevent and detect fraud; and
- Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls that management has in place to prevent and detect fraud; and
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships, including related party transactions, that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud; and
- Confirmation of related parties with management, and review of transactions throughout the period to identify any previously undisclosed transactions with related parties outside the normal course of business; and
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- Physical inspection of tangible assets susceptible to fraud or irregularity; and
- Review of significant and unusual transactions and evaluation of the underlying financial rationale supporting the transactions; and
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any manual entries made at the year end for financial statement preparation.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and 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 charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Kreston Reeves LLP*

### **Samantha Rouse FCCA DChA (Senior statutory auditor)**

for and on behalf of

### **Kreston Reeves LLP**

Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor

Canterbury

Date: 6/10/2025

Kreston Reeves LLP are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	4	106,997	-	106,997	104,258
Charitable activities	5	419,350	1,300,321	1,719,671	1,769,472
Other trading activities:	6				
Training and consultancy		345,537	-	345,537	347,361
Membership subscriptions		25,590	-	25,590	32,423
Fundraising events		48,053	-	48,053	16,370
Investments	7	46,676	-	46,676	16,537
Other income	8	17,822	-	17,822	27,001
<b>Total income</b>		<b>1,010,025</b>	<b>1,300,321</b>	<b>2,310,346</b>	<b>2,313,422</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	9	6,852	-	6,852	4,543
Charitable activities:	10				
Advice and Advocacy		166,368	562,500	728,868	694,491
Lifelong Links		675,005	384,184	1,059,189	798,870
Other charitable activities		183,341	327,895	511,236	513,976
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,031,566</b>	<b>1,274,579</b>	<b>2,306,145</b>	<b>2,011,880</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(21,541)</b>	<b>25,742</b>	<b>4,201</b>	<b>301,542</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		725,055	307,429	1,032,484	730,942
Net movement in funds		(21,541)	25,742	4,201	301,542
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>703,514</b>	<b>333,171</b>	<b>1,036,685</b>	<b>1,032,484</b>

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

The notes on pages 36 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	14	21,737	29,726
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	15	1,345	-
Debtors	16	562,734	984,341
Cash at bank and in hand		1,140,448	1,096,716
		<u>1,704,527</u>	<u>2,081,057</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(689,579)	(1,078,299)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>1,014,948</u>	<u>1,002,758</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u>1,036,685</u>	<u>1,032,484</u>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	18	333,171	307,429
Unrestricted funds	18	703,514	725,055
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>1,036,685</u>	<u>1,032,484</u>

The entity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. The members have not required the entity to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. However, an audit is required in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:



**Angela Frazer-Wicks MBE**

Chair of Trustees

Date: 18 September 2025

The notes on pages 36 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		2025 £	2024 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash used in operating activities	21	<b>(3,425)</b>	358,789
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		<b>46,676</b>	16,537
Proceeds from the sale of intangible assets		<b>1,570</b>	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<b>(1,089)</b>	(7,387)
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>		<b>47,157</b>	<b>9,150</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>43,732</b>	<b>367,939</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<b>1,096,716</b>	728,777
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	22	<b>1,140,448</b>	1,096,716

The notes on pages 36 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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## 1. General information

FRG Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is N1 9LG. The principal activity of the Charity can be found in the Trustees Report.

## 2. Accounting policies

### 2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

FRG Ltd (Operating as Family Rights Group) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy. The financial statements are presented in UK pound sterling, which is the Charity's functional currency, and rounded to the nearest pound.

### 2.2 Going concern

The Trustees consider whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

### 2.3 Income

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

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

## 2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading. Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

## 2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

## 2.6 Taxation

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

## 2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £400 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

At each reporting date the Charity assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, on a reducing balance basis.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 25% reducing balance  
Computer equipment - 25% reducing balance

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### 2.8 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

### 2.9 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

### 2.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

### 2.11 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

### 2.12 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

### 2.13 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

### 2.14 Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### 2.15 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

### 3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

The Charity does not currently have any material estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Critical areas of judgement:

#### *Lease commitments*

The Charity has entered into a range of lease commitments. The classification of these leases as either financial or operating leases requires the Trustees to consider whether the terms and conditions of each lease are such that the Charity has acquired the risks and rewards associated with the ownership of the underlying assets.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

## 4. Income from donations and legacies

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	Total funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts	106,997	<b>106,997</b>	104,258
Total 2024	<u>104,258</u>	<u>104,258</u>	

## 5. Income from charitable activities

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	Total funds 2024 £
Lifelong Links	342,800	482,025	<b>824,825</b>	689,985
Advice and advocacy grants	-	562,500	<b>562,500</b>	525,000
Other grants	76,550	255,796	<b>332,346</b>	554,487
	<u>419,350</u>	<u>1,300,321</u>	<u><b>1,719,671</b></u>	<u>1,769,472</u>
Total 2024	<u>582,108</u>	<u>1,187,364</u>	<u>1,769,472</u>	

## 6. Income from other trading activities

	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	Total funds 2024 £
Training and consultancy	345,537	<b>345,537</b>	347,361
Membership subscriptions	25,590	<b>25,590</b>	32,423
Fundraising events	48,053	<b>48,053</b>	16,370
	<u>419,180</u>	<u><b>419,180</b></u>	<u>396,154</u>
Total 2024	<u>396,154</u>	<u>396,154</u>	

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

## 7. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	46,676	<b>46,676</b>	16,537
Total 2023	<u>16,537</u>	<u>16,537</u>	

## 8. Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Other income	17,822	<b>17,822</b>	27,001
Total 2023	<u>27,001</u>	<u>27,001</u>	

## 9. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Other fundraising costs	6,852	<b>6,852</b>	4,543
Total 2024	<u>4,543</u>	<u>4,543</u>	

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

## 10. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

### Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Advice and Advocacy	166,368	562,500	<b>728,868</b>	694,491
Other Charitable Activities	183,341	327,895	<b>511,236</b>	499,586
Lifelong Links	675,005	384,184	<b>1,059,189</b>	813,260
	<u>1,024,714</u>	<u>1,274,579</u>	<u><b>2,299,293</b></u>	<u>2,007,337</u>
Total 2024	<u>880,757</u>	<u>1,126,580</u>	<u>2,007,337</u>	

## 11. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Direct costs 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Advice and Advocacy	641,891	86,977	<b>728,868</b>	694,491
Other Charitable Activities	424,838	86,398	<b>511,236</b>	499,586
Lifelong Links	980,893	78,296	<b>1,059,189</b>	813,260
	<u>2,047,622</u>	<u>251,671</u>	<u><b>2,299,293</b></u>	<u>2,007,337</u>
Total 2024	<u>1,820,753</u>	<u>186,584</u>	<u>2,007,337</u>	

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 11. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

#### Analysis of direct costs

	<b>Advice and Advocacy 2025 £</b>	<b>Other Charitable Activities 2025 £</b>	<b>Lifelong Links 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	621,848	393,436	774,206	<b>1,789,490</b>	1,579,150
Depreciation	2,849	2,274	2,391	<b>7,514</b>	11,327
Other costs	17,194	29,128	204,296	<b>250,618</b>	230,276
	<u>641,891</u>	<u>424,838</u>	<u>980,893</u>	<u><b>2,047,622</b></u>	<u>1,820,753</u>
Total 2024	<u>591,544</u>	<u>457,829</u>	<u>771,380</u>	<u>1,820,753</u>	

#### Analysis of support costs

	<b>Advice and Advocacy 2025 £</b>	<b>Other Charitable Activities 2025 £</b>	<b>Lifelong Links 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	Total funds 2024 £
Organisational running costs	81,026	81,256	73,147	<b>235,429</b>	170,518
Trustee governance costs	76	46	65	<b>187</b>	1,125
Audit fees	5,875	3,541	5,084	<b>14,500</b>	12,850
Loss on disposal of fixed asset	-	1,555	-	<b>1,555</b>	2,091
	<u>86,977</u>	<u>86,398</u>	<u>78,296</u>	<u><b>251,671</b></u>	<u>186,584</u>
Total 2024	<u>102,947</u>	<u>41,757</u>	<u>41,880</u>	<u>186,584</u>	

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

## 12. Staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,528,963	1,352,368
Social security costs	169,060	142,026
Pension costs	91,467	84,756
	<u>1,789,490</u>	<u>1,579,150</u>

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Project workers	28	25
Support and administration	15	14
	<u>43</u>	<u>39</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Average number of employees	26	28

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	3	1
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	1

Key Management Personnel are defined as the Senior Management Team, the gross cost including employer's national insurance and pension contributions was £319,930 (2024: £308,377).

## 13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2025, expenses totalling £187 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Trustee (2024 - £1,125 to 5 Trustees) for the reimbursement of travel expenses to meetings for the charity.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 14. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 April 2024	17,884	48,237	66,121
Additions	-	1,089	1,089
Disposals	-	(4,797)	(4,797)
	<u>17,884</u>	<u>44,529</u>	<u>62,413</u>
At 31 March 2025			
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2024	5,016	31,379	36,395
Charge for the year	3,767	3,741	7,508
On disposals	-	(3,227)	(3,227)
	<u>8,783</u>	<u>31,893</u>	<u>40,676</u>
At 31 March 2025			
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2025	<u>9,101</u>	<u>12,636</u>	<u>21,737</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>12,868</u>	<u>16,858</u>	<u>29,726</u>

### 15. Stocks

	2025 £	2024 £
Stock	<u>1,345</u>	<u>-</u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

## 16. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	<b>83,902</b>	176,023
Other debtors	<b>324,782</b>	666,831
Prepayments and accrued income	<b>154,050</b>	141,487
	<b>562,734</b>	984,341

## 17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	a. £	2024 £
Trade creditors	<b>28,482</b>	26,163
Other taxation and social security	<b>58,005</b>	91,928
Other creditors	<b>349</b>	13,466
Accruals and deferred income	<b>602,743</b>	946,742
	<b>689,579</b>	1,078,299
	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	<b>887,889</b>	138,099
Resources deferred during the year	<b>546,195</b>	887,889
Amounts released from previous periods	<b>(887,889)</b>	(138,099)
<b>Deferred income at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>546,195</b>	887,889

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

## 18. Statement of funds

### Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Income Expenditure		Transfers in/out	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Staffing contingency fund	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Lifelong Links London	150,000	-	-	50,000	200,000
	<u>250,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>
<b>General funds</b>					
General Funds	475,055	1,010,025	(1,031,566)	(50,000)	403,514
	<u>475,055</u>	<u>1,010,025</u>	<u>(1,031,566)</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>403,514</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>725,055</b>	<b>1,010,025</b>	<b>(1,031,566)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>703,514</b>
	<u>725,055</u>	<u>1,010,025</u>	<u>(1,031,566)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>703,514</u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

## 18. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Advice & Advocacy DfE	-	480,000	(480,000)	-	-
Advice & Advocacy ILTA	-	82,500	(82,500)	-	-
Clothworkers Foundation	4,400	-	(550)	-	3,850
DfE Birkbeck Care Proceedings Reform	-	7,160	(5,700)	-	1,460
Dulverton Trust	-	40,000	(40,000)	-	-
Esmée Fairbairn Funding Plus and Esmée Fairbairn Scottish LL	500	43,445	(37,769)	-	6,176
Fidelity Foundation	31,420	73,575	(67,070)	-	37,925
Foundations FGC Families' Experiences and Foundations FGC Monitoring	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Hugh Fraser Foundation	-	7,500	(7,500)	-	-
KPMG Foundation	-	150,000	(54,371)	-	95,629
Lankelly Chase Foundation	888	-	(888)	-	-
Law Society DOLS	2,891	10,900	(13,291)	-	500
Legal Education Foundation - Pre-Proceedings	64,623	63,332	(127,955)	-	-
Legal Education Foundation - Trainee	2,710	52,000	(52,462)	-	2,248
LL Innovations (Circles)	39,789	-	(13,300)	-	26,489
Reaching Communities (National Lottery)	19,659	174,619	(124,703)	-	69,575
RAA Birth Family Mapping and RAA Lifelong Links	90,085	55,123	(119,691)	-	25,517
The Sally and John Rideal Trust	-	26,829	(26,829)	-	-
Robertson Trust Scottish LL	46,855	13,338	-	-	60,193
Save the Children	3,609	-	-	-	3,609
	<b>307,429</b>	<b>1,300,321</b>	<b>(1,274,579)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>333,171</b>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<b>1,032,484</b>	<b>2,310,346</b>	<b>(2,306,145)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,036,685</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## 18. Statement of funds (continued)

### Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Staffing contingency fund	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Lifelong Links London	-	-	-	150,000	150,000
	<u>100,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<u>250,000</u>
<b>General funds</b>					
General Funds	376,987	1,126,058	(877,990)	(150,000)	475,055
	<u>476,987</u>	<u>1,126,058</u>	<u>(877,990)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>725,055</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>					

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

## 18. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Advice & Advocacy DfE	-	480,000	(480,000)	-	-
Advice & Advocacy ILTA & MoJ	-	45,000	(45,000)	-	-
Clothworkers Foundation	4,950	-	(550)	-	4,400
Dulverton Trust	-	40,000	(40,000)	-	-
Esmée Fairbairn Funding Plus and Esmée Fairbairn Scottish LL and Esmée YP in Care Learning	4,716	49,916	(54,132)	-	500
ESCR	-	4,312	(4,312)	-	-
Fidelity Foundation	-	98,836	(67,416)	-	31,420
Hugh Fraser Foundation	-	7,500	(7,500)	-	-
NIHR Safeguarding Evaluation & Pre-birth	932	1,932	(2,864)	-	-
Lankelly Chase Foundation	13,331	-	(12,443)	-	888
Law Society DOLS	-	10,900	(8,009)	-	2,891
Legal Education Foundation - Pre-Proceedings	79,928	126,665	(141,970)	-	64,623
Legal Education Foundation - Trainee	3,574	53,753	(54,617)	-	2,710
LL Innovations (Circles)	66,633	-	(26,844)	-	39,789
Reaching Communities (National Lottery)	-	69,421	(49,762)	-	19,659
RAA Birth Family Mapping and RAA Lifelong Links	65,885	144,000	(119,800)	-	90,085
PWG Care Reform	-	1,800	(1,800)	-	-
Robertson Trust Scottish LL	-	53,329	(6,474)	-	46,855
Save the Children	14,006	-	(10,397)	-	3,609
	<u>253,955</u>	<u>1,187,364</u>	<u>(1,133,890)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>307,429</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u>730,942</u>	<u>2,313,422</u>	<u>(2,011,880)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,032,484</u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## 18. Statement of funds (continued)

### Restricted funds were held for the following purposes:

**Clothworkers' Foundation:** to support capital costs for infrastructure for the Advice & Advocacy service.

**Department for Education (Advice & Advocacy):** delivery of the Family & Friends Advice Line for families involved in the child welfare and family justice systems.

**Department for Education (Social Connections Tool):** a digital programme to map the social networks of young people at the start of the Lifelong Links process.

**Dulverton Trust:** to expand the Lifelong Links model to new local authorities.

**Economic & Social Research Council (Seldom Heard):** research with seldom-heard families.

**Esmée Fairbairn Foundation:** to contribute to the ongoing development of Lifelong Links in Scotland.

**Fidelity Foundation:** increasing impact through technology and data.

**Hugh Fraser Foundation:** to support the charity's Lifelong Links and Family Group Decision-Making in Scotland.

**ILTA Advice and Advocacy:** improving lives through advice.

**Lankelly Chase Foundation:** to continue support for the charity's parents' and kinship carers' panels, and associated projects.

**Law Society (DOLs):** improving access to justice for families of children who are, or may be, deprived of their liberty

**Legal Education Foundation (Pre-Proceedings):** to safely divert children from care proceedings and ensure the timeliness and fairness of court decisions.

**Legal Education Foundation (Trainee):** a Justice First Fellowship to support a trainee solicitor through a two-year placement with the charity.

**Moj Access to Justice Foundation:** help accessing legal support.

**National Institute for Health and Care Research:** collaboration on the evaluation of multi-agency safeguarding reforms.

**Public Law Working Group:** care reform.

**Regional Adoption Agency (Birth Family Services):** surveying, mapping and creating a national directory of support services available to birth families.

**Regional Adoption Agency (Lifelong Links):** to develop and adapt the Lifelong Links model with the Regional Adoption Agency, working with birth parents, adopters and adoptees.

**Robertson Trust:** to support the charity's Lifelong Links and Family Group Decision-Making in Scotland.

**Save the Children:** development of new resources for practitioners in England working with children from Ukraine & their kinship carers.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

## 19. Summary of funds

### Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Designated funds	250,000	-	-	50,000	300,000
General funds	475,055	1,010,025	(1,031,566)	(50,000)	403,514
Restricted funds	307,429	1,300,321	(1,274,579)	-	333,171
	<b>1,032,484</b>	<b>2,310,346</b>	<b>(2,306,145)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,036,685</b>

### Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Designated funds	100,000	-	-	150,000	250,000
General funds	376,987	1,126,058	(877,990)	(150,000)	475,055
Restricted funds	253,955	1,187,364	(1,133,890)	-	307,429
	<b>730,942</b>	<b>2,313,422</b>	<b>(2,011,880)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,032,484</b>

## 20. Analysis of net assets between funds

### Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	21,737	-	21,737
Current assets	1,371,356	333,171	1,704,527
Creditors due within one year	(689,579)	-	(689,579)
<b>Total</b>	<b>476,987</b>	<b>333,171</b>	<b>1,036,685</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## 20. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

### Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	29,726	-	29,726
Current assets	1,676,173	404,884	2,081,057
Creditors due within one year	(980,844)	(97,455)	(1,078,299)
<b>Total</b>	<b>725,055</b>	<b>307,429</b>	<b>1,032,484</b>

## 21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>4,201</b>	301,542
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	<b>7,508</b>	7,802
Bank interest	<b>(46,676)</b>	(1,651)
(Increase) in stocks	<b>(1,345)</b>	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	<b>421,607</b>	(701,229)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<b>(388,720)</b>	760,241
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(3,425)</b>	357,560

## 22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash in hand	<b>1,140,448</b>	1,096,716

## 23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>1,096,716</b>	<b>43,732</b>	<b>1,140,448</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

## 24. Pension commitments

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £91,467 (2024: £84,756). An asset of £1,182 (liability 2024: £13,466) was repayable to the fund at the balance sheet date and is included in debtors.

## 25. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2025 the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Not later than 1 year	85,629	85,629
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	114,067	199,695
	<u>199,696</u>	<u>285,324</u>

## 26. Related party transactions

There were two related party transactions in the year. The first was an unconditional donation from Jason Nisse, a Trustee, totalling £6,000 (2024: £Nil). The second was an unconditional donation from the Aspinwall Education Trust, a related party of John Loveday, a member of key management, totalling £1,000 (2024: £Nil).

## 27. Controlling party

There is no ultimate controlling party

Family Rights Group's vision is a society in which children can thrive in their families, and have loving relationships to turn to throughout life.

**We seek to ensure that:**

- Families involved with the child welfare and family justice system are treated fairly, have their rights respected and are able to make informed decisions;
- Children and families get the help they need, so wherever possible children can live safely and flourish within their family network;
- All children, including those in care, have lasting and supportive relationships to sustain them throughout their lives;
- Our child welfare and family justice system – and wider society – promotes social justice and creates conditions that enable children to achieve their potential;
- Children and families' voices and experiences drive decision making at an individual and strategic level within the child welfare and family justice system.

**Advice line 9.30am–3.30pm:**

0808 801 0366

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FRG Limited

Established in 1974

Company Registration No. 2702928

Charity No. 1015665 (England and Wales)

SC047042 (Scotland)

VAT Registration No: 122 8302 49



**FRG LTD**

England & Wales - Charity number 1015665

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# Accounts

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# Annual Report And Financial Statements

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for the year ended 31 March 2024

# FRG Ltd

## Legal & Administrative Information

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### Patron

The Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson

### Trustees

Angela Frazer-Wicks  
*(Chair of Trustees)*

Kathryn Morris  
*(Vice-Chair)*

Jeremy Westhead  
*(Treasurer)*

Stuart Black

Jacqueline Campbell

Ann Chavasse

Sharmila Kar

Chris Nicholson

Jason Nisse

Matt Patterson  
*(appointed November 2023)*

Jonathan Scourfield

Emma Smale

John Trevor-Allen

### Secretary

John Loveday

### Charity number (England and Wales)

1015665

### Charity number (Scotland)

SC047042

### Company number

2702928

### Principal address

101 Pentonville Road  
London  
N1 9LG

### Registered office

101 Pentonville Road  
London  
N1 9LG

### Auditor

Kreston Reeves LLP  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Springfield House  
Springfield Road  
Horsham  
RH12 2RG

### Bankers

Unity Trust Bank plc  
Nine Brindley Place  
Birmingham, B1 2HB

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Trustees' Report is also a Directors' Report for the purposes of company law, incorporating the Strategic Report as required by the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013.

The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities to undertake.

The Trustees regularly update the charity's risk register to identify and mitigate the major risks to which FRG Limited is exposed. The register incorporates both financial and non-financial risks and systems in place to reduce those risks to a reasonable level.

## Mission

Family Rights Group's mission is to create a more socially just society in which the child welfare and family justice systems support children to live safely and thrive within their family, while strengthening the family and community networks of those children who cannot live at home.

The objects of the charity are to relieve families with children who are in need or distress.



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# Chief Executive's Welcome

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**Cathy Ashley OBE,**  
Chief Executive

As we enter our 50th anniversary year, we reflect on and celebrate the many successes that Family Rights Group has achieved throughout its history.

In 1974 a group of lawyers, social workers and academics got together to change the way families involved with social services were treated. Since its formation the charity has been a leader in reforming the child welfare system. Then, children could be removed from their parents by a vote of local councillors, without going near a family court; now they cannot.

We ensured that the principle that wherever possible children should be brought up and cared for in their own families was embedded in the Children Act 1989. And we have driven systemic change by promoting family-led practices, including by introducing family group conferences to the UK.

The advice and advocacy service, staffed by our expert advisers, provides consistently high quality specialist advice to families involved within the child welfare system. The service enables mothers, fathers, and wider family and friends, including kinship carers to understand their rights and options. Over time it has evolved and grown, with on-line forums for parents and kinship carers, webchat and web enquiries now complementing an expanded advice line. Crucially the service changes outcomes for individual children and families, including by safely averting children from entering the care system. This year our specialist advice and advocacy service answered more than 7,000 enquiries from families involved with children's services in England or in need of their help.

From being founded around a kitchen table, we have now grown into a 40-strong organisation that is a sector leader, a powerhouse of specialist knowledge. The charity continues to develop and innovate. Our pioneering Lifelong Links approach enables children in the care system to build relationships with relatives and others from whom they have been separated, including brothers, sister, schools friends and all who care about them. Over 3,000 children and young people have benefited from Lifelong Links and it continues to grow, with us now partnering with 42 local authorities to ensure that children in care have a network around them. We are also adapting the approach to benefit adopted children.

Family Rights Group has consistently championed kinship care, so children who cannot remain at home are able to live with loving relatives or friends. Our success in securing legal and policy changes on kinship care is unequalled. From the groundbreaking special guardianship order to obtaining the kinship exemption from the two child tax credit limit, to more recent legal aid changes. We provide the secretariat of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Kinship Care, and this year saw our Time to Define campaign make inroads with the inclusion of a definition of kinship care in the first Government Kinship Care Strategy.

Key to all our work are the experiences and views of those with lived experience of the children's social care and family justice system. Half our trustees are parents or kinship carers with such experience. Our parents' and kinship care panels continue to thrive and grow, influencing the charity in a myriad of ways. And we have started planning for the increased participation of care-experienced young people in our work. Alongside the panels' regular meetings and influencing activities, in Summer 2023 we hosted a 10th anniversary celebration event for our amazing panel members and their families.

However, the need for our work is now starker than ever. Carers are struggling to access the practical, emotional and financial support they and the children need. There is now a record number of children in the care system. Many are living far from home and are separated from their family and friends, and left isolated. Outcomes for many of these children are not good enough.

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care in 2022 warned that without a 'whole system reset' there will be approaching 100,000 children in care by 2032, and the flawed system will cost a further £5 billion per year.

Children and families are struggling to get help, to prevent crises escalating. A newborn baby in the North East is three times more likely to be removed from their family than a baby in London. Half of kinship carers have to give up work to take on the children, facing significant hardship. Whether a family is offered a family group conference, or a child in care is offered Lifelong Links is largely down to luck or where they happen to live. But we are optimistic and determined. There is major legislation on the horizon to help us transform our child welfare system. The Government has committed to an anti-child poverty strategy. There is cross-party consensus on the need for reform.

Looking back on the last year's achievements, and indeed on the last 50 years, through all the change we have been a part of, or helped to create, there is one common theme. That is the dedication and commitment of our staff, trustees, panel members, funders and wider supporters, who individually and collectively have enabled Family Rights Group to become what it is today. They have built an organisation shaped by both expertise and experience. One in which the charity's resolve that children be able to live safely and thrive within their family has not dimmed. We look forward to continuing to working over the year ahead to help deliver that reality.

**November 2024**

# Trustees' Report

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## Our 2021-26 strategy

Our ambitious 2021-26 strategic plan set out Family Rights Group's vision, mission, principles, way of working, and our campaign and impact goals.

## Our strategic priorities are that:

1. Families involved with the child welfare and family justice systems are treated fairly, have their rights respected and are able to make informed decisions.
2. Children and families get the help they need, so wherever possible children can live safely and flourish within their family network.
3. All children, including those in care, have lasting and supportive relationships to sustain them throughout their lives.
4. Our child welfare and family justice systems – and wider society – promote social justice and create conditions that enable children to achieve their potential.
5. Children and families' voices and experiences drive decision making at an individual and strategic level within the child welfare and family justice systems.



**Our business plan, now in its third year, establishes key milestones in alignment with each of the seven key areas of our work.**

### **Goal 1**

Increasing access to independent legal and practical advice and information for families involved in the child welfare system.

### **Goal 2**

Enabling kinship care to be the first option when a child is unable to remain with their parent.

### **Goal 3**

The promotion of family-led decision-making in the child welfare arena.

### **Goal 4**

Lifelong Links – building lasting support networks for children in care.

### **Goal 5**

Promoting family voices in the child welfare and family justice system.

### **Goal 6**

Leading, influencing and embedding

### **Goal 7**

Infrastructure and sustainability in governance, strategy, and operations.

**A summary of key achievements of the year is set out in the following pages.**

**Our 2021-26 strategy will next year be superseded by a new 10-year strategy, which is due to be launched at the end of 2024.**

# 1) Increasing access to independent legal and practical advice and information for families involved in the child welfare system



*I reached out for advice after an investigation into the care of my children due to the behaviour of their other parent...The lady I spoke with was amazing at explaining why the social services had put these things in place, giving me advice on my next steps and actually being the first person that I felt listened to me throughout the whole ordeal.*

***Mother who called our advice line***



*From my personal experience the information is invaluable and credible...I could not have made it through the two-year dire situation my family was placed in without FRG's information and advice.*

***Great-grandmother who used our live webchat, online enquiry form and kinship carers' forum***

## At Family Rights Group we support families who need it most.

Our specialist advice and advocacy service assists families when they are involved with children's services in England or need their help. Staffed by advisers who are experienced lawyers, social workers and family advocates, we provide free, independent advice to parents, relatives, friends, and kinship carers. The service helps families to understand their rights and options, navigate complex child welfare processes and get the support their child needs .



We provide an entirely free, blended service with online advice resources, a telephone advice line, webchat, online advice forums and a web-based enquiry form, as well as self-advocacy support.



In 2023/24 we responded to 7,420 enquiries from parents, kinship carers and family members, via our free telephone advice line and digital services.

The number of visitors to our website and online forums increased by 13% in 2023/4 compared to the year earlier.

The number of on-line enquiries we responded to more than doubled in 2023/4.



In 2023/24 we commissioned New Philanthropy Capital to update their economic evaluation model of the service. It demonstrates that between April 2022 and March 2024, £23 was saved in public spending for every £1 invested in the advice service, in part from averting children going into care. This equates to over £24.5 million saved over the last two years.



New funding secured from the Improving Lives Through Advice (ILTA) grant awarded by the National Lottery Community Fund is enabling us to improve accessibility to the service.

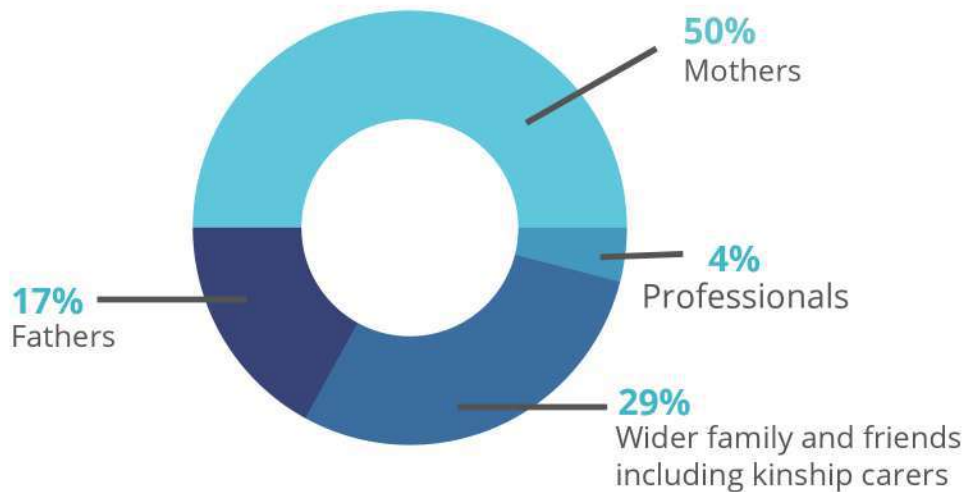


Mutual partnerships with our referral partners - including Become, Family Action, and Help on Your Doorstep - mean we can directly link families through to additional help and support where needed.

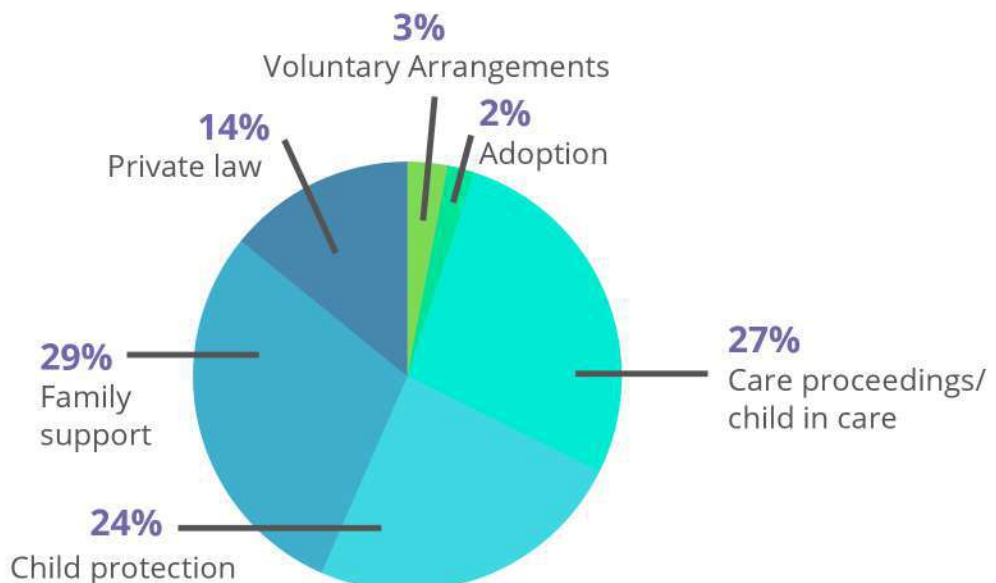
## In 2023/24, our advice and advocacy service:

- Reached **784,297** people through our online advice resources including 369,195 people who visited our online forums for parents and kinship carers.
- Responded to **7,420** advice enquiries via our free telephone advice line and digital service. However, with current resources and levels of demand, we are only able to answer 4 in 10 callers to our free telephone advice line.
- Provided self-advocacy support to **564** families.

### Who we advised in 2023/24:



### The topics we were asked for advice on:





## The top 6 reasons given by callers for children's services involvement:

**29%** domestic abuse

**18%** parental mental ill-health

**14%** parental substance misuse

**14%** parent separation or divorce

**9%** sex offence or alleged sex offence

**10%** support for a disabled child



### In the week after contacting us:

**85%** of families felt that they were better able to cope as a result of their contact with us

**83%** of respondents felt that they understood the law better.



### 4 – 6 months after contacting us:

**54%** of families agreed that they understood their rights, responsibilities and options better

**38%** agreed that the support they received made a positive difference to the local authority plan and services for their children.



The evaluation estimates that **every £1 invested in our service saves the state £23**. That equates to £24.5 million in the last two years.

## 2) Kinship Care



“

*[Your] speedy reply is so helpful and detailed, I cannot thank you enough for the support, it means the world at present when unpaid carers feel especially isolated and abandoned.*

***Kinship Carer accessing our advice***

**For decades, Family Rights Group has led the way in championing kinship care. We have done so with families every step of the way.**

**Kinship carers are relatives or friends who raise children who cannot live with their parents, temporarily or permanently. Across the UK more than 180,000 children are being brought up by kinship carers – significantly more than are in the care system and many more than are adopted. This makes kinship care a key element of the children’s social care system as well as our society; yet it is widely unrecognised and unsupported.**

- Our Time To Define legal proposal and campaign for a written definition of kinship care enshrined in law aims to improve recognition and understanding of kinship care and provide the foundation for a clearer framework for all kinship care families to access financial and other support. We worked with Government to develop a definition which is now published in the first national kinship care strategy and in statutory guidance for local authorities. We continue to press for it to be incorporated in primary legislation and ensure increased support for families across the country.
- The previous Government made kinship care a strategic priority, in large part due to our campaigning. The Department of Education has for the first time established a kinship care policy team. Yet our most recent research on local kinship care policies found that a third of local authorities are failing in their obligation to set out what support they will provide to kinship families. We are campaigning for tougher regulations and a requirement for local authorities to set out a local offer to kinship families.
- We provide the secretariat to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Kinship Care. In the past year we have facilitated sessions with the then Minister for Children and Families. We regularly brief parliamentarians including for debates and oral questions. We supported MPs to secure a kinship care debate in Parliament which was well attended.
- We service the Kinship Care Alliance and its Race Equality sub-group. The latter is exploring structural racism, as experienced by children, parents and kinship carers, and is chaired by Sharon McPherson, co-founder of Families in Harmony and a kinship carer.
- We have long campaigned for a right to paid employment leave for kinship carers to prevent them from being forced out of work. We have lobbied ministers and briefed civil servants, and will continue to do so with the new government. As part of our Same Love, Same Leave campaign we are commissioning economic modelling to further the case.

## Key outcomes:

Our campaigning work has established a widely-accepted definition of kinship care.

We have continued to keep the rights and needs of kinship carers high on the political agenda through our lobbying and engagement.

We have provided the Secretariat to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Kinship Care, whose membership and influence continues to grow.

We have facilitated the Kinship Care Alliance including its subgroups on race equalities and kinship care in Wales.



### 3) The promotion of family-led decision-making in the child welfare arena



**At Family Rights Group we enable systemic change through innovation.**

**We introduced the family group conference (FGC) approach to the UK from New Zealand. Family group conferences bring together a child's family and friends to make a safe plan to address concerns about their welfare, protection or care.**

**Family Group conferences are a process that enables the child's family and friends to make a plan with, and for their child to address concerns about their welfare, protection or care.**

- During the year we were commissioned by Foundations, in partnership with CORAM, to undertake an intensive analysis of how FGC services in England collect data, including which families are offered an FGC and the impact. The work has also developed recommendations as to what data could and should be collected.
- Family Rights Group hosts the National Family Group Conference & Lifelong Links Network. 75 local FGCs services are now members of the Network.
- Family Rights Group trains FGC coordinators. In 2023/4 we held 12 FGC training courses, with a total of 168 coordinators trained.
- The charity runs a quality assurance accreditation scheme for local FGC services. 29 services are currently accredited by Family Rights Group.
- We delivered webinars on FGCs and children public law to 572 lawyers, social care practitioners and the judiciary focusing on the role of family group conferences in the children public law framework in England.
- We continue to develop practice guidance for the use of family group conferences to support the reunification of children in care to their families. We have started a research project developing effective pathways for the use of FGCs prior to birth.
- A recent randomised control trial study by the research centre Foundations showed that family group conferences help families resolve concerns, keep children safely within their family network and avert children from entering the care system, saving the state money. We have been utilising this research in our policy and influencing work to press government to introduce a legal right for families to be offered a family group conference when there are concerns about the care and protection of their children.

## Achievements across the year:

We delivered webinars on FGCs and children public law to 572 lawyers, social care practitioners and the judiciary focusing on the role of family group conferences in the children public law framework in England.

Currently, 29 family group conference services have been accredited by Family Rights Group.

We held 12 FGC training courses, with a total of 168 coordinators trained.



Our Practice Lead, Sean Haresnape, discusses the advancements in family group conferences across the UK

## 4) Lifelong Links - building lasting relationships for children



## **Too often the care system breaks not builds relationships for children in care. We coproduced the Lifelong Links approach, supporting children and young people in care to have supportive, lasting relationships.**

- We now work with 23 of 50 local authorities successfully bid from the government to introduce or extend a Lifelong Links service. We work with a third of all local authorities in England.
- Over 2,800 children and young people have benefited from Lifelong Links as of March 2024.
- Our work with Adoption England to develop Lifelong Links for young people who have been adopted has made significant progress, and will be trialled with 10 young people from the Autumn.
- We have been funded by the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund to ensure children in residential care benefit from Lifelong Links.
- We have launched Circles, a ground-breaking interactive on-line app which enables social workers and Lifelong Links co-ordinators to explore with the child or young person, who is in their support network. It was developed with technology company Atto. Already it is proving popular with local authorities. As well as a practice tool, it also generates data for local authorities and FRG to measure impact.
- We successfully launched our Lifelong Links London care leavers project, generously supported by a high net worth individual and the KPMG Foundation, to act as a catalyst for system change across London over 3 years. We want Lifelong Links to be a universal offer to all care leavers aged 17 and 18.

## Achievements across the year:

During 2023/24, we worked with 42 local authorities delivering Lifelong Links (two in Scotland, two in Wales and 38 in England), a 40% increase on 2022/23.



During 2023/24, 504 children and young people across the UK have engaged with Lifelong Links. More than 2,860 children and young people in England, Wales and Scotland have now benefited from Lifelong Links since it was first implemented in April 2017.

We held eight Lifelong Links courses, with a total of 127 coordinators trained.



Launch of Islington Borough Council's Lifelong Links service at the Emirates Stadium, organised by and for young people with care experience, featuring a special appearance by Tinie



**Our internal analysis of practice summaries produced by Lifelong Links coordinators for each child shows:**

- On average, children and young people increase their social networks from **seven to 26 people**.
- **71%** of children and young people who wished to, reconnected with their wider family networks.
- **67%** of children and young people have an increased sense of identity and belonging.

# 5) Family voices in the child welfare and family justice system



## Family-led solutions are now central to the debate on children’s social care reform, thanks in large part to our tenacity and evidence-led campaigning.

Our parent and kinship care panels, which influence and inform the strategy of the charity, continue to grow and flourish. Alongside their regular meetings and influencing activities, in Summer 2023 we hosted a 10 year celebration event for panel members and their families.

Building on our leading reputation for family participation, we are developing our young people's participation work to embed the voices of care-experienced young people within the organisation.

- Half of our Board of Trustees are parents or kinship carers with experience of children’s services.
- Our parents’ panel and kinship care panels inform all of our policy and campaign work, co-train on our courses for professionals, and are directly involved in organising and speaking at our events.
- Parents and kinship carers also sit on our project working groups and advisory groups.
- We conduct regular impact evaluations of our advice and advocacy service and all new strands of our Lifelong Links work include robust evaluation. The views collected in these evaluations enable us to identify and respond to trends and shared challenges.



Celebration of the 10th anniversary of our family panels with an open-top bus tour of London

## 6) Leading, influencing and embedding

Our uniqueness is in bringing together legal and social work expertise, advice giving, policy and campaigning, and direct work with young people and families.

We recognise that our mission can only be achieved by working with children and families with experience of the child welfare system and those practitioners working within in it, national and local decision makers, academics, and friends of the organisation.



Family Rights Group staff with Janet Daby, Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing

In 2023/24 we developed and implemented our 'Reimagining Pre-Proceedings' project, including a commitment to a 15-month pilot in the Dorset local family justice area. The pilot is designed to help create the conditions for families to get the help they and their children need at an earlier stage to safely avert care proceedings. This is being co-developed with family members with lived experience, the judiciary, local authority and other agencies.

We have led proposals to reform legal aid for families of children who are, or may be, deprived of their liberty (DOLs) by the Family Court. Our campaign includes a letter we coordinated to the Lord Chancellor and Ministry of Justice with cross-sector support from 28 organisations as well as individuals. We also secured funding to develop and host on-line tailored advice materials on DOLs for families.

The President of the Family Division of the High Court established the Transparency Implementation Group to work on how to sensitively open the Family Court to media reporting, while protecting the privacy of children, young people and family members. Family Rights Group is represented on the Group by our kinship care panel member, Claire Walsh, and by our Chair Angela Frazer-Wicks, who was interviewed about her involvement on BBC Radio 4 Woman's Hour.

Our Principal Legal Adviser, Caroline Lynch, was lead author of the Public Law Work Group's report on supervision orders published in April 2023. The report focuses on the use of supervision orders made at the conclusion of care proceedings to support a child to live with a parent(s) or wider family member. We also sit on the President's Public Law Working Group on adoption. Our Chief Executive, Principal Legal Adviser and Principal Social Work Adviser fed into the Group's recommendations, we convened discussion groups with birth parents, to ensure their vital perspective informed the Group's considerations. The Group's report is due to be published in Autumn 2024.

We secured funding to map advice and support services available to birth families whose children may be or have been adopted. Over the past year we have gathered data and worked with web developers and families to design and build an interactive map. The map was launched in May 2024.

**"Our new on-line support map for birth families is the first of its kind in England and will be a vital resource for families before, during and after adoption."**

## Key achievements across the year include:

Developed and implemented a co-produced local family justice area pilot in Dorset to help safely avert care proceedings.

Created proposals to reform legal aid for families of children who are, or may be, deprived of their liberty by the Family Court.

Participated in the Transparency Implementation Group, working on how to sensitively open the Family Court to media reporting.

Designed and built an interactive map of services for birth families whose children may be or have been adopted.



# The Legal Form of the Company

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The charity number (England & Wales) is 1015665, (Scotland) is SC047042. The charity is a company limited by guarantee, the company number is 02702928. The governing document of FRG Limited is the memorandum and articles of association incorporated 1st April 1992 and as amended by special resolution dated 22nd April 1993.

## Thank you to staff

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The Board of Trustees would like to register their immense gratitude to the staff team at Family Rights Group, who have contributed so much, and in multiple ways, to the success of the charity. We would like to thank them for their passion, creativity, empathy and hard work on behalf of Family Rights Group.

## Structure, governance and management

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Angela Frazer-Wicks (Chair of Trustees)  
Stuart Black  
Jacqueline Campbell  
Ann Chavasse  
Sharmila Kar  
Kathryn Morris  
Chris Nicholson  
Jason Nisse  
Matt Patterson  
Jonathan Scourfield  
Emma Smale  
John Trevor-Allen  
Jeremy Westhead (Treasurer)

The liability of the trustees is limited to £1, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charity in the event of the same being wound up while they are a member. The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities as detailed on page 28 for the preparation of the charity's annual financial statements, upon which the auditors are obliged to report to the members of the charity.

## Appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed to the board upon delivery of an application for admission in accordance with the wishes of the board, and with the board's approval. Trustees are appointed for a term of three years; this is renewable up to a period of no more than nine years.

## Reserves Policy

The trustees continue to maintain a target of free reserves at between three and six months, allowing for changes in expenditure patterns and the fundraising climate. The current level of reserves is between three and six months' expenditure. Trustees have recommended increasing free reserves further over the next three years, with the aim of reaching six months' expenditure.

Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future in particular given the level of committed funding. Furthermore, the trustees are confident that there are no material uncertainties that may cast doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The reserves policy will be kept under review and reserve levels adjusted as perceptions of risk and other factors change.

## Asset cover of funds

The notes to the accounts set out an analysis of the assets attributable to the various funds. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund-by-fund basis.

## Additional note

Included within other debtors is a receivable for £666,400 in relation to committed future donations. Were these not to be received (and therefore written down in value) there would be an equal and opposite reduction in Deferred Income such that there would be no reduction in the Charity's Reserves.

## Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the directors has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditors are aware of such information.

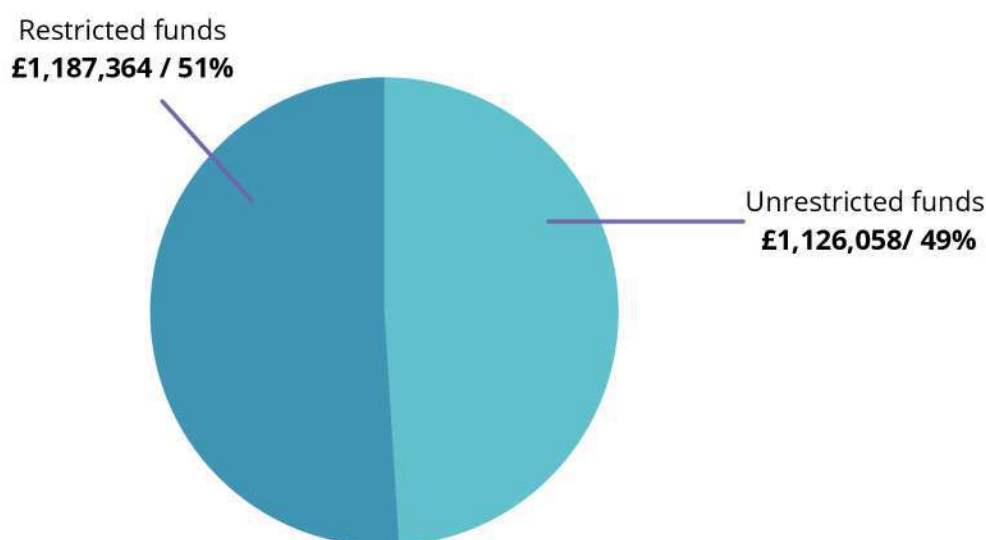
## Auditors

Kreston Reeves were re-appointed auditors to the company, following approval from the trustees.

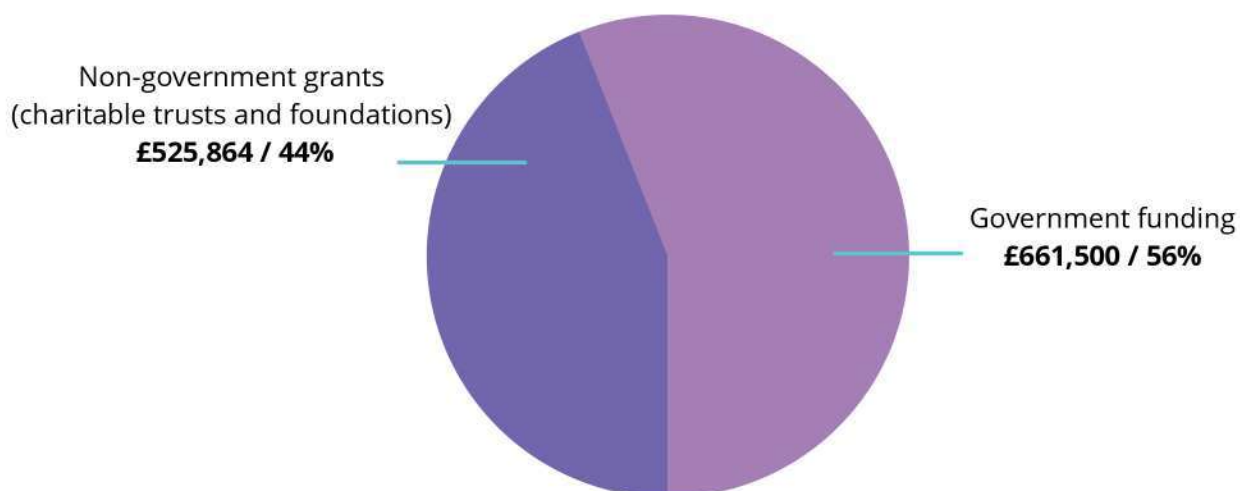
# Financial Results 2023/24

During the year the charity raised £2,313,422 (2023: £1,795,440) and spent £2,011,880 (2023: £1,723,986). This resulted in a surplus of £301,542 (2023: £71,454). Restricted income from government grants (29%) and charitable trusts (22%) made up 51% of total income (2023: 72%). Unrestricted income from grants, services, subscriptions, donations and fundraising events made up 49% of total income (2023: 28%). Unrestricted (free) reserves at the end of the year (including designated reserves) were £725,055 (2023: £476,987).

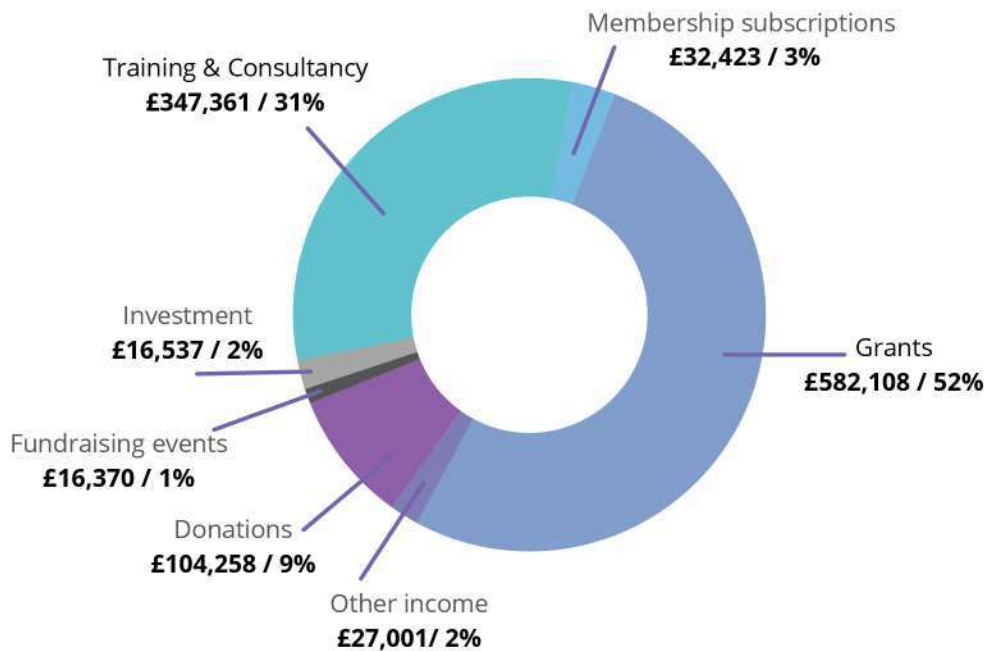
## TOTAL INCOME = £2,313,422



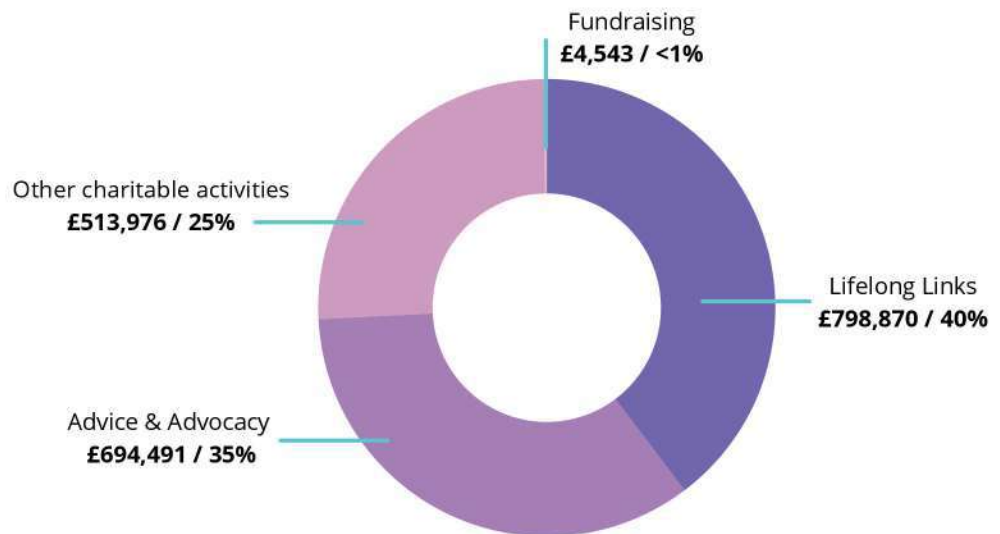
## RESTRICTED INCOME BY FUNDER



## UNRESTRICTED INCOME = £1,126,058



## EXPENDITURE = £2,011,880



### Unrestricted funds

The charity raised £1,126,058 (2023: £511,886) of general or unrestricted income. Expenditure of £877,990 (2023: £601,421) was set against this, leaving a surplus of £248,068 (2023: -£89,535). When added to the fund balance brought forward of £476,987, total unrestricted funds at the end of 2023/24 were £725,055.

Income from training, consultancy and subscriptions made up 31% of total unrestricted income (2023: 42%), grants made up 52% (2023: 46%), donations and supporters' fees made up 9% (2023: 8%) and fundraising events made up 1% (2023: 4%).

## Designated funds

The trustees had previously designated £100,000 of unrestricted funds to cover staffing contingencies. A further £150,00 has been set aside in this financial year to support ongoing unrestricted projects. This brings the total fund to £250,000 making up part of the total free reserves, and remains unused in the year.

## Restricted funds

A total of £1,187,364 (2023: £1,283,554) of restricted income was received in the year. Expenditure of £1,133,890 (2023: £1,122,565) was set against this and, after bringing forward funds of £253,955, the balance of restricted funds was £307,429. All of the restricted income received during the year was made up of grants.

## Funders and Fundraising

We are immensely grateful for the generous support received from a variety of funders and individuals. The following funders supported projects and activities during the year and without them we would have been unable to continue our work: the Access to Justice Foundation, Research in Practice, the Department for Education, the Dulverton Trust, the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, the Fidelity Foundation, Foundations, the Hadley Trust, the Hugh Fraser Foundation, Innovation Unit, the John Armitage Trust, the KPMG Foundation, the Law Society, the Legal Education Foundation, the Ministry of Justice, the National Institute for Health & Care Research, the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, Centre for Justice Innovation, the Regional Adoption Agency, the Robertson Trust, and the Segelman Trust.

We would also like to thank all those individuals, organisations and small trusts and foundations who supported us throughout the year. As a result of the Pilot light outstanding programme, we benefited from the insights of staff at Barclays to advise Family Rights Group on sustainable development. We also gained immensely organisationally and as part of our pre-proceedings pilot work, from the pro bono support of Ian Pocock and his team at service design company Transform. The company Hasbro kindly donated toys prior to Christmas that we were able to distribute to delighted children and parents and kinship carers, including some in desperate financial straits. We continue to learn, collaborate with and benefit from being hosted by Sense, the charity for people with complex disabilities. Support from the Legal Education Foundation has been instrumental in us employing Myriam Naoual, as a trainee solicitor, and learning experienced enhanced by Myriam also having a 6 months secondment to Goodman Ray solicitors.

In Autumn 2023 we exceeded expectations by raising £3,686 from the Family Rights Groupathlon (in which staff, trustees and supporters swam, cycled, ran and rowed), and £6,965 from the Annual Quiz. Thank you to trustee Jason Nisse who led on organising the Groupathlon and to Rt Hon Alan Johnson who was the highly entertaining quiz host. We also re-ran the end of year Big Give fundraising campaign, which between pledges, match funding from the Dulverton Trust, and individual donations, raised £4,552. We participated in the London Legal Walk and were supported at the Family Law Awards. These generous donations enabled us to raise a total of £20,000 from our fundraising events and campaigns, a vital fundraising effort, with special thanks to Ann Chavasse and the Fundraising Sub-Committee.

# FRG LIMITED

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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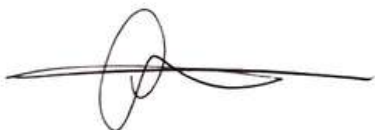
The Trustees, who are also the directors of FRG Limited for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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; 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, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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.



**Angela Frazer-Wicks, Chair of Trustees**

Date: 21 November 2024

# Auditor's Report & Financial Statements

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of FRG Ltd (Operating as Family Rights Group) (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, 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 2024 and of its income and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

## **Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic report.

## **Responsibilities of Trustees**

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

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

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 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 Auditors' 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

## **Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Based on our understanding of the charity and the sector as a whole, and through discussion with the Trustees and other management (as required by auditing standards), we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to safeguarding, health and safety and employment law.

We considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Second Edition (released October 2019), the Companies Act 2006, taxation and pension legislation. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries and management bias in accounting estimates and judgmental areas of the financial statements. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management and assessment of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations (including health and safety) and fraud; and
- Assessment of identified fraud risk factors; and
- Review of expenditure to confirm no evidence of personal benefit; and
- Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls that management has in place to prevent and detect fraud; and
- Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls that management has in place to prevent and detect fraud; and
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships, including related party transactions, that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud; and
- Confirmation of related parties with management, and review of transactions throughout the period to identify any previously undisclosed transactions with related parties outside the normal course of business; and
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- Physical inspection of tangible assets susceptible to fraud or irregularity; and
- Review of significant and unusual transactions and evaluation of the underlying financial rationale supporting the transactions; and
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any manual entries made at the year end for financial statement preparation.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and 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 charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Kreston Reeves LLP*

### **Samantha Rouse FCCA DChA (Senior statutory auditor)**

for and on behalf of

### **Kreston Reeves LLP**

Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor

Canterbury

Date: 22 November 2024

Kreston Reeves LLP are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	4	104,258	-	104,258	27,340
Charitable activities	5	582,108	1,187,364	1,769,472	1,522,667
Other trading activities:	6				
Training and consultancy		347,361	-	347,361	181,831
Membership subscriptions		32,423	-	32,423	32,460
Fundraising events		16,370	-	16,370	22,614
Investments	7	16,537	-	16,537	1,651
Other income	8	27,001	-	27,001	6,877
<b>Total income</b>		<b>1,126,058</b>	<b>1,187,364</b>	<b>2,313,422</b>	<b>1,795,440</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	9	4,543	-	4,543	5,783
Charitable activities:	10				
Advice and Advocacy		169,491	525,000	694,491	679,735
Lifelong Links		552,060	246,810	798,870	481,723
Other charitable activities		151,896	362,080	513,976	556,745
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>877,990</b>	<b>1,133,890</b>	<b>2,011,880</b>	<b>1,723,986</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>248,068</b>	<b>53,474</b>	<b>301,542</b>	<b>71,454</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		476,987	253,955	730,942	659,488
Net movement in funds		248,068	53,474	301,542	71,454
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>725,055</b>	<b>307,429</b>	<b>1,032,484</b>	<b>730,942</b>

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

The notes on pages 34 to 51 form part of these financial statements

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	14	<b>29,726</b>	35,757
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	15	-	1,456
Debtors	16	<b>984,341</b>	283,112
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>1,096,716</b>	728,777
		<b>2,081,057</b>	1,013,345
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	<b>(1,078,299)</b>	(318,160)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>1,002,758</b>	695,185
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>1,032,484</b>	730,942
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	18	<b>307,429</b>	253,955
Unrestricted funds	18	<b>725,055</b>	476,987
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>1,032,484</b>	730,942

The entity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. The members have not required the entity to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. However, an audit is required in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:



**Angela Frazer-Wicks**

Trustee

Date: 21 November 2024

The notes on pages 34 to 51 form part of these financial statements

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash used in operating activities	21 <b>358,789</b>	(143,774)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>16,537</b>	1,651
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(7,387)</b>	(24,294)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>	<b>9,150</b>	(22,643)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>367,939</b>	(166,417)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<b>728,777</b>	895,194
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	22 <b>1,096,716</b>	728,777

The notes on pages 34 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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## 1. General information

FRG Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is N1 9LG. The principal activity of the Charity can be found in the Trustees Report.

## 2. Accounting policies

### 2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

FRG Ltd (Operating as Family Rights Group) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy. The financial statements are presented in UK pound sterling, which is the Charity's functional currency, and rounded to the nearest pound.

### 2.2 Going concern

The Trustees consider whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

### 2.3 Income

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

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### 2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading. Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

### 2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

### 2.6 Taxation

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

### 2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £400 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

At each reporting date the Charity assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, on a reducing balance basis.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 25% reducing balance  
Computer equipment - 25% reducing balance

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### 2.8 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

### 2.9 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

### 2.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

### 2.11 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

### 2.12 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

### 2.13 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

### 2.14 Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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## 2.15 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

## 3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results

The Charity does not currently have any material estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Critical areas of judgement:

### *Lease commitments*

The Charity has entered into a range of lease commitments. The classification of these leases as either financial or operating leases requires the Trustees to consider whether the terms and conditions of each lease are such that the Charity has acquired the risks and rewards associated with the ownership of the underlying assets.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## 4. Income from donations and legacies

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	Total funds 2023 £
Donations and gifts	104,258	<b>104,258</b>	27,340
Total 2023	<u>27,340</u>	<u>27,340</u>	

## 5. Income from charitable activities

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	Total funds 2023 £
Lifelong Links	341,775	340,166	<b>681,941</b>	363,115
Advice and advocacy grants	-	525,000	<b>525,000</b>	555,000
Other grants	240,333	322,198	<b>562,531</b>	604,552
	<u>582,108</u>	<u>1,187,364</u>	<u><b>1,769,472</b></u>	<u>1,522,667</u>
Total 2023	<u>272,613</u>	<u>1,250,054</u>	<u>1,522,667</u>	

## 6. Income from other trading activities

	<b>Unrestricted Funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	Total funds 2023 £
Training and consultancy	347,361	<b>347,361</b>	181,831
Membership subscriptions	32,423	<b>32,423</b>	32,460
Fundraising events	16,370	<b>16,370</b>	22,614
	<u>396,154</u>	<u><b>396,154</b></u>	<u>236,905</u>
Total 2023	<u>236,905</u>	<u>236,905</u>	

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## 7. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Interest receivable	16,537	<b>16,537</b>	1,651
Total 2023	<u>1,651</u>	<u>1,651</u>	

## 8. Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Other income	27,001	<b>27,001</b>	6,877
Total 2023	<u>6,877</u>	<u>6,877</u>	

## 9. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Other fundraising costs	4,543	<b>4,543</b>	5,783
Total 2023	<u>5,783</u>	<u>5,783</u>	

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## 10. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

### Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Advice and Advocacy	169,491	525,000	<b>694,491</b>	679,735
Other Charitable Activities	151,896	362,080	<b>513,976</b>	556,745
Lifelong Links	552,060	246,810	<b>798,870</b>	481,723
	<hr/> 873,447	<hr/> 1,133,890	<hr/> <b>2,007,337</b>	<hr/> 1,718,203
 Total 2023	 <hr/> 500,681	 <hr/> 1,217,522	 <hr/> 1,718,203	

## 11. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Direct costs 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Advice and Advocacy	591,544	102,947	<b>694,491</b>	679,735
Other Charitable Activities	472,219	41,757	<b>513,976</b>	556,745
Lifelong Links	756,990	41,880	<b>798,870</b>	481,723
	<hr/> 1,820,753	<hr/> 186,584	<hr/> <b>2,007,337</b>	<hr/> 1,718,203
 Total 2023	 <hr/> 1,546,267	 <hr/> 171,936	 <hr/> 1,718,203	

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## 11. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

### Analysis of direct costs

	<b>Advice and Advocacy 2024 £</b>	<b>Other Charitable Activities 2024 £</b>	<b>Lifelong Links 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs	568,799	390,815	619,536	<b>1,579,150</b>	1,417,703
Depreciation	6,320	2,572	2,435	<b>11,327</b>	7,802
Other costs	16,425	78,832	135,019	<b>230,276</b>	120,762
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	591,544	472,219	756,990	<b>1,820,753</b>	1,546,267
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total 2023	629,056	487,633	429,578	1,546,267	

### Analysis of support costs

	<b>Advice and Advocacy 2024 £</b>	<b>Other Charitable Activities 2024 £</b>	<b>Lifelong Links 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	Total funds 2023 £
Organisational running costs	93,982	38,278	38,258	<b>170,518</b>	161,271
Trustee governance costs	628	242	255	<b>1,125</b>	315
Audit fees	7,170	2,763	2,917	<b>12,850</b>	10,350
Loss on disposal of fixed asset	1,167	474	450	<b>2,091</b>	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	102,947	41,757	41,880	<b>186,584</b>	171,936
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total 2023	50,679	69,112	52,145	171,936	

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## 12. Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	1,352,368	1,201,359
Social security costs	142,026	132,099
Pension costs	84,756	84,245
	<u>1,579,150</u>	<u>1,417,703</u>

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Project workers	25	25
Support and administration	14	11
	<u>39</u>	<u>36</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Average number of employees	<u>28</u>	<u>27</u>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	2
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	1

Key Management Personnel are defined as the Senior Management Team, the gross cost including employer's national insurance and pension contributions was £308,377 (2023: £285,078).

## 13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2024, expenses totalling £1,125 were reimbursed or paid directly to 5 Trustees (2023 - £315 to 3 Trustees) for the reimbursement of travel expenses to meetings for the charity.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 14. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 April 2023	20,672	40,850	61,522
Additions	-	7,387	7,387
Disposals	(2,788)	-	(2,788)
At 31 March 2024	<u>17,884</u>	<u>48,237</u>	<u>66,121</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2023	3,566	22,199	25,765
Charge for the year	2,147	9,180	11,327
On disposals	(697)	-	(697)
At 31 March 2024	<u>5,016</u>	<u>31,379</u>	<u>36,395</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2024	<u>12,868</u>	<u>16,858</u>	<u>29,726</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>17,106</u>	<u>18,651</u>	<u>35,757</u>

### 15. Stocks

	2024 £	2023 £
Stock	-	1,456

### 16. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	176,023	157,687
Other debtors	666,831	-
Prepayments and accrued income	141,487	125,425
	<u>984,341</u>	<u>283,112</u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## 17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	26,163	16,193
Other taxation and social security	91,928	68,453
Other creditors	13,466	15,813
Accruals and deferred income	946,742	217,701
	<b>1,078,299</b>	<b>318,160</b>

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income at 1 April 2023	138,099	426,737
Resources deferred during the year	887,889	138,099
Amounts released from previous periods	(138,099)	(426,737)
<b>Deferred income at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>887,889</b>	<b>138,099</b>

## 18. Statement of funds

### Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Staffing contingency fund	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Lifelong Links London	-	-	-	150,000	150,000
	<b>100,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>
<b>General funds</b>					
General Funds	376,987	1,126,058	(877,990)	(150,000)	475,055
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>476,987</b>	<b>1,126,058</b>	<b>(877,990)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>725,055</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## 18. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Regional Adoption Agency (Birth Family Services)	49,353	24,000	(57,702)	-	15,651
Social Connections Tool (ATTO)	66,633	-	(26,844)	-	39,789
NL Reaching Communities Fund	-	69,421	(49,762)	-	19,659
Robertson Trust	-	53,329	(6,474)	-	46,855
ESRC (Seldom Heard)	-	4,312	(4,312)	-	-
Dulverton Trust	-	40,000	(40,000)	-	-
Fidelity Foundation	-	98,836	(67,416)	-	31,420
Regional Adoption Agency (Lifelong Links)	16,532	120,000	(62,098)	-	74,434
Moj Access to Justice Fdn (HALS)	-	37,500	(37,500)	-	-
Access to Justice Foundation (ILTA)	-	7,500	(7,500)	-	-
Clothworkers' Foundation	4,950	-	(550)	-	4,400
National Institute for Health and Care (Safeguarding and Pre-Birth)	932	1,932	(2,864)	-	-
Legal Education Foundation (Pre-Proceedings)	79,928	126,665	(141,970)	-	64,623
Hugh Fraser Foundation	-	7,500	(7,500)	-	-
PWG (Care Reform)	-	1,800	(1,800)	-	-
Department for Education (Advice & Advocacy)	-	480,000	(480,000)	-	-
Law Society (DOLS)	-	10,900	(8,009)	-	2,891
Lankelly Chase Foundation	13,331	-	(12,443)	-	888
Legal Education Foundation (Trainee)	3,574	53,753	(54,617)	-	2,710
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (Sc)	4,716	49,916	(54,132)	-	500
Save the Children	14,006	-	(10,397)	-	3,609
	<b>253,955</b>	<b>1,187,364</b>	<b>(1,133,890)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>307,429</b>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<b>730,942</b>	<b>2,313,422</b>	<b>(2,011,880)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,032,484</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## 18. Statement of funds (continued)

### Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
<b>Designated funds</b>				
Staffing contingency fund	100,000	-	-	100,000
<b>General funds</b>				
General Funds	4,000,000	0	0	4,000,000
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>4,100,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,100,000</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## 18. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Regional Adoption Agency (Birth Family Services)	-	60,000	(10,647)	49,353
Social Connections Tool (ATTO)	73,812	-	(7,179)	66,633
NL Reaching Communities Fund	-	26,250	(26,250)	-
Robertson Trust	-	33,500	(33,500)	-
ESRC (Seldom Heard)	-	20,000	(20,000)	-
Dulverton Trust	-	23,333	(23,333)	-
Fidelity Foundation	-	56,250	(56,250)	-
Regional Adoption Agency (Lifelong Links)	-	35,000	(18,468)	16,532
Moj Access to Justice Foundation (HALS)	1,250	1,750	(3,000)	-
DfE Regional Recovery Fund	-	109,443	(109,443)	-
Clothworkers' Foundation	-	5,500	(550)	4,950
National Institute for Health and Care (Safeguarding and Pre-Birth)	-	932	-	932
Legal Education Foundation (Pre-Proceedings)	17,904	126,700	(64,676)	79,928
Hugh Fraser Foundation	-	7,500	(7,500)	-
Public Law Working Group (Care Reform) Department for Education (Advice & Advocacy)	-	480,000	(480,000)	-
Law Society (Deprivation of Liberty)	-	75,000	(75,000)	-
Lankelly Chase Foundation	-	75,670	(62,339)	13,331
Legal Education Foundation (Trainee)	-	53,393	(49,819)	3,574
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (Scotland)	-	60,000	(55,284)	4,716
Save the Children	-	20,000	(5,994)	14,006
	<u>92,966</u>	<u>1,283,554</u>	<u>(1,122,565)</u>	<u>253,955</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u>659,488</u>	<u>1,795,440</u>	<u>(1,723,986)</u>	<u>730,942</u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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## 18. Statement of funds (continued)

### Restricted funds were held for the following purposes:

**Clothworkers' Foundation:** to support capital costs for infrastructure for the Advice & Advocacy service.

**Department for Education (Advice & Advocacy):** delivery of the Family & Friends Advice Line for families involved in the child welfare and family justice systems.

**Social Connections Tool (ATTO, now Circles):** a digital programme to map the social networks of young people at the start of the Lifelong Links process.

**Dulverton Trust:** to expand the Lifelong Links model to new local authorities.

**Economic & Social Research Council (Seldom Heard):** research with seldom-heard families.

**Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (Scotland):** to contribute to the ongoing development of Lifelong Links in Scotland.

**Fidelity Foundation:** increasing impact through technology and data

**Hugh Fraser Foundation:** to support the charity's Lifelong Links and Family Group Decision-Making in Scotland.

**Access to Justice Foundation (Improving Lives Through Advice):** improving lives through advice.

**Lankelly Chase Foundation:** to continue support for the charity's parents' and kinship carers' panels, and associated projects.

**Law Society (DOLs):** supporting the development and promotion of resources on deprivation of liberty orders.

**Legal Education Foundation (Pre-Proceedings):** to safely divert children from care proceedings and ensure the timeliness and fairness of court decisions.

**Legal Education Foundation (Trainee):** a Justice First Fellowship to support a trainee solicitor through a two-year placement with the charity.

**National Lottery (Reaching Communities Fund):** Lifelong Links for children and young people in care.

**Moj Access to Justice Foundation:** improved access to legal support.

**National Institute for Health and Care Research (Safeguarding and Pre-Birth):** collaboration on the evaluation of multi-agency safeguarding reforms.

**Public Law Working Group:** care reform.

**Regional Adoption Agency (Birth Family Services):** surveying, mapping and creating a national directory of support services available to birth families

**Regional Adoption Agency (Lifelong Links):** to develop and adapt the Lifelong Links model with the Regional Adoption Agency, working with birth parents, adopters and adoptees.

**Robertson Trust:** to support the charity's Lifelong Links and Family Group Decision-Making in Scotland.

**Save the Children:** development of new resources for practitioners in England working with children from Ukraine & their kinship carers.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## 19. Summary of funds

### Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Designated funds	100,000	-	-	150,000	250,000
General funds	376,987	1,126,058	(877,990)	(150,000)	475,055
Restricted funds	253,955	1,187,364	(1,133,890)	-	307,429
	<b>730,942</b>	<b>2,313,422</b>	<b>(2,011,880)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,032,484</b>

### Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Designated funds	100,000	-	-	100,000
General funds	466,522	511,886	(601,421)	376,987
Restricted funds	92,966	1,283,554	(1,122,565)	253,955
	<b>659,488</b>	<b>1,795,440</b>	<b>(1,723,986)</b>	<b>730,942</b>

## 20. Analysis of net assets between funds

### Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	29,726	-	29,726
Current assets	1,676,173	404,884	2,081,057
Creditors due within one year	(980,844)	(97,455)	(1,078,299)
<b>Total</b>	<b>725,055</b>	<b>307,429</b>	<b>1,032,484</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## 20. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

### Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	35,757	-	35,757
Current assets	639,399	373,946	1,013,345
Creditors due within one year	(198,169)	(119,991)	(318,160)
<b>Total</b>	<b>476,987</b>	<b>253,955</b>	<b>730,942</b>

## 21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>301,542</b>	71,454
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	<b>13,543</b>	7,802
Bank interest	<b>(16,537)</b>	(1,651)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	<b>(701,229)</b>	111,675
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<b>760,241</b>	(333,054)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>357,560</b>	(143,774)

## 22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand	<b>1,096,716</b>	728,777

## 23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>728,777</b>	<b>367,939</b>	<b>1,096,716</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

## 24. Pension commitments

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £84,756 (2023: £84,245). A liability of £13,466 (2023: £14,187) was payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and is included in creditors.

## 25. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2024 the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	85,629	85,629
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	199,695	285,324
	<u>285,324</u>	<u>370,953</u>

## 26. Related party transactions

There were two related party transactions in the year (2023: £Nil), being two instalments of grant income totalling £20,000, from the Loveday Charitable Trust. A family member of John Loveday, who is a member of key management, sits on the board of trustees of the Loveday Charitable Trust. There were no related party balances at the year end (2023: £Nil).

## 27. Controlling party

There is no ultimate controlling party.

**Family Rights Group's vision is that every child should be able to be raised safely and thrive within their family.**

**We believe that children in the care system should have loving relationships they can turn to throughout life.**

**We seek to ensure that:**

- Families involved with the child welfare and family justice system are treated fairly, have their rights respected and are able to make informed decisions;
- Children and families get the help they need, so wherever possible children can live safely and flourish within their family network;
- All children, including those in care, have lasting and supportive relationships to sustain them throughout their lives;
- Our child welfare and family justice system – and wider society – promotes social justice and creates conditions that enable children to achieve their potential;
- Children and families' voices and experiences drive decision making at an individual and strategic level within the child welfare and family justice system.

**Advice line 9.30am–3.30pm:**

0808 801 0366

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FRG Limited  
Established in 1974  
Company Registration No. 2702928  
Charity No. 1015665 (England and Wales)  
SC047042 (Scotland)  
VAT Registration No: 122 8302 49



**FRG LTD**

England & Wales - Charity number 1015665

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# Accounts

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# Annual Report And Financial Statements

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for the year ended 31 March 2023

# FRG Ltd

## Legal & Administrative Information

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### Patron

The Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson

### Trustees

Angela Frazer-Wicks  
*(Chair of Trustees)*

Kathryn Morris  
*(Vice-Chair, appointed November 2022)*

Jeremy Westhead  
*(Treasurer)*

Stuart Black

Jacqueline Campbell

Ann Chavasse

Mark Gurrey  
*(resigned November 2022)*

Sharmila Kar

Kevin Makwikila  
*(resigned March 2023)*

Chris Nicholson

Jason Nisse

Jonathan Scourfield

Emma Smale

John Trevor-Allen

### Secretary

John Loveday

### Charity number (England and Wales)

1015665

### Charity number (Scotland)

SC047042

### Company number

2702928

### Principal address

101 Pentonville Road  
London  
N1 9LG

### Registered office

101 Pentonville Road  
London  
N1 9LG

### Auditor

Kreston Reeves LLP  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Springfield House  
Springfield Road  
Horsham  
RH12 2RG

### Bankers

Unity Trust Bank plc  
Nine Brindley Place  
Birmingham, B1 2HB

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023. The Trustees' Report is also a Directors' Report for the purposes of company law, incorporating the Strategic Report as required by the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013.

The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities to undertake.

The Trustees regularly update the charity's risk register to identify and mitigate the major risks to which FRG Limited is exposed. The register incorporates both financial and non-financial risks and systems in place to reduce those risks to a reasonable level.

## Mission

Family Rights Group's mission is to create a more socially just society in which the child welfare and family justice systems support children to live safely and thrive within their family, while strengthening the family and community networks of those children who cannot live at home.

The objects of the charity are to relieve families with children who are in need or distress.



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# Chief Executive's Welcome

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**Cathy Ashley OBE,**  
Chief Executive

For almost 50 years, Family Rights Group has been at the forefront of developments in the child welfare system. Our staff, trustees and panel members have continued that work at pace this year, helping to keep children and families safely together.

With a care system in crisis, frequently failing to provide the stable and loving environment for children to thrive, there is growing recognition of the importance of supporting children to safely remain in their families to begin with.

In 2022, the Independent Review of Children's Social Care made a dire warning that the number of children in the care system in England would rise to 100,000 without an urgent reset. The Review's findings and recommendations reaffirmed our analysis that the system is too quick to investigate and assess families, rather than support and work in partnership with them.

The Review placed very welcome emphasis on the value and importance of family and community networks in children's lives. In particular, we welcomed the recommendation that families should have a legal right to take the lead in making decisions and creating a safe plan for how children are cared for.

The government reform strategy that has followed rightly promotes a family-first vision for children's social care. It's something which we have campaigned for over many years. Central to our mission is the prioritisation of meaningful and effective help at the right time for families, and the valuing of support from wider family and friends, including as kinship carers.

However, we are concerned that the proposed reforms and investment fall short of adequately responding to the scale of the crisis that is gripping children's social care. Without the urgently needed system reset, the number of looked-after children will keep rising.

Consequently, our work to provide free and independent advice to families, developing innovative services with local authorities, while also informing and influencing public policy and the law, remains as critical as ever.

This year, kinship care is now firmly on the political agenda, with cross party recognition of the critical role that relatives and family friends play in raising children. The first national kinship care strategy is set to be published by the end of 2023. It's a significant milestone we celebrate after decades of campaigning alongside kinships carers and partners in the Kinship Care Alliance. This year, we have secured an extension in the scope of legal aid to prospective kinship carers making and pursuing applications for special guardianship orders. We continue to pursue important changes including greater financial support and entitlement to kinship care employment leave.

It has been a stunning year for our pioneering Lifelong Links approach, described recently by Isabelle Trowler, chief social worker for children and families, as "one of the most successful innovations in our sector in the last 10 years". The approach was designed to enable children in care and care leavers to have lasting relationships with those who care about them. It was spotlighted in the government's strategy and received the Nick Crichton Award for Family Justice. An evaluation published at the start of the year confirmed the long term positive impact Lifelong Links is having for care experienced young people. It has attracted new funding

and interest across different sectors, as well as internationally.

Our advice and advocacy work ensured that over 7,000 calls and web enquiries were answered in the year, and the service has expanded to include an increasing range of digital options for families to get advice, such as a live webchat. Recognising the value of the service in delivering better outcomes for families and saving taxpayer money, the Department for Education has renewed our funding.

In the legal and policy world, our Reimagining Pre-proceedings project is providing a unique opportunity in two local family justice areas to re-emphasise the importance of early and effective partnership working with families, to promote the welfare of children. We have established Family Rights Group as an authority on the advice and representation needs of families with children who are, or may be, deprived of their liberty by the family courts. We have published a briefing paper analysing the relevant legal aid regime, its anomalies and injustices and sharing clear proposals for reform. And we have been successful in securing the expansion of non-means tested legal aid to birth parents in placement and adoption proceedings.

Family Rights Group's parents' and kinship carers' panels are central to all our work, including our strategic direction and key decisions. Our panels have continued to thrive, and

we have recruited new members, as we strive to reflect the breadth and diversity of experiences and demographics of families involved with the child welfare and family justice systems.

Our Board of Trustees provides tireless and much-valued support. We were thrilled that Angela Frazer-Wicks, our Chair, was awarded an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours, in recognition of her immense campaign work on behalf of birth families.

As well as leading our Board, Angela has played a key role in the Family Justice Council and the Government's National Implementation Board. Professor Kate Morris was appointed our Vice-Chair in November, and has provided support with a number of key projects. Emma Smale has generously given her time to supporting the leadership team with strategic planning, and the all staff away day. Ann Chavasse and Jason Nisse have mobilised resources and support to help ensure an extremely successful fundraising year, in which we raised over £50,000 in events and individual donations. Huge thanks are also due our Treasurer Jeremy Westhead, who has overseen our finances and led on tough conversations about financial planning and risk management.

We were also sad to say farewell to two departing trustees, Mark Gurrey and Kevin Makwikila. Mark has been a supporter of Family Rights Group since the 1980s, informing the charity's work with his social work expertise. Kevin has brilliantly helped us with recruitment, and we are delighted that he will remain on our parents' panel.

The Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson continues to be a wonderful patron for the organisation, and hosted a highly successful fundraising Quiz in October. The efforts of all our staff, trustees and many supporters have made all of our events possible and have helped to contribute to a very successful year.

Our staff team continued to be a core element of our success. Without them none of our progress over the last year would have been possible. In 2022/23 we strengthened our capacity in key areas including communications, public affairs, advice and advocacy, and Lifelong Links.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our funders and donations from supporters. To everyone who has supported our work this year, thank you for your kindness and your commitment to our work and our values.

As we reflect on our year - the successes and challenges - we are reminded of the words of the Independent Review on Children's Social Care that nothing short of a system reset will solve the crisis of the social care system. We are clear on the task ahead, and will strain every organisational sinew to ensure that this happens, and with the voices and experiences of families at its forefront.

## **September 2023**

# Trustees' Report

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## Our 2021-26 strategy

Our ambitious 2021-26 strategic plan, now in its third year, sets out Family Rights Group's vision, mission, principles, way of working, and our campaign and impact goals.

## Our strategic priorities are that:

1. Families involved with the child welfare and family justice systems are treated fairly, have their rights respected and are able to make informed decisions.
2. Children and families get the help they need, so wherever possible children can live safely and flourish within their family network.
3. All children, including those in care, have lasting and supportive relationships to sustain them throughout their lives.
4. Our child welfare and family justice systems – and wider society – promote social justice and create conditions that enable children to achieve their potential.
5. Children and families' voices and experiences drive decision making at an individual and strategic level within the child welfare and family justice systems.

Last year saw the launch of our business plan, setting out key milestones in alignment with each of our strategic goals. The plan will help us to measure performance and track progress in the subsequent years of our strategy.

**A summary of key achievements of the year are set out in alignment with our seven impact goals:**

# 1) Increasing access to independent legal and practical advice and information for families involved in the child welfare system



*I will always be indebted to your charity who continue to do such fantastic work in giving much needed advice and fight for the rights of special guardians and kinship carers. I had to use the advice line again last week and spoke to a wonderful, supportive and knowledgeable member of the team.*



*Your advice has been amazing and much appreciated...thank you so much for your time today.*

Our advice and advocacy work continued to give essential support to help families navigate the law and child welfare processes. We answered over 7,000 advice calls and web enquiries in the year, and the service has expanded to include an increasing range of digital tools such as a live webchat. Recognising the value of the service in delivering better outcomes for families and saving taxpayer money, the Department for Education awarded an 18-month grant to start in October 2023.



We provide a blended service with online advice resources, a telephone advice line, webchat, advice forums and an email enquiry form. Our service is primarily funded by the Department for Education.



A grant from the Ministry of Justice/Access to Justice Foundation supported the development of a webchat. Launched in December 2022, it has provides an alternative way for families to access advice. The webchat is available after our telephone advice line closes, extending our opening hours.



In February 2023, we launched a new web enquiry form which is available 24/7 improving access to our advice.



Officials from the Department for Education and Helen Hayes MP, the Shadow Minister for Children and Early Years, visited our advice and advocacy service. They met our advisers and observed our work to keep children safely within their families.

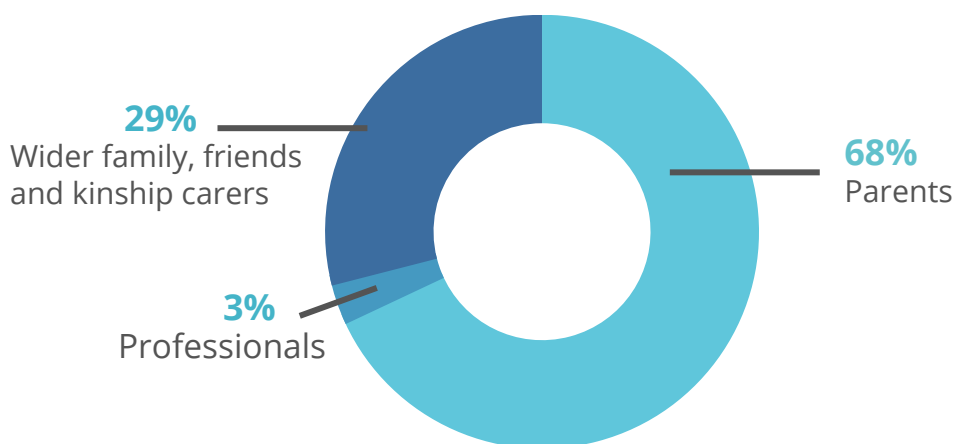


We teamed up with charities who also offer information and guidance to families, including Become, Family Action, and Help on Your Doorstep. These partnerships mean that as well as advising families, we can also link them directly into the support offered by our referral partners.

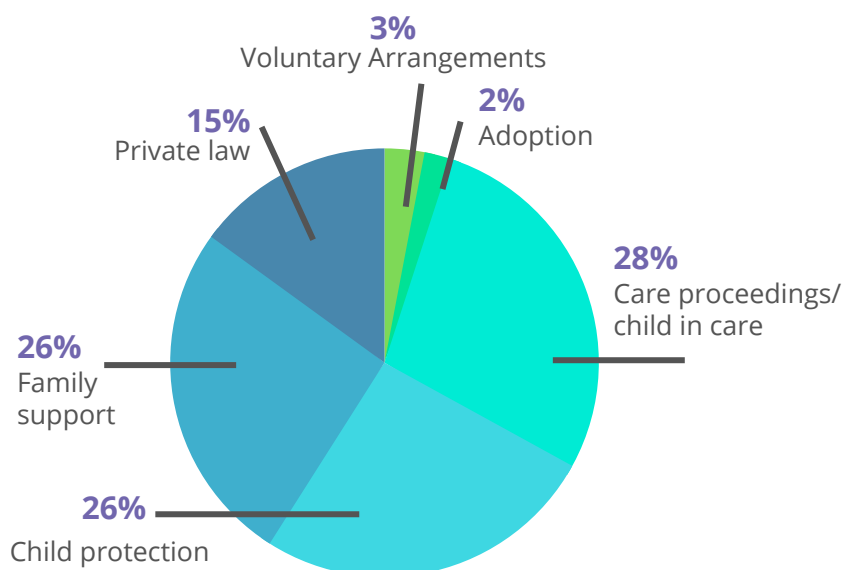
## In 2022/23, our advice and advocacy service:

- Reached **700,000** people through our online advice resources including more than 280,000 people who visited our online forums for parents and kinship carers.
- Responded to over **7,000** advice enquiries calls to our free telephone advice line were answered. Nevertheless, with current resources and levels of demand, we are only able to answer 4 in 10 callers to our free telephone advice line.
- Provided self-advocacy support to over **650** families.

### Who we advised:



### The topics we were asked for advice on:



## The 6 reasons most given for accessing our service:

**22%** domestic abuse

**13%** parental mental ill-health

**12%** parental substance misuse

**11%** parent separation or divorce

**8%** sex offence or alleged sex offence

**7%** support for a disabled child

We annually evaluate our service using an impact model based on our theory of change, developed with New Philanthropy Capital. The model uses data from our Salesforce CRM (case recording/monitoring system) and feedback surveys.

The 2022 evaluation of our advice service shows that we surpassed our targets and demonstrates the positive impact of high-quality, specialist, personalised advice provided by advisers with expertise in child welfare law and practice. Our service offers essential support at a time when record numbers of families are subject to intensive and often stressful interventions by the state.

## The 2022 evaluation of the service found:



In the week after calling us **84% of respondents felt that they understood the law better.**



4 – 6 months after calling us **45% agreed that the support they received from us made a positive difference** to the local authority plan and/or services for their child/children.



The evaluation estimates that **every £1 invested in our service saves the state £15.58.** That is nearly £15 million in the last two years.

**2) Lifelong Links - building lasting support networks for children**

And

**3) The promotion of family-led decision-making in the child welfare arena**



**Family Rights Group has pioneered innovative approaches in the child welfare system. We introduced family group conferences from New Zealand so a child's wider family and community take the lead in finding solutions and making plans to address social workers' concerns. We also coproduced the Lifelong Links approach, which seeks to ensure that children in care and care leavers have the meaningful relationships in their lives that we all need.**

- There is a growing interest in Lifelong Links, with the number of local authorities offering Lifelong Links to children in care steadily growing year on year. We are currently in discussions with many more local authorities who are interested in setting up a Lifelong Links service in 2023/24.
- We have continued our work on the "Always Hope" project in the West Midlands, funded by Ministry of Justice, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Barrow Cadbury Trust, offering Lifelong Links to care experienced young adults in prison. Funding for this work ceases in June 2023.
- In a significant development, we have been funded by the Regional Adoption Agency to explore Lifelong Links with adopted children. This could be groundbreaking in changing how 'contact' is enabled, promoted, and supported between adopted children and their birth families.
- We worked with CASCADE Centre at Cardiff University on a research project to map family group conference services across the UK. The results, published in December 2022, show that 167 local authorities in the UK have a family group conference service – a rate of 79%. Of these services, over 70% offer an FGC at the Early Help stage, which is crucial if families are to be supported to make safe plans prior to crises escalating. Family Rights Group also sits on the advisory board of a NIHR research study exploring the use of FGCs as an alternative to child protection conferences.
- We are developing practice guidance for the use of family group conferences to support reunification of children in care to their families. We are also seeking funding for a research project developing effective pathways for the use of FGCs pre-birth.
- Our policy and campaigns work has included engaging with senior politicians and officials in national and local government on children's social care reform in relation to both family group conferences and Lifelong Links.
- The Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England recommended that "all local authorities should have skilled family finding support equivalent to, or exceeding, the work of Lifelong Links in place by 2024 at the very latest." The Government's recently published children's social care strategy also cites Lifelong Links.

- The Independent Review recommended a new legal entitlement to family group decision making, so families can draw up family-led alternative plan to safely avert local authorities issuing care proceedings. We have been working to influence the Department for Education's adoption of this recommendation to include a specific commitment to the FGC model. The Government have announced they will provide £47 million to 12 'pathfinder' local authorities over the next two years to test out the implementation of reforms including family group decision making. They have also made a £20 million pot available for 'family finding' services which local authorities can apply to for setting up or expanding a Lifelong Links service.
- We are developing an exciting Lifelong Links London care leavers project for launch in Autumn 2023, supported by a high net worth individual, to act as a catalyst for system change across London over 3 years. We want Lifelong Links to be a universal offer to all care leavers aged 17 and 18, as well as developing other areas of support.

## Outputs across the year:

During 2022/23, we worked with 32 local authorities delivering Lifelong Links (7 in Scotland, 2 in Wales and 23 in England), a **40%** increase on 2020/21.

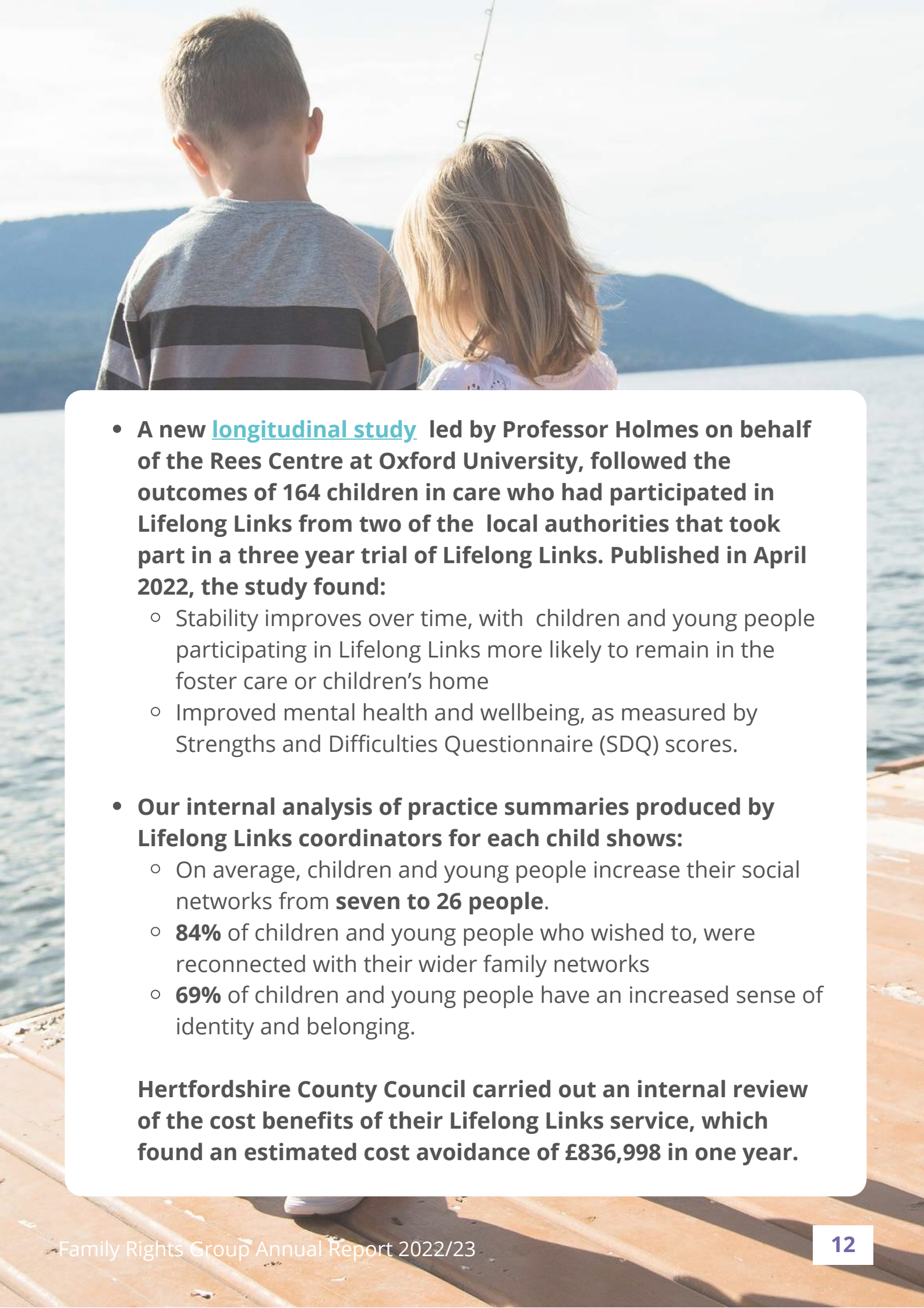


During 2022/23, 494 children and young people across the UK have engaged with Lifelong Links. More than **2,300** children and young people in England, Wales and Scotland have now benefited from Lifelong Links since it was first implemented in April 2017.

We developed **specialist guidance** for Lifelong Links with care experienced young people aged 16+ and delivered two training courses to Lifelong Links coordinators on this.



Currently, **22** family group conference services have been accredited by Family Rights Group.

- 
- A young boy and girl are seen from behind, sitting on a boat and fishing. The boy is on the left, wearing a grey and black striped t-shirt. The girl is on the right, with long blonde hair, wearing a light-colored top. They are looking out over a body of water towards distant hills under a clear sky. A fishing rod is visible between them.
- A new [longitudinal study](#) led by Professor Holmes on behalf of the Rees Centre at Oxford University, followed the outcomes of 164 children in care who had participated in Lifelong Links from two of the local authorities that took part in a three year trial of Lifelong Links. Published in April 2022, the study found:

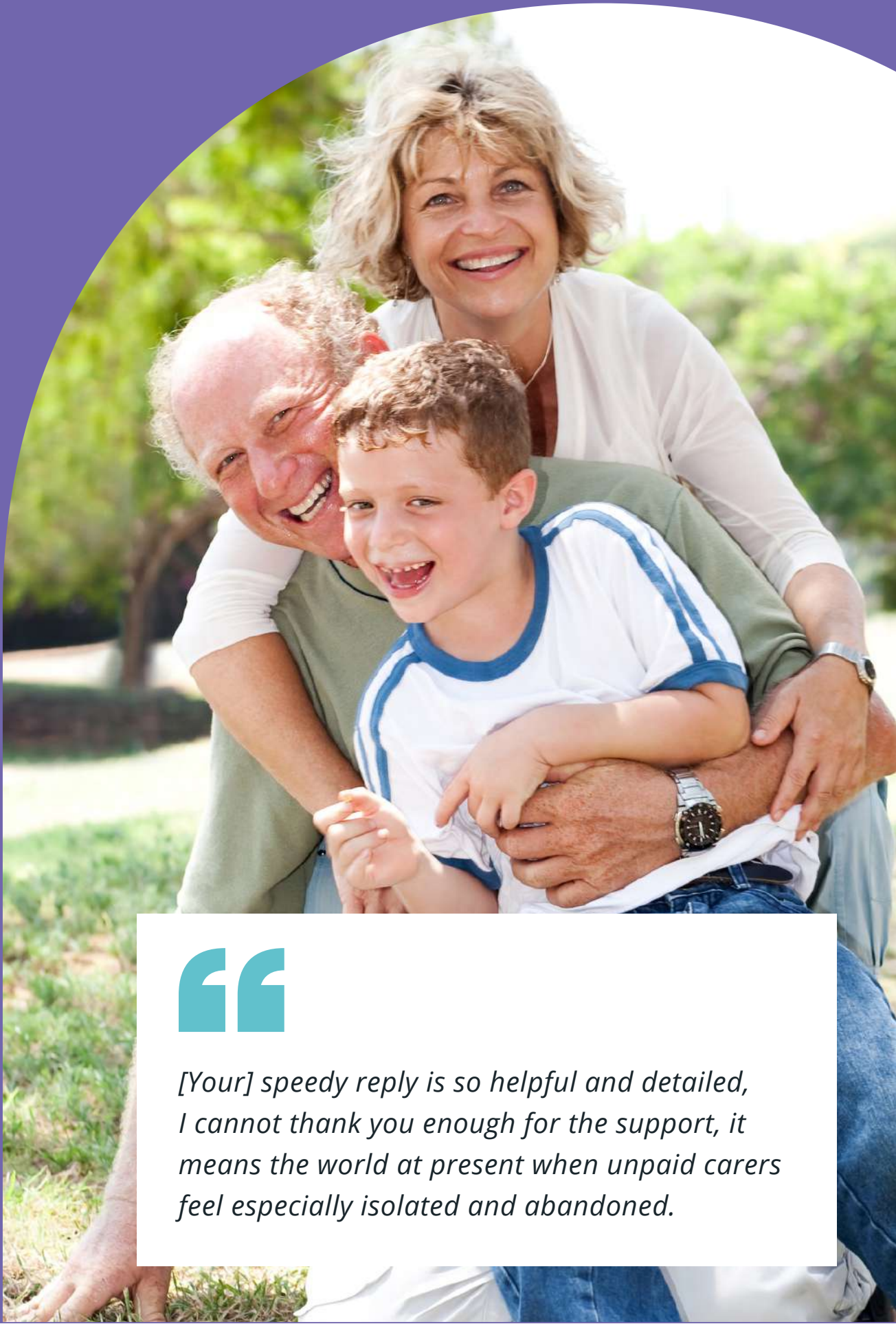
- Stability improves over time, with children and young people participating in Lifelong Links more likely to remain in the foster care or children's home
- Improved mental health and wellbeing, as measured by Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) scores.

- **Our internal analysis of practice summaries produced by Lifelong Links coordinators for each child shows:**

- On average, children and young people increase their social networks from **seven to 26 people**.
- **84%** of children and young people who wished to, were reconnected with their wider family networks
- **69%** of children and young people have an increased sense of identity and belonging.

**Hertfordshire County Council carried out an internal review of the cost benefits of their Lifelong Links service, which found an estimated cost avoidance of £836,998 in one year.**

## 4) Kinship Care



“

*[Your] speedy reply is so helpful and detailed, I cannot thank you enough for the support, it means the world at present when unpaid carers feel especially isolated and abandoned.*

**Kinship carers are relatives or friends who raise children who cannot safely live with their parents. Across the UK more than 180,000 children are being brought up by kinship carers – significantly more than are in the care system and many more than are adopted. This makes kinship care a key element of the children’s social care system; yet it is widely unrecognised and unsupported.**

Government has now made kinship care a strategic priority. The Department of Education has for the first time established a kinship care policy team, with whom we are regularly in contact. We are working with kinship carers to influence what the first national kinship care strategy contains and stressing that this must be a cross-Government endeavour to make a real difference.

We provide the secretariat to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Kinship Care. In 2022, we facilitated a APPG inquiry on kinship carers’ access to legal aid and advice and representation to which carers contributed evidence. The Group published its ‘Lost in the Legal Labyrinth’ report in May 2022 at an online launch event. We have facilitated a session with the Children’s Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, to discuss the Independent Family Review and improving support for children in kinship care. In the summer, we were facilitated a session with Claire Coutinho MP, then Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing, to discuss the kinship care strategy.

Following our lobbying over several years for legal aid reforms, and the APPG inquiry, the Ministry of Justice has now extended the scope of legal aid to some (prospective) kinship carers making and pursuing applications for special guardianship orders and expanded provision of non-means tested legal aid to parents with children subject of placement and adoption proceedings.

As part of our work servicing the Kinship Care Alliance, we have established a new Race Equality sub-group. This group is exploring structural racism, as experienced by children, parents and kinship carers. It is chaired by Sharon McPherson, co-founder of Families in Harmony and a kinship carer.

We are pleased to have significantly influenced the provisions in the first Kinship Care Bill, a Private Members Bill introduced by Munira Wilson MP. It proposes introducing a single definition of kinship care written into primary legislation, the introduction of paid employment leave, securing financial provision for kinship carers and facilitating extra educational support for children in kinship care. Members of our kinship carer panel attended Parliament to meet with Munira and to witness the reading of the Kinship Care Bill, which unfortunately has not become law.

## Other significant milestones

- Family Rights Group has influenced the recommendations of the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care and the subsequent implementation strategy published by the Government.
- The Government has recognised that financial support is currently neither fair nor adequate for the strains kinship families face but have not yet made concrete proposals for improvement. Our legal and policy work around inequalities and injustices in special guardianship financial support, drawing on insights from our advice service, is generating recommendations for change in this area. We are also pursuing options for strategic litigation to challenge current practices.
- Our Time To Define campaign for a written definition of kinship care enshrined in law aims to improve recognition and understanding of kinship care and enable clearer access to support. In a welcome development, the Government has now published a working definition of kinship care. We are pressing for this to be written into primary legislation to have the necessary weight and impact. Clare, a kinship care panel member, wrote for Metro UK about the difficulties she faced in getting medical authorities to recognise her kinship carer status when the child she was raising was sick and how a legal definition of kinship care would have addressed this.
- The DfE has committed to investing £9 million over the next two years in information and training for kinship carers, including informal carers. This builds on earlier investment in peer support groups and is a welcome response to the lack of practical support available to kinship families in many communities. We have discussed with the Department what this support should include, drawing on input from kinship carers.



## Key outcomes:

Secured an extension of legal aid to special guardians in private law cases

Significant influence on the findings and recommendations of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care and subsequent Government implementation strategy

Facilitated the All Party Parliamentary Group on Kinship Care including the Group's inquiry on legal aid and advice

Launched the Kinship Care Alliance's subgroups on race equalities and Wales

Launched our Time To Define kinship care campaign for a legal definition of kinship care which is now being taken forward by the Government



# 5) Family voices in the child welfare and family justice system



- In March 2022, we hosted an 'Our Families, Our Voices' event – an evening of talks, performances and conversation curated and led by young people, mothers, fathers and kinship carers with lived experience of the child welfare system in tandem with practitioners and senior children's services leaders. The evening challenged assumptions and highlighted what needs to change within the child welfare system. Critically it also focused upon the benefits of effective partnership working between families and the state in the interests of children.
- Members of our parents and kinship care panels continue to actively engage with other child welfare organisations including local authorities, to motivate them and support them to set up family engagement structures. Through this work, they play a leading role in advocating for the inclusion of the voices of lived experienced in policy making and service delivery and promote ways for that to be effectively achieved.
- At the Kempe Centre International Conference in October 2022, panel members led a workshop about how listening and working with families through our panels has led to changes in how Family Rights Group operates as a charity, as well as shifting attitudes, policies and practices externally.
- At the Frontline's Curriculum 2023 Focus Groups, panel members assisted Frontline to create new courses that focus more on families and their input. They have also taken part in a focus group with Social Work England who were reviewing how complaints against social workers are handled.
- Panel members have produced blogs and other content including for Black History Month and on the cost-of-living crisis.
- Recently, some of our panel members (Katie, Azariah Hope, Kay, Declan, Kate, Husain, Alex and Angela) recorded video clips for the new [Traveller Movement Safe Space for Woman](#) microsite, focusing particularly on questions that mothers may have about involvement with children's services and child protection.

## 6) Leading, influencing and embedding



**We recognise that our mission can only be achieved by working with children and families with experience of the child welfare system and those practitioners working within in it, national and local decision makers, academics, and friends of the organisation.**

- The President of the Family Division of the High Court established the Transparency Implementation Group to work on how to sensitively open the Family Court to media reporting, while protecting the privacy of children, young people and family members. Family Rights Group is represented on the Group by Angela Frazer-Wicks, and kinship care panel member, Claire Walsh.
- As part of our role on the President’s Public Law Working Group, our principal legal adviser, Caroline Lynch, has led the drafting of soon to be published best practice guidance regarding supervision orders made at the conclusion of care proceedings to support the child to live with a parent(s).
- Working with the Chair of the Public Law Working Group (PLWG), Mr Justice Keehan and Professor Judith Harwin, we are undertaking activities to influence the PLWG’s new sub-group on reforming care proceedings. This includes undertaking an audit of available resources for young people and families about care proceedings (and pre-proceedings). We are also co-facilitating and supporting a parents’ reference group and kinship care reference group. For the first time, parents and kinship carers with lived experience of the child welfare system will sit directly on the PLWG sub-group.



# 7) Infrastructure & sustainability



Strong and sustainable infrastructure and operations are the bedrock to a charity's success. During 2022/23 Family Rights Group was able to progress the following:

**A workplace that is suited to our size and needs:** Family Rights Group oversaw a successful move to an excellent and well-suited new office space in July 2022, in partnership with the charity Sense. At the same time, the majority of our staff switched from remote-based to hybrid working, and we now have a lively and active office hub, which includes space for events and external meetings.

**A working culture that embraces diversity, equality and well-being:** in 22/23 we strengthened the charity's equalities framework through the implementation of a number of strands of our work, including a gender pay review, a review of equal opportunities data with staff, increased consideration of equality and inclusion in our recruitment procedures, adaptations to our existing policies, and new policies to take account of individual circumstances and needs across our workforce. We also drafted a well-being framework, which is being launched this year.

**Organisational systems that meet the current needs of the charity and ensure greater efficiency:** we have continued to explore tools to innovatively and effectively address our needs; this has included web tools to enhance our advice service, including a new webchat and web enquiry form; we have also started to assess the opportunities (and risks) posed by AI, and how it could help us reach a wider public.

**Governance structures that are robust and diverse, responding with agility to our changing times:** the trustees' role has never been more critical, as we face such a challenging fundraising landscape, while campaigning on several different fronts, and we continue to explore ways that we can maximise the support and expertise of our board.

### **Thank you to staff**

The Board of Trustees would like to register their immense gratitude to the staff team at Family Rights Group, who have contributed so much, and in multiple ways, to the success of the charity. We would like to thank them for their passion, creativity, empathy and hard work on behalf of Family Rights Group.



# The Legal Form of the Company

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The charity number (England & Wales) is 1015665, (Scotland) is SC047042. The charity is a company limited by guarantee, the company number is 02702928. The governing document of FRG Limited is the memorandum and articles of association incorporated 1st April 1992 and as amended by special resolution dated 22nd April 1993.

## Structure, governance and management

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Angela Frazer-Wicks (Chair of Trustees)  
Stuart Black  
Jacqueline Campbell  
Ann Chavasse  
Sharmila Kar  
Kathryn Morris  
Chris Nicholson  
Jason Nisse  
Jonathan Scourfield  
Emma Smale  
John Trevor-Allen  
Jeremy Westhead (Treasurer)

The liability of the trustees is limited to £1, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charity in the event of the same being wound up while they are a member. The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities as detailed on page 28 for the preparation of the charity's annual financial statements, upon which the auditors are obliged to report to the members of the charity.

## Appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed to the board upon delivery of an application for admission in accordance with the wishes of the board, and with the board's approval. Trustees are appointed for a term of three years; this is renewable up to a period of no more than nine years.

## Reserves Policy

The trustees continue to maintain a target of free reserves at between three and six months, allowing for changes in expenditure patterns and the fundraising climate. The current level of reserves now exceeds three months' expenditure, but falls short of six months' expenditure. Trustees have recommended increasing free reserves further over the next three years, with the aim of reaching six months' expenditure. Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future in particular given the level of committed funding. Furthermore, the trustees are confident that there are no material uncertainties that may cast doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The reserves policy will be kept under review and reserve levels adjusted as perceptions of risk and other factors change.

## Asset cover of funds

The notes to the accounts set out an analysis of the assets attributable to the various funds. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund-by-fund basis.

## Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the directors has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditors are aware of such information.

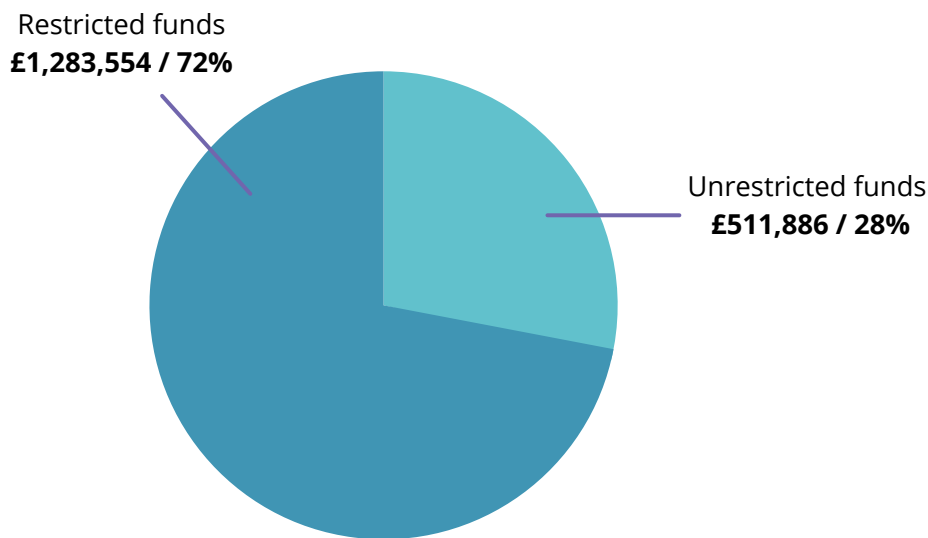
## Auditors

Kreston Reeves were re-appointed auditors to the company, following approval from the trustees.

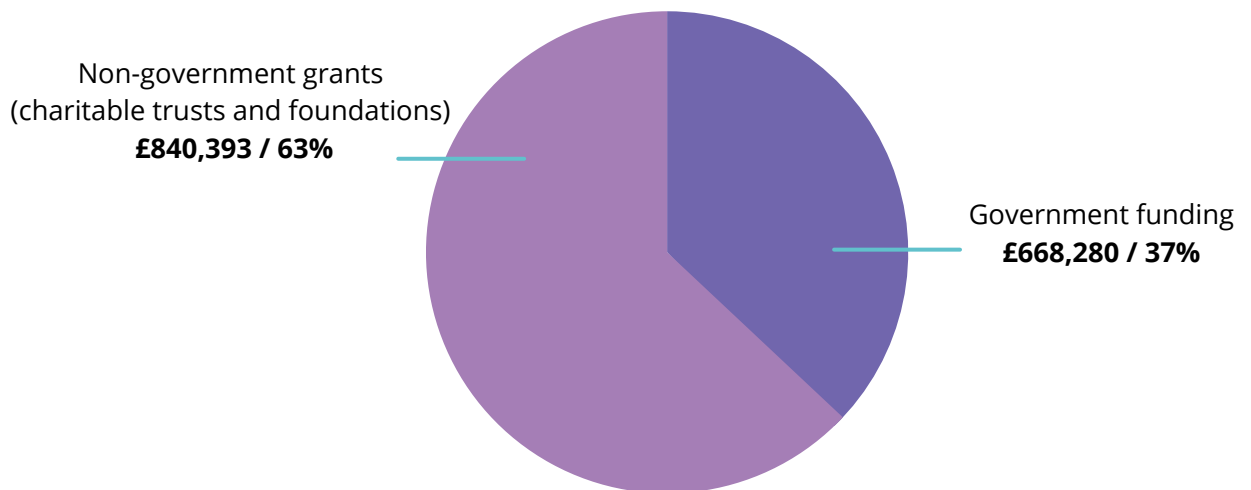
# Financial Results 2022/23

During the year the charity raised £1,795,440 (2022: £1,413,738) and spent £1,723,986 (2022: £1,508,937). Restricted income from government grants (37%) and charitable trusts (63%) made up 72% of total income (2022: 73%). Unrestricted income from grants, services, subscriptions, donations and fundraising events made up 28% of total income (2022: 27%). Unrestricted (free) reserves at the end of the year (including designated reserves) were £476,987 (2022: £566,522).

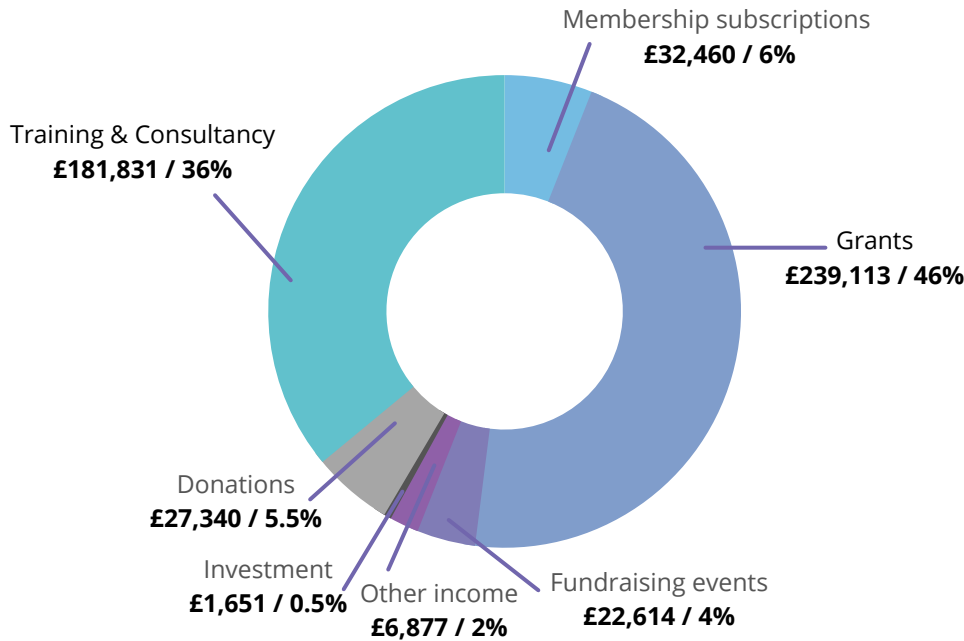
## TOTAL INCOME = £1,795,440



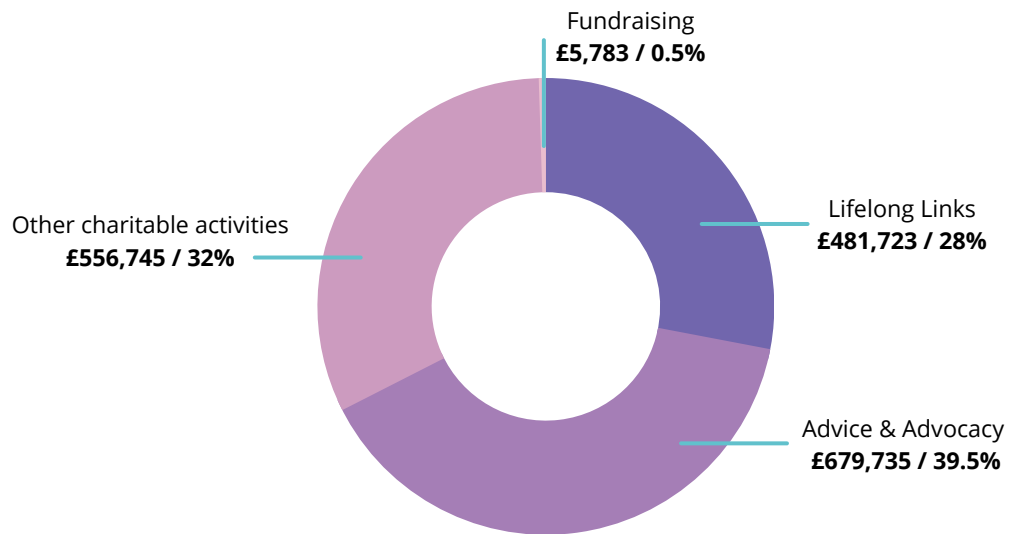
## RESTRICTED INCOME BY FUNDER



# UNRESTRICTED INCOME = £511,886



# EXPENDITURE = £1,508,937



## Unrestricted funds

The charity raised £511,886 (2022: £384,855) of general or unrestricted income. Expenditure of £601,421 (2022: £401,62) was set against this, leaving a deficit of £89,535 (2022: £16,770). When added to the fund balance brought forward of £566,522, total unrestricted funds at the end of 2022/23 were £476,987.

Income from training, consultancy and subscriptions made up 42% of total unrestricted income (2022: 52%), grants made up 46% (2022: 32%), donations and supporters' fees made up 8% (2022: 12%) and fundraising events made up 4% (2022: 4%).

## Designated funds

The trustees have set aside £100,000 of unrestricted funds to cover staffing contingencies. This fund makes up part of the total free reserves and remains unused in the year.

## Restricted funds

A total of £1,283,554 (2022: £1,028,883) of restricted income was received in the year. Expenditure of £1,122,565 (2022: £1,107,312) was set against this and, after bringing forward funds of £92,966, the balance of restricted funds was £253,955. All of the restricted income received during the year was made up of grants.

## Funders and Fundraising

We are immensely grateful for the generous support received from a variety of funders and individuals. The following funders supported projects and activities during the year and without them we would have been unable to continue our work: CHK, the Clothworkers' Foundation, the Department for Education, the Dulverton Trust, the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Hugh Fraser Foundation, the John Armitage Trust, John Ellerman Foundation, KPMG Foundation, the Law Society, the Legal Education Foundation, Lankelly Chase Foundation, Matrix Chambers, the Ministry of Justice, the National Institute for Health & Care Research, the Noel Buxton Trust, the Rayne Foundation, the Regional Adoption Agency, the Robertson Trust, Save the Children UK, and Segelman Trust.

We would also like to thank all those individuals and small trusts and foundations who supported us throughout the year. In autumn 2022 we exceeded expectations by raising £5,874 from the Family Rights Groupathlon (in which staff, trustees and supporters swam, cycled, ran and rowed), and £7,878 from the Quiz which we were finally able to run after the pandemic. The year also saw us successfully launch our first Big Give fundraising campaign, which between pledges, match funding from the Dulverton Trust, and individual donations, raised £9,468. We also participated in the London Legal Walk and were supported at the Family Law Awards. These and other generous donations form an absolutely essential part of our funding and enabled us to smash our targets.

# FRG LIMITED

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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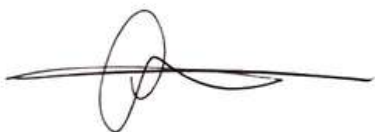
The Trustees, who are also the directors of FRG Limited for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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; 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, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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.



**Angela Frazer-Wicks, Chair of Trustees**

Date: 21 September 2023

# Auditor's Report & Financial Statements

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Family Rights Group (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, 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 Charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its income and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

## **Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic report.

## **Responsibilities of Trustees**

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

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

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 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 Auditors' 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

## **Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Based on our understanding of the charity and the sector as a whole, and through discussion with the Trustees and other management (as required by auditing standards), we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to safeguarding, health and safety and employment law.

We considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Second Edition (released October 2019), the Companies Act 2006, taxation and pension legislation. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries and management bias in accounting estimates and judgmental areas of the financial statements. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management and assessment of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations (including health and safety) and fraud; and
- Assessment of identified fraud risk factors; and
- Review of expenditure to confirm no evidence of personal benefit; and
- Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls that management has in place to prevent and detect fraud; and
- Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls that management has in place to prevent and detect fraud; and
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships, including related party transactions, that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud; and
- Confirmation of related parties with management, and review of transactions throughout the period to identify any previously undisclosed transactions with related parties outside the normal course of business; and
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- Physical inspection of tangible assets susceptible to fraud or irregularity; and
- Review of significant and unusual transactions and evaluation of the underlying financial rationale supporting the transactions; and
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any manual entries made at the year end for financial statement preparation.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and 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 charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kreston Reeves LLP".

### **Kreston Reeves LLP**

Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor  
Canterbury

Date: **22 September 2023**

Kreston Reeves LLP are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	As restated Total funds 2022 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	4	27,340	-	27,340	9,196
Charitable activities	5	239,113	1,283,554	1,522,667	1,150,658
Other trading activities:	6				
Training and consultancy		181,831	-	181,831	201,613
Membership subscriptions		32,460	-	32,460	36,073
Fundraising events		22,614	-	22,614	14,039
Investments	7	1,651	-	1,651	28
Other income	8	6,877	-	6,877	2,131
<b>Total income</b>		<b>511,886</b>	<b>1,283,554</b>	<b>1,795,440</b>	<b>1,413,738</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	9	5,783	-	5,783	3,211
Charitable activities:	10				
Advice and Advocacy		50,679	629,056	679,735	611,849
Lifelong Links		86,889	394,834	481,723	507,467
Other charitable activities		458,070	98,675	556,745	386,410
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>601,421</b>	<b>1,122,565</b>	<b>1,723,986</b>	<b>1,508,937</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(89,535)</b>	<b>160,989</b>	<b>71,454</b>	<b>(95,199)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		566,522	92,966	659,488	754,687
Net movement in funds		(89,535)	160,989	71,454	(95,199)
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>476,987</b>	<b>253,955</b>	<b>730,942</b>	<b>659,488</b>

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

The notes on pages 36 to 53 form part of these financial statements.

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	14	<b>35,757</b>	19,265
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	15	<b>1,456</b>	1,456
Debtors	16	<b>283,112</b>	394,787
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>728,777</b>	895,194
		<b>1,013,345</b>	1,291,437
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	<b>(318,160)</b>	(651,214)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>695,185</b>	640,223
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>730,942</b>	659,488
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	18	<b>253,955</b>	92,966
Unrestricted funds	18	<b>476,987</b>	566,522
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>730,942</b>	659,488

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect To accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved and authorized for issue by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:



**Angela Frazer-Wicks**  
Trustee

Date: 21 September 2023

The notes on pages 36 to 53 form part of these financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash used in operating activities	21	<b>(143,774)</b>	281,616
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		1,651	28
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<b>(24,294)</b>	(8,465)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(22,643)</b>	(8,437)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>(166,417)</b>	273,179
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<b>895,194</b>	622,015
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	22	<b>728,777</b>	895,194

The notes on pages 36 to 53 form part of these financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

## 1. General information

FRG Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is N1 9LG. The principal activity of the Charity can be found in the Trustees Report.

## 2. Accounting policies

### 2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

FRG Ltd (Operating as Family Rights Group) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The financial statements are presented in UK pound sterling, which is the Charity's functional currency, and rounded to the nearest pound.

### 2.2 Going concern

The Trustees consider whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

### 2.3 Income

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

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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## 2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

## 2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

## 2.6 Taxation

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

## 2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £400 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

At each reporting date the Charity assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, on a reducing balance basis.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 25% reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 25% reducing balance

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2023

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### 2.8 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

### 2.9 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

### 2.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

### 2.11 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

### 2.12 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

### 2.13 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

### 2.14 Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2023

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## 2.15 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

## 3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results

The Charity does not currently have any material estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Critical areas of judgement:

### *Lease commitments*

The Charity has entered into a range of lease commitments. The classification of these leases as either financial or operating leases requires the Trustees to consider whether the terms and conditions of each lease are such that the Charity has acquired the risks and rewards associated with the ownership of the underlying assets.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2023

### 4. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations and gifts	27,340	<b>27,340</b>	9,196
Total 2022	9,196	9,196	

### 5. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Lifelong Links	-	423,115	<b>423,115</b>	341,587
Advice and advocacy grants	-	555,000	<b>555,000</b>	480,000
Other grants	239,113	305,439	<b>544,552</b>	329,071
	239,113	1,283,554	<b>1,522,667</b>	1,150,658
Total 2022	121,775	1,028,883	1,150,658	

### 6. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Training and consultancy	181,831	<b>181,831</b>	201,613
Membership subscriptions	32,460	<b>32,460</b>	36,073
Fundraising events	22,614	<b>22,614</b>	14,039
	236,905	<b>236,905</b>	251,725
Total 2022	251,725	251,725	

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2023

## 7. Investment income

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	Total funds 2022 £
Interest receivable	1,651	<b>1,651</b>	28
Total 2022	28	28	

## 8. Other income

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	Total funds 2022 £
Other income	6,877	<b>6,877</b>	2,131
Total 2022	2,131	2,131	

## 9. Expenditure on raising funds

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	As restated Total funds 2022 £
Other fundraising costs	5,783	<b>5,783</b>	3,211
Total 2022 as restated	3,211	3,211	

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2023

## 10. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

### Summary by fund type

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2023</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	As restated Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Advice and Advocacy	50,679	629,056	<b>679,735</b>	611,849
Other Charitable Activities	458,070	98,675	<b>556,745</b>	386,410
Lifelong Links	86,889	394,834	<b>481,723</b>	507,467
	<u>595,638</u>	<u>1,122,565</u>	<u><b>1,718,203</b></u>	<u>1,505,726</u>
Total 2022 as restated	<u>398,414</u>	<u>1,107,312</u>	<u>1,505,726</u>	

## 11. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	<b>Direct costs 2023</b>	<b>Support costs 2023</b>	<b>Total funds 2023</b>	As restated Total funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Advice and Advocacy	629,056	50,679	<b>679,735</b>	611,849
Other Charitable Activities	487,633	69,112	<b>556,745</b>	386,410
Lifelong Links	429,578	52,145	<b>481,723</b>	507,467
	<u>1,546,267</u>	<u>171,936</u>	<u><b>1,718,203</b></u>	<u>1,505,726</u>
Total 2022 as restated	<u>1,367,785</u>	<u>137,941</u>	<u>1,505,726</u>	

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2023

## 11. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

### Analysis of direct costs

	<b>Advice and Advocacy 2023 £</b>	<b>Other Charitable Activities 2023 £</b>	<b>Lifelong Links 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	As restated Total funds 2022 £
Staff costs	629,056	393,813	394,834	<b>1,417,703</b>	1,262,104
Depreciation	-	7,802	-	<b>7,802</b>	6,541
Other costs	-	86,018	34,744	<b>120,762</b>	99,140
	<u>629,056</u>	<u>487,633</u>	<u>429,578</u>	<u><b>1,546,267</b></u>	<u>1,367,785</u>
Total 2022 as restated	<u><u>551,565</u></u>	<u><u>355,509</u></u>	<u><u>460,711</u></u>	<u><u>1,367,785</u></u>	

### Analysis of support costs

	<b>Advice and Advocacy 2023 £</b>	<b>Other Charitable Activities 2023 £</b>	<b>Lifelong Links 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>	Total funds 2022 £
Organisational running costs	48,066	63,749	49,456	<b>161,271</b>	128,316
Trustee governance costs	94	124	97	<b>315</b>	1,125
Audit fees	2,519	5,239	2,592	<b>10,350</b>	8,500
	<u>50,679</u>	<u>69,112</u>	<u>52,145</u>	<u><b>171,936</b></u>	<u>137,941</u>
Total 2022	<u><u>60,284</u></u>	<u><u>30,901</u></u>	<u><u>46,756</u></u>	<u><u>137,941</u></u>	

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2023

## 12. Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	1,201,359	1,077,999
Social security costs	132,099	109,844
Pension costs	84,245	74,261
	<u>1,417,703</u>	<u>1,262,104</u>

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Project workers	25	28
Support and administration	11	6
	<u>36</u>	<u>34</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Average number of employees	27	26

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	2	1
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	1

Key Management Personnel are defined as the Senior Management Team, the gross cost including employer's national insurance and pension contributions was £285,078 (2022: £269,494).

## 13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2023, expenses totalling £315 were reimbursed or paid directly to 3 Trustees (2022 - £NIL to no Trustees) for the reimbursement of travel expenses to meetings for the charity.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2023

## 14. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 April 2022	1,997	35,231	37,228
Additions	18,675	5,619	24,294
At 31 March 2023	<u>20,672</u>	<u>40,850</u>	<u>61,522</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2022	1,971	15,992	17,963
Charge for the year	1,595	6,207	7,802
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,566</u>	<u>22,199</u>	<u>25,765</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2023	<u>17,106</u>	<u>18,651</u>	<u>35,757</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>26</u>	<u>19,239</u>	<u>19,265</u>

## 15. Stocks

	2023 £	2022 £
Stock	<u>1,456</u>	<u>1,456</u>

## 16. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	157,687	366,135
Other debtors	-	279
Prepayments and accrued income	125,425	28,373
	<u>283,112</u>	<u>394,787</u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2023

## 17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	16,193	26,870
Other taxation and social security	68,453	124,847
Other creditors	15,813	10,926
Accruals and deferred income	217,701	488,571
	<u>318,160</u>	<u>651,214</u>

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income at 1 April 2022	426,737	174,582
Resources deferred during the year	138,099	426,737
Amounts released from previous periods	(426,737)	(174,582)
<b>Deferred income at 31 March 2023</b>	<u>138,099</u>	<u>426,737</u>

## 18. Statement of funds

### Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
<b>Designated funds</b>				
Staffing contingency fund	100,000	-	-	100,000
	<u>100,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100,000</u>
<b>General funds</b>				
General Funds	466,522	511,886	(601,421)	376,987
	<u>466,522</u>	<u>511,886</u>	<u>(601,421)</u>	<u>376,987</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<u>566,522</u>	<u>511,886</u>	<u>(601,421)</u>	<u>476,987</u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2023

## 18. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Regional Adoption Agency Birth Family Services	-	60,000	(10,647)	49,353
Department for Education (Social Connections Tool)	73,812	-	(7,179)	66,633
Lifelong Links CHK	-	26,250	(26,250)	-
Department for Education (Innovation Unit Care Leavers Model)	-	33,500	(33,500)	-
Rayne Foundation	-	20,000	(20,000)	-
Dulverton Trust	-	23,333	(23,333)	-
KPMG Foundation	-	56,250	(56,250)	-
Regional Adoption Agency Lifelong Links Matrix Causes Fund	-	35,000	(18,468)	16,532
	1,250	1,750	(3,000)	-
Department for Education (Regional Recovery Fund)	-	109,443	(109,443)	-
Clothworkers' Foundation	-	5,500	(550)	4,950
National Institute for Health and Care Research	-	932	-	932
Legal Education Foundation (Pre-Proceedings)	17,904	126,700	(64,676)	79,928
Hugh Fraser Foundation	-	7,500	(7,500)	-
Robertson Trust	-	13,333	(13,333)	-
Department for Education (Advice & Advocacy)	-	480,000	(480,000)	-
Help Accessing Legal Support	-	75,000	(75,000)	-
Lankelly Chase Foundation	-	75,670	(62,339)	13,331
Legal Education Foundation (Trainee)	-	53,393	(49,819)	3,574
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	-	60,000	(55,284)	4,716
Save the Children	-	20,000	(5,994)	14,006
	<b>92,966</b>	<b>1,283,554</b>	<b>(1,122,565)</b>	<b>253,955</b>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<b>659,488</b>	<b>1,795,440</b>	<b>(1,723,986)</b>	<b>730,942</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2023

## 18. Statement of funds (continued)

### Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2022
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
<b>Designated funds</b>				
Staffing contingency fund	100,000	-	-	100,000
<b>General funds</b>				
General Funds	483,292	384,855	(401,625)	466,522
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>583,292</b>	<b>384,855</b>	<b>(401,625)</b>	<b>566,522</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2023

### 18. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Department for Education (Social Connections Tool)	89,300	-	(15,488)	73,812
Lifelong Links CHK	(228)	228	-	-
Department for Education (Innovation Unit Care Leavers Model)	28,125	65,625	(93,750)	-
Rayne Foundation	15,869	25,940	(41,809)	-
Dulverton Trust	9,367	9,561	(18,928)	-
KPMG Foundation	17,863	80,286	(98,149)	-
Regional Adoption Agency Lifelong Links	10,099	-	(10,099)	-
Matrix Causes Fund	1,000	3,250	(3,000)	1,250
Department for Education (Regional Recovery Fund)	-	133,443	(133,443)	-
Clothworkers' Foundation	-	7,704	(7,704)	-
National Institute for Health and Care Research	-	480,000	(480,000)	-
Legal Education Foundation (Pre-Proceedings)	-	63,340	(45,436)	17,904
Hugh Fraser Foundation	-	49,881	(49,881)	-
Robertson Trust	-	40,000	(40,000)	-
Department for Education (Advice & Advocacy)	-	25,125	(25,125)	-
Help Accessing Legal Support	-	8,750	(8,750)	-
Lankelly Chase Foundation	-	35,000	(35,000)	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	-	750	(750)	-
	<u>171,395</u>	<u>1,028,883</u>	<u>(1,107,312)</u>	<u>92,966</u>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<u>754,687</u>	<u>1,413,738</u>	<u>(1,508,937)</u>	<u>659,488</u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2023

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### 18. Statement of funds (continued)

#### Restricted funds were held for the following purposes:

**Clothworkers Foundation:** to support capital costs for infrastructure for the Advice & Advocacy service.

**Department for Education (Advice & Advocacy):** delivery of the Family & Friends Adviceline for families involved in the child welfare and family justice systems.

**Department for Education (Innovation Unit Care Leavers Model):** to build lasting relationships for 18- 25 care leavers in prison through the Lifelong Links model.

**Department for Education (Social Connections Tool):** a digital programme to map the social networks of young people at the start of the Lifelong Links process.

**Dulverton Trust:** to expand the Lifelong Links model to new local authorities.

**Esmee Fairbank Foundation:** to contribute to the ongoing development of Lifelong Links in Scotland.

**Help Accessing Legal Support:** grant to improve and sustain access to early advice and support for families involved in the child welfare and family justice systems.

**Hugh Fraser Foundation:** to support the charity's Lifelong Links and Family Group Decision Making work in Scotland.

**KPMG Foundation:** to contribute to the development of Lifelong Links across the UK.

**Lankelly Chase Foundation:** to continue support for the charity's parents' and kinship carers' panels, and associated projects.

**Legal Education Foundation (Pre-Proceedings):** to safely divert children from care proceedings and ensure the timeliness and fairness of court decisions.

**Legal Education Foundation (Trainee):** a Justice First Fellowship to support a trainee solicitor through a two-year placement with the charity.

**Lifelong Links CHK:** to build lasting relationships for children in care through the Lifelong Links model.

**Matrix Causes Fund:** to enhance advice resources available on the website for parents to-be and new parents involved in the child welfare system.

**National Institute for Health and Care Research:** collaboration on the evaluation of multi-agency safeguarding reforms.

**Rayne Foundation:** to build lasting relationships for children in care through the Lifelong Links model.

**Regional Adoption Agency Birth Family Services:** surveying, mapping and creating a national directory of support services available to birth families.

**Regional Adoption Agency Lifelong Links:** to develop and adapt the Lifelong Links model with the Regional Adoption Agency, working with birth parents, adopters and adoptees.

**Robertson Trust:** to support the charity's Lifelong Links and Family Group Decision Making work in Scotland.

**Save the Children:** development of new resources for practitioners in England working with children from Ukraine & their kinship carers.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2023

## 19. Summary of funds

### Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Designated funds	100,000	-	-	100,000
General funds	466,522	511,886	(601,421)	376,987
Restricted funds	92,966	1,283,554	(1,122,565)	253,955
	<u>659,488</u>	<u>1,795,440</u>	<u>(1,723,986)</u>	<u>730,942</u>

### Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Designated funds	100,000	-	-	100,000
General funds	483,292	384,855	(401,625)	466,522
Restricted funds	171,395	1,028,883	(1,107,312)	92,966
	<u>754,687</u>	<u>1,413,738</u>	<u>(1,508,937)</u>	<u>659,488</u>

## 20. Analysis of net assets between funds

### Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	35,757	-	35,757
Current assets	<u>639,399</u>	<u>373,946</u>	<u>1,013,345</u>
Creditors due within one year	(198,169)	(119,991)	(318,160)
<b>Total</b>	476,987	253,955	730,942

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2023

## 20. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

### Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	19,265	-	19,265
Current assets	1,102,221	189,216	1,291,437
Creditors due within one year	(554,964)	(96,250)	(651,214)
<b>Total</b>	<b>566,522</b>	<b>92,966</b>	<b>659,488</b>

## 21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>71,454</b>	(95,199)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	<b>7,802</b>	6,542
Bank interest	<b>(1,651)</b>	(28)
(Increase) in stocks	-	(1,456)
Decrease in debtors	<b>111,675</b>	236,771
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<b>(333,054)</b>	134,986
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(143,774)</b>	281,616

## 22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand	<b>728,777</b>	895,194

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 31 MARCH 2023

## 23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	895,194	(166,417)	728,777

## 24. Pension commitments

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £84,245 (2022: £74,261). A liability of £14,187 (2022: £7,720) was payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and is included in creditors.

## 25. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2023 the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	85,629	-
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	285,324	-
	<u>370,953</u>	<u>-</u>

## 26. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions or balances during the year (2022: £Nil).

## 27. Controlling party

There is no ultimate controlling party.

Family Rights Group's mission is to create a more socially just society in which the child welfare and family justice systems support children to live safely and thrive within their family, while strengthening the family and community networks of those children who cannot live at home.

**We seek to ensure that:**

- Families involved with the child welfare and family justice system are treated fairly, have their rights respected and are able to make informed decisions;
- Children and families get the help they need, so wherever possible children can live safely and flourish within their family network;
- All children, including those in care, have lasting and supportive relationships to sustain them throughout their lives;
- Our child welfare and family justice system – and wider society – promotes social justice and creates conditions that enable children to achieve their potential;
- Children and families' voices and experiences drive decision making at an individual and strategic level within the child welfare and family justice system.

**Advice line 9.30am–3.30pm:**

0808 801 0366

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FRG Limited  
Established in 1974  
Company Registration No. 2702928  
Charity No. 1015665 (England and Wales)  
SC047042 (Scotland)  
VAT Registration No: 122 8302 49



**FRG LTD**

England & Wales - Charity number 1015665

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# Accounts

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# FAMILY RIGHTS GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

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for the year ended 31 March 2022



# FRG Ltd

## Legal & Administrative Information

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### Patron

The Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson

### Trustees

Martin Pilgrim MBE

*(Chair of Trustees, resigned November 2021)*

Angela Frazer-Wicks

*(Chair of Trustees, appointed February 2021)*

Jeremy Westhead

*(Treasurer)*

Stuart Black

Jacqueline Campbell

Ann Chavasse

Elizabeth Cape Cowens

*(resigned November 2021)*

Patricia Denney

*(resigned September 2021)*

Mark Gurrey

Sharmila Kar

*(appointed December 2021)*

Kevin Makwikila

Kathryn Morris

*(appointed March 2022)*

Chris Nicholson

Jason Nisse

Jonathan Scourfield

*(appointed December 2021)*

Emma Smale

*(appointed March 2022)*

Christine Smart

*(resigned November 2021)*

John Trevor-Allen

Susan White

*(resigned November 2021)*

### Secretary

John Loveday

### Charity number (England and Wales)

1015665

### Charity number (Scotland)

SC047042

### Company number

2702928

### Principal address

101 Pentonville Road  
London  
N1 9LG

### Registered office

101 Pentonville Road  
London  
N1 9LG

### Auditor

Kreston Reeves LLP  
Statutory Auditor and  
Chartered Accountants  
37 St Margaret's Street  
Canterbury, Kent  
CT1 2TU

### Bankers

Unity Trust Bank plc  
Nine Brindley Place  
Birmingham, B1 2HB

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022. The Trustees' Report is also a Directors' Report for the purposes of company law, incorporating the Strategic Report as required by the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013.

The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities to undertake.

The Trustees regularly update the charity's risk register to identify and mitigate the major risks to which FRG Limited is exposed. The register incorporates both financial and non-financial risks and systems in place to reduce those risks to a reasonable level.

## Mission

Family Rights Group's mission is to create a more socially just society in which the child welfare and family justice systems support children to live safely and thrive within their family, while strengthening the family and community networks of those children who cannot live at home.

The objects of the charity are to relieve families with children who are in need or distress.



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# Chief Executive's Welcome

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The past year has shown us to what degree existing challenges facing children, young people and their families in the UK have been amplified by the consequences of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis.

There are a record number of children in the care system in England and Wales, and this number is predicted to increase to 100,000 in the next 10 years.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the number of new-born babies removed within days of their birth has more than doubled in the last decade<sup>2</sup>; there has been an increase in older children including teenagers in the looked after children population<sup>3</sup>, and there is an overrepresentation within the child protection and care system of children from black and other minority ethnic communities.<sup>4</sup> There is also now substantial research evidence that child poverty is a major but preventable driver resulting in children and young people being subject to statutory child protection interventions and going into local authority care.<sup>5</sup>

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England report<sup>6</sup> published in May 2022 issued a stark warning that the priorities of the system must change urgently. At Family Rights Group we long advocated for many of the key recommendations contained in the Review's report, such as the value and importance of family and community networks in children's lives, and the right of all families to be involved in family group decision-making, enabling them to take the lead in creating safe plans for the care of their children.

We are acutely aware of the urgent need for adequate financial resources to implement the recommendations of the Review and address rising child poverty. As we face a soaring cost of living crisis, these risks will only grow, and we call on the Government to put in place a robust plan to prevent the situation having a devastating and long-lasting impact on the futures of many thousands of children and young people in this country.

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<sup>1</sup> Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England, May 2022

<sup>2</sup> Born into Care: Newborn Babies in Urgent Care Proceedings in England and Wales, NFJO 2021

<sup>3</sup> The Children's Commissioner's Stability Index 2019

<sup>4</sup> Racial and ethnic disparities in children's social care, Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England, May 2022

<sup>5</sup> Bywaters et al, The Child Welfare Inequalities Project, 2014-19

<sup>6</sup> <https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/final-report/>

Set against this perilous backdrop, during 2021-22, the second year of our strategic plan, we have made significant progress against our strategic priorities. More families have access to the advice they need, more local authorities provide family group conference and Lifelong Links services, and more families with experience of the child welfare and family justice system are involved in its reform. You can read more about how we have achieved this in the Report.

November 2021 marked a historical moment for Family Rights Group, with the appointment of Angela Frazer-Wicks as Chair of Trustees. A parent whose eldest two children were adopted, Angela has brought a huge amount of energy and drive to further our mission.

In addition, we are delighted to have appointed four new trustees with a wealth of diverse and valuable experience: Dr Sharmila Kar, Professor Kate Morris, Professor Jonathan Scourfield, Emma Smale. Half of our trustees are now parents and kinship carers with child welfare or family justice experience, and we are privileged to lean on all our trustees for their support and insight.

Particular thanks are due to our Treasurer Jeremy Westhead, who has overseen our finances through a period of change and provided support whenever requested. The Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson is a wonderful patron for the organisation and a consistent champion of the charity; we were honoured to host the launch of his first novel in October 2021.

Having had to postpone our annual fundraising quiz twice this year (firstly due to the Covid pandemic and then travel disruption), we are pleased to finally be running it in October 2022, alongside a number of other fundraising sporting events. The efforts of our Fundraising Committee, led by Ann Chavasse, as well as many supporters, make these events possible and generate crucial core funding for our operations.

Our staff team has worked tirelessly to produce outstanding results amidst the challenging and at times traumatic circumstances of the pandemic. Staff continued to work from home throughout the year given the ongoing risks, and we took the decision to vacate our lease in Dalston in July 2021, which had been our home for over a quarter of a century. This allowed us to secure refurbished premises more appropriate to our needs as part of a long-term solution that is well-suited to hybrid work and the size of organisation we have become.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity our funders and donations from supporters. To everyone who has supported our work this year, thank you for your kindness and your commitment to our work and our values.

As we set out the achievements of this complex and difficult year, we continue to focus on our long-term vision of a society in which children live safely and thrive within their family and community. In working towards our mission we are dedicated to transforming insight into impact and building the public understanding and engagement needed to effect meaningful change. We shall not rest until every child has lasting and supportive relationships to sustain them throughout their lives.

*Cathy Ashley*

**Cathy Ashley OBE, Chief Executive**

September 2022



# Trustees' Report

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## Our 2021-26 strategy

Our ambitious 2021-26 strategic plan, now in its second year, sets out Family Rights Group's vision, mission, principles, way of working and our campaign and impact goals for the next five years.

### Our strategic priorities are that:

- families involved with the child welfare and family justice system are treated fairly, have their rights respected and are able to make informed decisions;
- children and families get the help they need, so wherever possible children can live safely and flourish within their family network;
- all children, including those in care, have lasting and supportive relationships to sustain them throughout their lives;
- our child welfare and family justice systems – and wider society – promote social justice and create conditions that enable children to achieve their potential;
- children and families' voices and experiences drive decision making at an individual and strategic level within the child welfare and family justice systems.



## Our eight campaign goals:

Access to effective preventative services and support for families to help children.

A right for all families to be offered a family group conference before their child enters the care system (except in emergencies) so that the family's knowledge and strengths inform and enhance decision-making and planning about their child and all efforts are made to enable the child to remain safely within the family network.

Kinship care households are properly supported and resourced to maximise the chances of positive outcomes for the children, and that kinship carers are not plunged into poverty or discriminated against for taking on the children.

That the law is changed to require local authorities to allow a child in care reasonable contact with their brothers and sisters.

That the above services and duties are adequately funded by Government.

A right to independent legal advice and advocacy for all families whose children are subject to child protection enquiries or other compulsory interventions within the child welfare or family justice system, including through extending legal aid.

Where the plan is for a child to return home from care and once the child has returned home, there is a duty on the local authority and other public agencies to continue to provide such support to the child and family as necessary to safeguard the child and promote their welfare.

A duty on local authorities to offer therapeutic support and counselling to parents whose children are removed, to help them deal with their grief and to address the reasons why their child was removed.

Every child in care has the opportunity of Lifelong Links, to help build and maintain a support network that they can turn to in child and adulthood.

**A summary of key achievements of the year are set out in alignment with our seven impact goals:**



**1) Increasing access to independent legal and practical advice and information for families involved in the child welfare system**

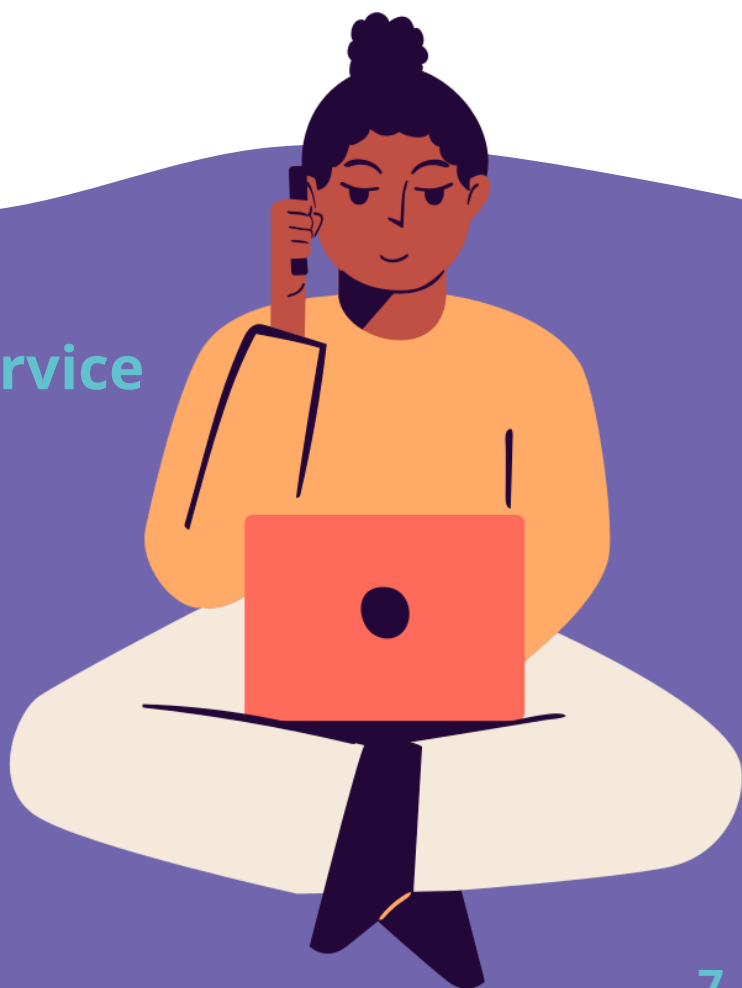
Family Rights Group offers a free, independent and confidential advice service to families who are involved with children's services or need the help of children's services in England. We assist parents whose children are in need, at risk or are in the care system and with wider family members and friends who are raising children (known as kinship carers). Our unique service combines legal and social work expertise, assisting parents and kinship carers to understand their rights and options, and navigate child welfare processes.

Our aim is to keep children safe and where possible within their family network.

During 2021/22 additional funding from the Department for Education (DfE) in recognition of the rising need for specialist advice enabled us to recruit more advisers to respond to more families and practitioners requiring our help, as well as increased management capacity focused on both the quality assurance and strategic development of the service. Our contract with the DfE was renewed for a further 18 months from April 2022, although the service continues to be underfunded, heightening the importance of supplementary income to ensure the growing demands for the service are met. We upgraded our website [www.frg.org.uk](http://www.frg.org.uk) including our advice section and our on-line advice forums in 2021, providing families and practitioners with comprehensive and easy to follow content and complementing our advice line.

## Impacts of the Advice Service

- We answered 7,001 calls in 2021/22
- There were 585,000 unique visitors to our website and on-line parent and kinship care forums in the last year.



“

You have been so helpful and kind. I wish there was more of you in this world to give us young parents your knowledge so we can advocate for our children to the best of our ability. Once again thank you for your time and knowledge!

”

**From a young mother who called the advice line**



**Our Advice Service exceeded all of its key funder targets (set by the Department for Education):**

**96%**

of callers to the advice line found the advice received helpful or very helpful

**83%**

felt more confident to have their say with children's services as a result of the call

New Philanthropy Capital worked with us to construct an economic model to estimate the public savings of the advice line from care costs avoided and local authority costs saved by averting the need for long term or more intensive statutory involvement. The findings suggest that the service saves an average of £15.10 for every £1 invested, which equates to a total saving of £7.2million.

Resource constraints and rising demand meant that despite answering more calls, we were only able to answer four in ten callers. Next year we expect the demands for our services to increase, as families struggle to cope with the legacy of the pandemic and the burgeoning effects of the cost of living crisis.

“

**I cannot thank you enough for your clear, comprehensive and succinct advice and information concerning my grandson's current situation**

From a grandfather who called the advice line

“

Hi, I'm just writing in to say a massive thank you to Suzie [our FRG online adviser] who helped and advised me quite a lot during the process ... I had a meeting today and got told we have a final hearing in court in January, my social worker is proposing a supervision order and that both babies stay in my care full time. I'm so happy! This post is to say a massive thank you!

**From a parent on the Parents' Forum**



## 2) Lifelong Links - building lasting support networks for children



Our [Lifelong Links](#) programme is designed to build lasting support networks for children in care. It involves an independent coordinator, employed or commissioned by a local family group conference service and trained by Family Rights Group, working with the child and their social worker to explore who is connected with or important to the child. They use a range of bespoke tools and techniques. The network is then brought together at a Lifelong Links family group conference, which is a celebratory event at which a lasting support plan is made with and for the child or young person. The plan should be actively supported by the local authority, as long as it is safe and be embedded in the child's care plan.

In 2021/21, funding from the DfE's Regional Recovery Fund enabled us to support eight new local authorities in the north-west and two in the south-east to introduce or develop their family group conference services and implement Lifelong Links, with two local authorities in Wales. In Scotland, Lifelong Links has been extended to three new local authorities and the evaluation of the trial is due to be published in Spring 2023.

During the year we have also worked with authorities and other key stakeholders to extend the Lifelong Links approach to care leavers. We have co-produced with practitioners and young people guidance for Lifelong Links coordinators on working with care experienced young people aged 16 years and over, and completed guidance on working with care experienced young people serving prison sentences.

Our Lifelong Links team, which provides training and consultancy services to local authorities and other key service providers to enable them to roll out the programme, has led to a significant increase in local authority partnerships, ensuring many more families and children have access to family group conferencing and Lifelong Links services. A longitudinal study we commissioned with the University of Oxford found that our approach improves mental health and well-being for children in care, and increases the stability of living arrangements for looked after children.

1700 +

Thanks to this work, over 1700 children and young people in England, Scotland and Wales have now benefited from Lifelong Links and we continue to work towards our target of 3000 children and young people benefiting by 2026.



### 3) Kinship Care

Kinship carers are relatives or friends who raise children who cannot safely remain with their parents. Across the UK more than 180,000 children are living with kinship carers – significantly more than are in the care system and many more than are adopted. This makes kinship care a key element of the children’s social care system; yet it is widely unrecognised and unsupported.



**We have worked to raise awareness amongst decision makers, practitioners and the public to gather support for legal and policy changes to enable more children, who cannot live at home, to be supported to be raised by wider family and friends. Notable achievements across the year include:**

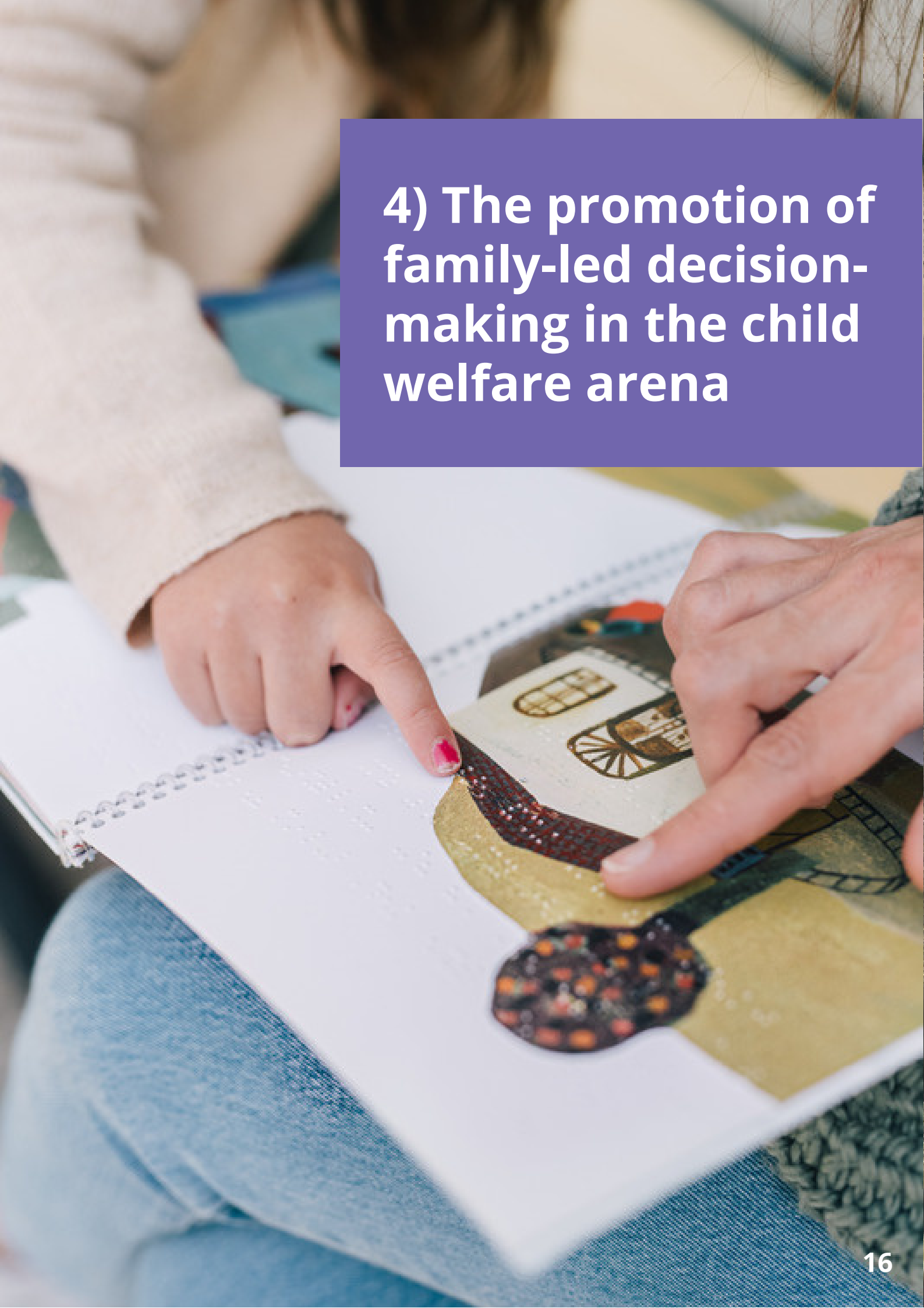
- Providing the secretariat (including policy and legal support) to the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Kinship Care, including facilitating a new inquiry on kinship carers’ access to legal advice and representation
- Providing the secretariat to the Kinship Care Alliance, its new kinship carer advisory panel and its recently established Welsh and Race Equality sub-groups
- Engaging with the Independent Children’s Social Care Review for England on reforms to improve exploration of, and support for, kinship care, including hosting seminars and holding discussions
- Producing and publishing our ‘Time To Define’ kinship care proposal for a definition of kinship care to be written into law and a set of rights that would flow from this.
- Launching a councillors’ network including holding a virtual event for councillors with lead responsibility for children’s social care in England to learn more about kinship care
- Sitting on the President of the Family Division of the High Court’s Public Law Working Group and chairing one of its Supervision Order sub-groups
- Sitting on the Adoption & Special Guardian Leadership Board which works to drive improvements in the performance of adoption and special guardianship services in England.

Our work has pushed kinship care up the political and policy agenda and the Department for Education now has a dedicated kinship care policy team for the first time. We have also influenced the content of the Kinship Care Bill – a private members’ bill from Munira Wilson MP, which provides a vital opportunity to raise awareness of kinship care in Parliament. The Bill proposes introducing a single definition of kinship care written into law, securing financial provision for kinship carers and facilitating the provision of improved support by schools for children in kinship care.



**Thank you so much for this information and the talk earlier it was super useful when the assessor came today.**

From a kinship carer who called the advice line

A close-up photograph of a person's hands interacting with a spiral-bound notebook. The notebook is open to a page featuring a tactile diagram. The diagram consists of several colored shapes: a yellow semi-circle, a dark red textured semi-circle, a yellow square, and a dark blue circle with orange dots. The person's left hand, wearing a light-colored sweater, points to the yellow semi-circle. Their right hand, wearing a green patterned sweater, points to the dark red semi-circle. The notebook is resting on a blue fabric surface.

## 4) The promotion of family-led decision-making in the child welfare arena

Family Rights Group has been at the forefront of the introduction and development of [family group conferences](#) (FGC) in the UK. A voluntary process led by family members to plan and make safe decisions for a child in need or at risk.

In year we have continued to support local authorities to set up or commission FGCs and have trained FGC coordinators. Our accreditation scheme promotes consistent, high-quality standards amongst FGC services. Another cohort of coordinators have also graduated from the University of Salford with our pioneering accredited post graduate certificate.



**We run the popular National FGC and Lifelong Links Network which brings together coordinators and managers from across England. In June 2021, we were pleased to host the four family group conference networks of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in a 'Four Nations' event. The virtual event was an opportunity to share practice innovations including the use of FGCs to avert new-born babies entering care and with young people at risk of gang exploitation. We have also worked with Professor Carlene Firmin and Rachel Owens at the University of Bedfordshire to produce a briefing on how family group conferences can be utilised with the Contextual Safeguarding approach.**

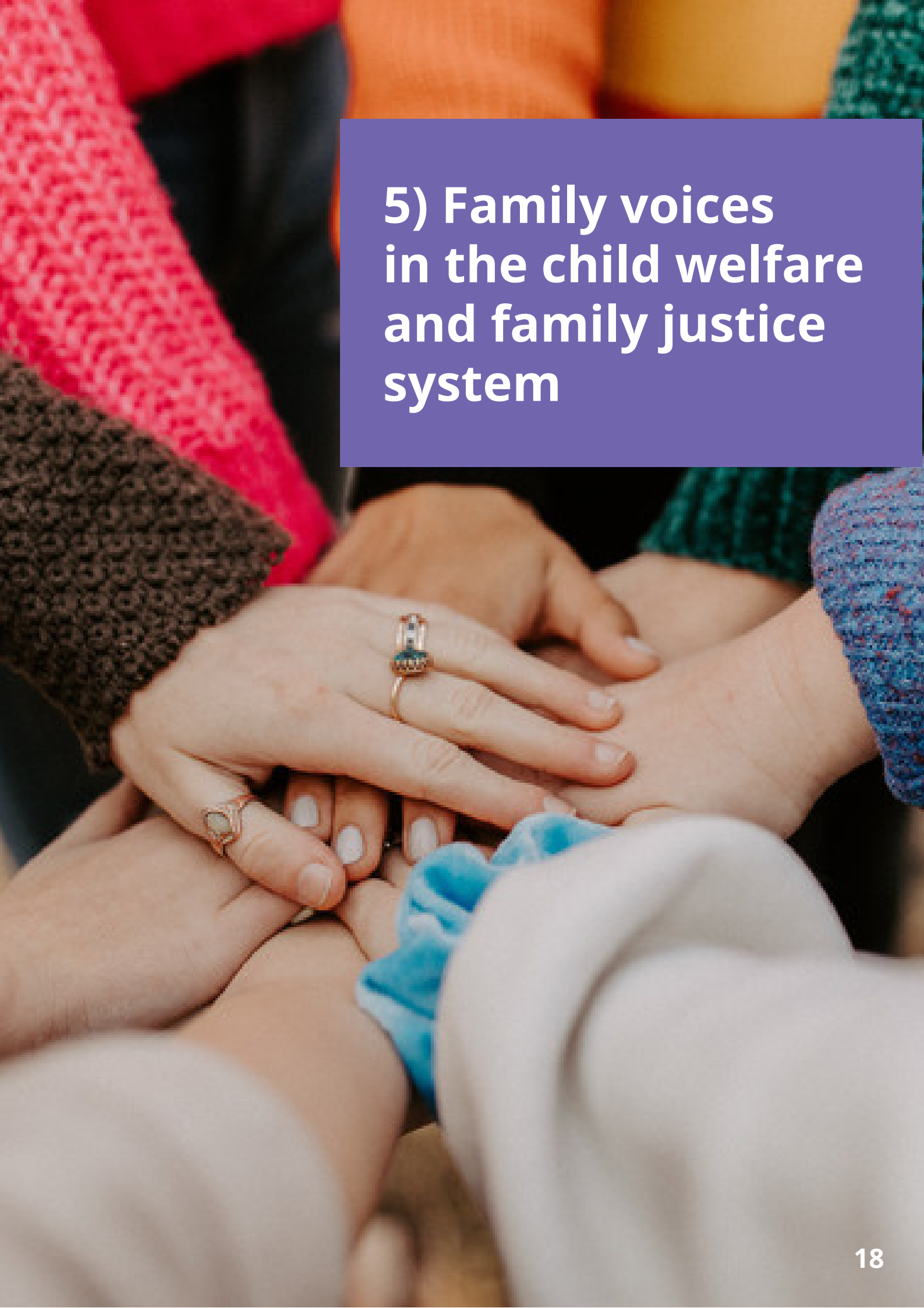


Camden's long-standing use of family group conferencing effectively avoids children having to leave their homes or their family when it is safe for them to remain

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Ofsted, 2022

Our mark on the Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England can be seen in the recommendation that families should have a new legal entitlement to family group decision making (FGDM) prior to a child entering care. We worked to inform the Review on the benefits of family group conferences as the leading FGDM approach in the UK. This included evidence submissions and facilitating discussions including with experts in New Zealand where FGCs originated.



## 5) Family voices in the child welfare and family justice system

Our parents' and kinship carers' panels are continuing to flourish. We have worked to expand the panels' members to ensure inclusivity of under-represented groups, including young fathers and sibling carers raising their younger brothers and sisters. We continue to work with the organisation SoundDelivery to run creative workshops with panel members to enhance their confidence and skills.

Members of our panels are active participants in the direction we take as a charity. They provide insight and feedback which shape our priorities and our campaigns. They are involved in the co-production of resources and co-delivery of training courses and events including Family Rights Group's seminars, councillor briefings and All-Party Parliamentary Group sessions. They are also regularly engaged by other organisations to give evidence, influence thinking and draw up recommendations which has included providing significant input into the Care Review and panel members sitting on the President of the Family Division's Family Transparency Implementation Group.

Panel members designed and led an on-line '[Our Families, Our Voices](#)' event held in March 2022 and titled 'Working together for the benefit of our children'. The live streamed event also involved young people who have participated in Lifelong Links and practitioners. It was an opportunity to showcase their experiences in order to challenge presumptions, help change narratives and affect changes to benefit the lives of children, young people and families. The event had a wide-ranging invitation list, including decision makers and practitioners from across the child welfare and family justice system, as well as journalists, other opinion formers and family members.

Our new Chair of Trustees, Angela Frazer-Wicks, is a parent whose two eldest children were adopted. It is the first time the charity has a birth parent chair its board. Angela has also sat on the Experts by Experience Board of the Independent Care Review in England.



## 6) Leading, influencing and embedding

Open  
knowledge

~~Leading~~  
Community

We recognise that our mission can only be achieved by working with children and families with experience of the child welfare system and those practitioners working within in it, national and local decision makers, academics, and friends of the organisation.

During 2021/22 we engaged with the Independent Care Review on reforms to improve exploration of and support for kinship care, including hosting seminars, holding discussions for families to contribute their experiences, and producing our '[Time To Define](#)' kinship care proposal for a definition of kinship care to be written into law.



### We have also:

- continued to provide the secretariat to the APPG on Kinship Care, completing its inquiry on legal advice and representation and taking forward its recommendations.
- continued to campaign on the recommendations of the Parliamentary Taskforce and Family Rights Group's campaign goals, influencing the Care Review ahead of its publication in May/June 2022 and subsequent implementation.
- grown our Councillors Network to engage and influence local government to reform local policy and practices to help more children to live safely and thrive in kinship care
- progressed work to address gaps in research evidence on kinship care, including on the experience of children from black minority ethnic communities being raised by kinship carers.

Moreover, we are delighted to have secured a major three-year grant from The Legal Education Foundation. The project is focused upon safely diverting children from care proceedings and ensuring the timeliness and fairness of court decisions. Family Rights Group is developing an approach that will promote, support the implementation of, and embed the key policy and practice messages regarding pre-proceedings work arising from: [The Care Crisis Review](#) (2018) ; the reports and guidance produced by the President of the Family Division of the High Court's Public Law Working Group; and relevant academic and voluntary sector research. It will involve devising a training programme and delivered to the judiciary and the piloting of the new pre-proceedings approach in two localities. All the elements of the work will be co-produced, in design and delivery, with families and we will be working closely with a range of practitioners. An evaluation of the project will be led by Caroline Thomas, Independent Researcher and Honorary Research Fellow, University of Stirling.



# 7) Infrastructure & sustainability

Strong and sustainable infrastructure and operations are the bedrock to a charity's success. During 2021/22 Family Rights Group has strengthened and innovated to make key environmental, social and governance-based progress in the following:

**A workplace that is suited to our size and needs:** in 21/22 we exited our previous tenancy and planned the move to our new office space in Islington in partnership with the disabilities charity Sense.

**A working culture that embraces diversity, equality and well-being:** in 21/22 we introduced frameworks and recommendations for equalities and well-being, coupled with a process of engagement and consultation with all staff, as well as our trustees and panel members; we also implemented a counselling service for staff and other schemes including a well-being grant, generously gifted by Lankelly Chase Foundation.

**Organisational systems that meet the current needs of the charity and ensure greater efficiency:** in 21/22 we inaugurated new financial management, project software, data storage and digital HR systems, while making significant savings on our overall overhead costs.

**Governance structures that are robust and diverse, responding with agility to our changing times:** as well as renewing our founding acts and reviewing and updating our organisational policies, we introduced further scrutiny and probity in our auditing and accounting processes, and strengthened the cohesion between board and staff through a number of events and activities.

### **Thank you to staff**

The Board of Trustees would like to register their gratitude to the staff team at Family Rights Group whose range of skills, expertise and dedication are truly impressive. We would like to thank them for their passion, creativity, empathy and hard work on behalf of the Charity.

# The Legal Form of the Company

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The charity number (England & Wales) is 1015665, (Scotland) is SC047042. The charity is a company limited by guarantee, the company number is 02702928. The governing document of FRG Limited is the memorandum and articles of association incorporated 1st April 1992 and as amended by special resolution dated 22nd April 1993.

## Structure, governance and management

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Angela Frazer-Wicks (Chair of Trustees)

Stuart Black

Jacqueline Campbell

Ann Chavasse

Mark Gurrey

Sharmila Kar

Kevin Makwikila

Kathryn Morris

Chris Nicholson

Jason Nisse

Jonathan Scourfield

Emma Smale

John Trevor-Allen

Jeremy Westhead (Treasurer)

The liability of the trustees is limited to £1, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charity in the event of the same being wound up while they are a member. The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities as detailed on page 29 for the preparation of the charity's annual financial statements, upon which the auditors are obliged to report to the members of the charity.

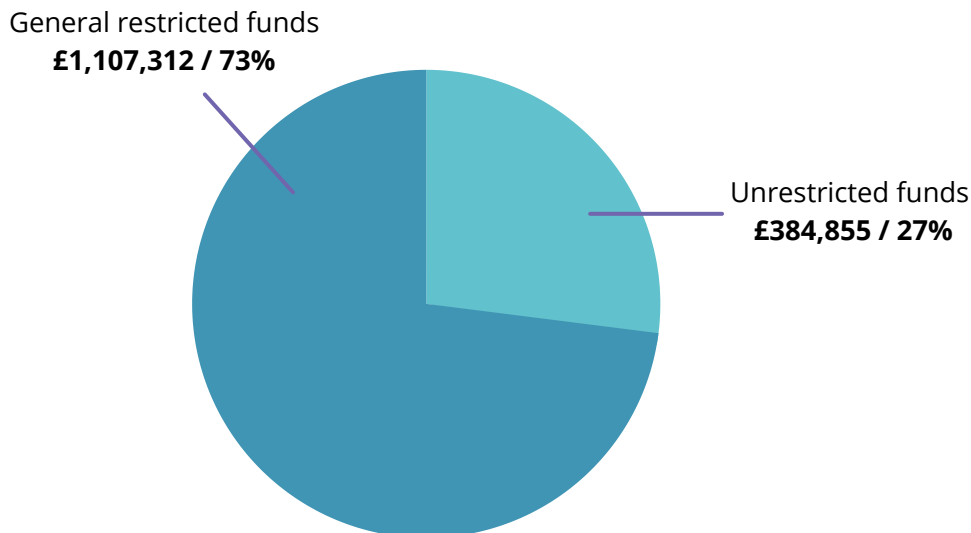
## Appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed to the board upon delivery of an application for admission in accordance with the wishes of the board, and with the board's approval. Trustees are appointed for a term of three years; this is renewable up to a period of no more than nine years.

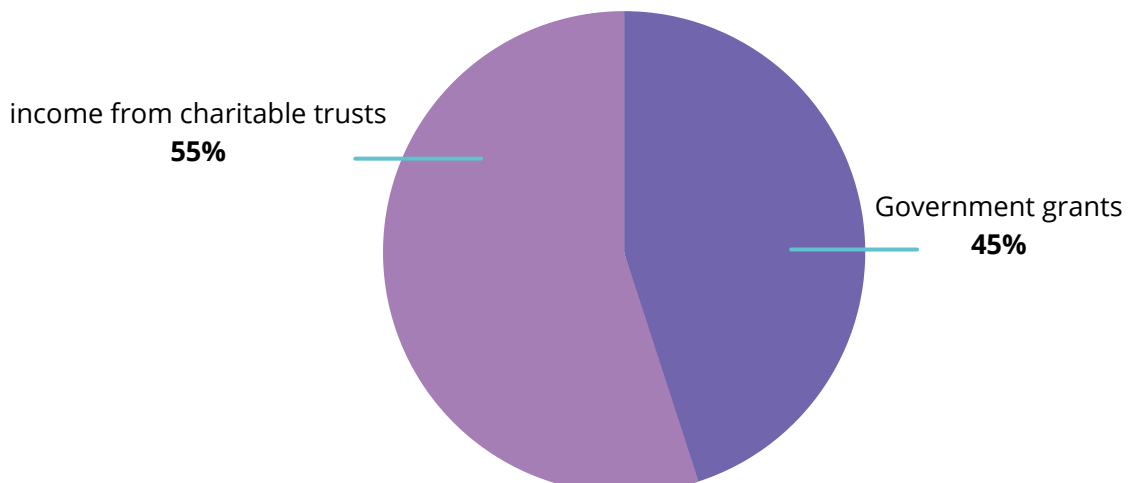
# Financial Results 2021/22

During the year the charity raised £1,413,738 (2021: £2,796,297) and spent £1,508,937 (2021: £2,567,858). Restricted income from government grants and charitable trusts made up 73% of total income (2021: 89%). Unrestricted income from grants, sale of goods and services, subscriptions, donations and fundraising events made up 27% of total income (2021: 11%). Unrestricted (free) reserves at the end of the year (including designated reserves) were £566,522 (2021: £583,292).

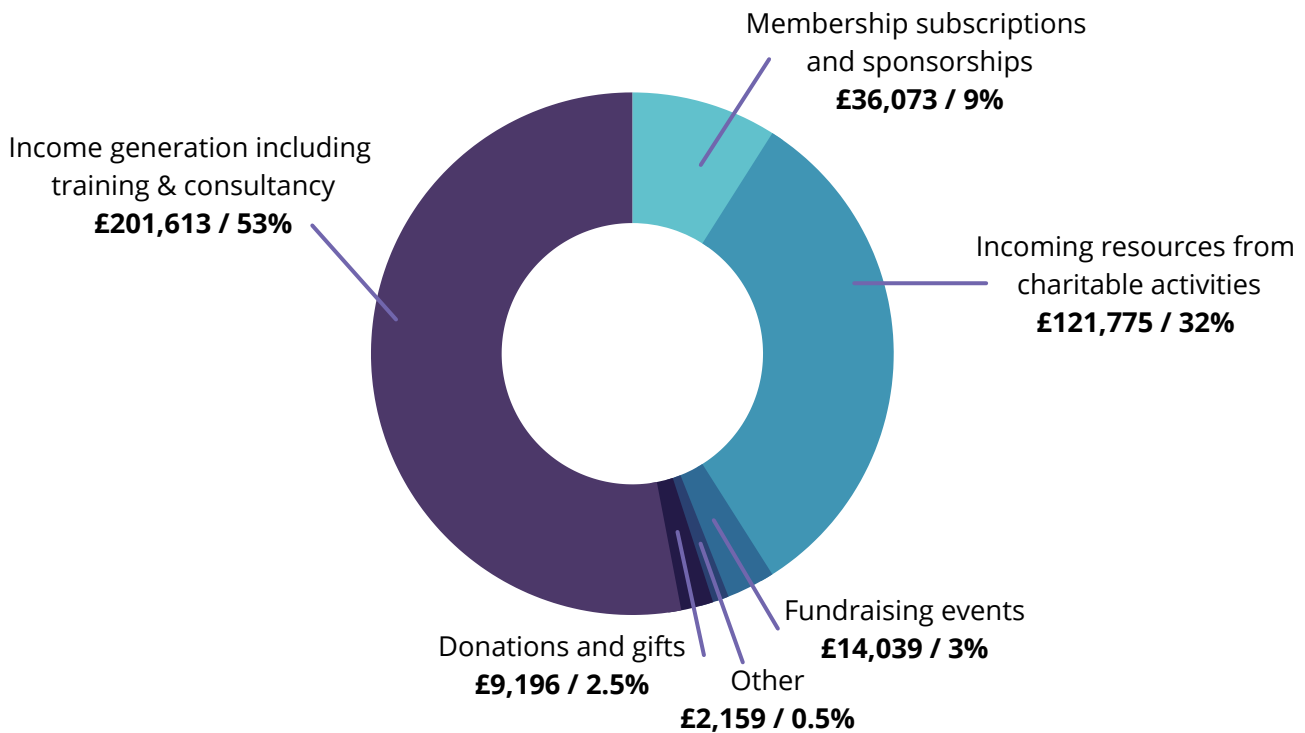
## TOTAL INCOME = £1,413,738



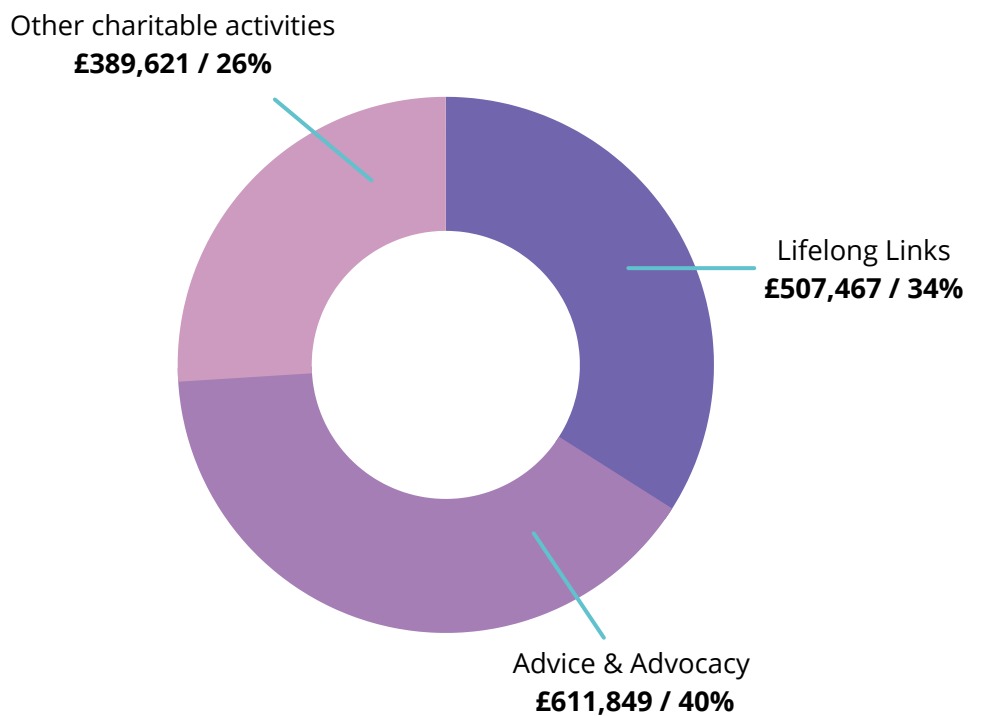
## RESTRICTED INCOME BY FUNDER



## UNRESTRICTED INCOME = £384,855



## EXPENDITURE = £1,508,937



## Unrestricted funds

The charity raised £384,855 (2021: £302,002) of general or unrestricted income. Expenditure of £401,625 (2021: £97,849) was set against this, leaving a deficit of £16,770 (2021: surplus £204,153). When added to balances brought forward of £583,292, the fund balance at 31 March 2022 was £566,522.

Income from training and consultancy made up 52% of total unrestricted income (2021: 13%), grants made up 32% (2021: 32%), donations, supporters' fees and Family Group Conference Network membership made up 12% (2021: 51%), and fundraising events and publication sales made up 4% (2021: 4%).

## Designated funds

The trustees have set aside £100,000 of unrestricted funds to cover staffing contingencies. This fund makes up part of the total free reserves and remains unused in the year.

## Restricted funds

A total of £1,028,883 (2021: £2,494,295) of restricted income was received in the year. Expenditure of £1,107,312 (2021: £2,470,009) was set against this and, after bringing forward funds of £171,395, the balance of restricted funds was £92,966. All of the restricted income received during the year was made up of grants.

## Funders and Fundraising

We are grateful for the generous support received from a variety of funders and individuals. The following funders supported projects and activities during the year and without them we would have been unable to continue our work: Department for Education, The Dulverton Trust, The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, The John Armitage Trust, John Ellerman Foundation, KPMG Foundation, The Law Society, The Legal Education Foundation, Lankelly Chase Foundation, Matrix Chambers, The Rayne Foundation, The Robertson Trust and Segelman Trust.

We would also like to thank all those individuals who supported us by giving a donation or raising funds from participation in sponsored activities. This year we were pleased to be able to reprise some of our in-person sporting challenges, following the success of the previous year we had Family Rights Group staff, trustees and supporters collectively running, swimming and cycling an ultratriathlon as part of a Family Rights Groupathlon. The event raised £6,633 to support our work, contributing to a total of £14,039 raised from fundraising events. We also raised £8,458 from donations from supporters. These generous donations form an absolutely essential part of our funding and we are extremely grateful to all who donated.

## Reserves Policy

The trustees previously decided that it was appropriate to set a minimum level of free reserves to cover known wind-up costs, and to set a target to increase the level to cover three to six months' expenditure, allowing for changes in expenditure patterns and the fundraising climate. The current level of reserves now exceeds three months' expenditure, but falls short of 6 months' expenditure. Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future in particular given the level of committed funding.

Furthermore, the trustees are confident that there are no material uncertainties that may cast doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The reserves policy will be kept under review and reserve levels adjusted as perceptions of risk and other factors change.

## Asset cover of funds

The notes to the accounts set out an analysis of the assets attributable to the various funds. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund-by-fund basis.

## Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the directors has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditors are aware of such information.

## Auditors

Kreston Reeves were appointed to audit the company, following the board's resolution to tender for new auditors in adherence to good governance principles.

# FRG LIMITED

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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The Trustees, who are also the directors of FRG Limited 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; 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, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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.



**Angela Frazer-Wicks, Chair of Trustees**

Date: 14th October 2022

# Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of FRG Ltd

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## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Family Rights Group (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, 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 Charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its income and
- application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance

with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

## Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic report.

## Responsibilities of Trustees

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

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

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 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 Auditors' 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

## Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities, including fraud

Based on our understanding of the charity and the sector as a whole, and through discussion with the Trustees and other management (as required by auditing standards), we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to safeguarding, health and safety and employment law.

We considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Second Edition (released October 2019), the Companies Act 2006, taxation and pension legislation. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries and management bias in accounting estimates and judgmental areas of the financial statements. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management and assessment of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations (including health and safety) and fraud; and
- Assessment of identified fraud risk factors; and
- Review of expenditure to confirm no evidence of personal benefit; and
- Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls that management has in place to prevent and detect fraud; and
- Identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls that management has in place to prevent and detect fraud; and
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships, including related party transactions, that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud; and
- Confirmation of related parties with management, and review of transactions throughout the period to identify any previously undisclosed transactions with related parties outside the normal course of business; and
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- Physical inspection of tangible assets susceptible to fraud or irregularity; and
- Review of significant and unusual transactions and evaluation of the underlying financial rationale supporting the transactions; and
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any manual entries made at the year end for financial statement preparation.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and 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 charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kreston Reeves LLP".

**Samantha Rouse FCCA DChA (Senior statutory auditor)**

for and on behalf of

**Kreston Reeves LLP**

Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor  
Canterbury

Date: 14th October 2022

Kreston Reeves LLP are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	9,196	-	9,196	109,421
Charitable activities	4	121,775	1,028,883	1,150,658	2,603,140
Other trading activities	5	251,725	-	251,725	78,902
Investments	6	28	-	28	161
Other income	7	2,131	-	2,131	4,673
<b>Total income</b>		<b>384,855</b>	<b>1,028,883</b>	<b>1,413,738</b>	<b>2,796,297</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	8	-	-	-	4,260
Charitable activities:	10				
Advice and Advocacy		60,284	551,565	611,849	1,212,364
Lifelong Links		79,660	427,807	507,467	958,459
Other charitable activities		261,681	127,940	389,621	392,775
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>401,625</b>	<b>1,107,312</b>	<b>1,508,937</b>	<b>2,567,858</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(16,770)</b>	<b>(78,429)</b>	<b>(95,199)</b>	<b>228,439</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		583,292	171,395	754,687	526,248
Net movement in funds		(16,770)	(78,429)	(95,199)	228,439
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>566,522</b>	<b>92,966</b>	<b>659,488</b>	<b>754,687</b>

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

The notes on pages 37 to 52 form part of these financial statements.

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	14	19,265	17,342
		<u>19,265</u>	<u>17,342</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	15	1,456	-
Debtors	16	394,787	631,558
Cash at bank and in hand		895,194	622,015
		<u>1,291,437</u>	<u>1,253,573</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Creditors: due within one year		(224,477)	(341,646)
Deferred income		(426,737)	(174,582)
		<u>(651,214)</u>	<u>(516,228)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>659,488</b>	<b>754,687</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>659,488</b>	<b>754,687</b>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	18	92,966	171,395
Unrestricted funds	18	566,522	583,292
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>659,488</b>	<b>754,687</b>

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



**Angela Frazer-Wicks**

Chair of Trustees

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022

The notes on pages 37 to 52 form part of these financial statements.

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash used in operating activities	21	<b>281,616</b>	77,802
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		28	161
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets		-	686
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<b>(8,465)</b>	(22,976)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(8,437)</b>	(22,129)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>273,179</b>	55,673
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<b>622,015</b>	566,342
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	22	<b>895,194</b>	622,015

The notes on pages 37 to 52 form part of these financial statements

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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## 1. General information

FRG Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is The print House, 18 Ashwin Street, London, E8 3DL. The principal activity of the Charity can be found in the Trustees Report.

## 2. Accounting policies

### 2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Family Rights Group meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

### 2.2 Going concern

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.

### 2.3 Income

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

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued. Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable. Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

### 2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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### 2. Accounting policies (continued)

#### 2.4 Expenditure (continued)

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading. Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

#### 2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

#### 2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost. At each reporting date the Charity assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, on a reducing balance basis.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 25% reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 25% reducing balance

#### 2.7 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

#### 2.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

#### 2.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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### 2. Accounting policies (continued)

#### 2.10 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

#### 2.11 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### 2.12 Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

#### 2.13 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

#### 3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations and gifts	9,196	<b>9,196</b>	11,921
Grant income	-	-	97,500
	<u>9,196</u>	<u><b>9,196</b></u>	<u>109,421</u>
Total 2021	<u><u>109,421</u></u>	<u><u>109,421</u></u>	

#### 4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Lifelong Links	-	341,587	<b>341,587</b>	1,784,768
Advice and advocacy grants	-	480,000	<b>480,000</b>	479,899
Other grants	121,775	207,296	<b>329,071</b>	338,473
	<u>121,775</u>	<u>1,028,883</u>	<u><b>1,150,658</b></u>	<u>2,603,140</u>
Total 2021	<u><u>108,845</u></u>	<u><u>2,494,295</u></u>	<u><u>2,603,140</u></u>	

#### 5. Activities for generating funds including training and consultancy

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Training and consultancy	201,613	<b>201,613</b>	38,176
Membership subscriptions and sponsorships	36,073	<b>36,073</b>	28,965
Fundraising events	14,039	<b>14,039</b>	11,761
	<u>251,725</u>	<u><b>251,725</b></u>	<u>78,902</u>
Total 2021	<u><u>78,902</u></u>	<u><u>78,902</u></u>	

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### z6. Investment income

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>	Total funds 2021 £
Interest receivable	28	<b>28</b>	161
Total 2021	161	161	

### 7. Other income

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>	Total funds 2021 £
Other income	2,131	<b>2,131</b>	4,673
Total 2021	4,673	4,673	

### 8. Expenditure on raising funds

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2022 £</b>	Total funds 2021 £
Other fundraising costs	-	-	4,260
Total 2021	4,260	4,260	

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 9. Analysis of grants

	<b>Grants to Institutions 2022</b>	<b>Total funds 2022</b>	Total funds 2021
	£	£	£
Advice and Advocacy	-	-	731,975
Other Charitable Activities	-	-	10,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>741,975</u>
Total 2021	<u>741,975</u>	<u>741,975</u>	

### 10. Analysis of expenditure on charitable

#### activities Summary by fund type

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2022</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2022</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Advice and Advocacy	60,284	551,565	<b>611,849</b>	1,212,364
Other Charitable Activities	261,681	127,940	<b>389,621</b>	392,775
Lifelong Links	79,660	427,807	<b>507,467</b>	958,459
	<u>401,625</u>	<u>1,107,312</u>	<u><b>1,508,937</b></u>	<u>2,563,598</u>
Total 2021	<u>93,589</u>	<u>2,470,009</u>	<u>2,563,598</u>	

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 11. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Direct costs 2022 £	Grant funding of activities 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Advice and Advocacy	551,565	-	60,284	<b>611,849</b>	1,212,364
Other Charitable Activities	358,720	-	30,901	<b>389,621</b>	392,775
Lifelong Links	460,711	-	46,756	<b>507,467</b>	958,459
	<u>1,370,996</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>137,941</u>	<u><b>1,508,937</b></u>	<u>2,563,598</u>
Total 2021	<u><u>1,617,876</u></u>	<u><u>741,975</u></u>	<u><u>203,747</u></u>	<u><u>2,563,598</u></u>	

### Analysis of direct costs

	Advice and Advocacy 2022 £	Other Charitable Activities 2022 £	Lifelong Links 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Staff costs	551,565	282,732	427,807	<b>1,262,104</b>	1,231,103
Depreciation	-	6,541	-	<b>6,541</b>	5,758
Other costs	-	69,447	32,904	<b>102,351</b>	381,015
	<u>551,565</u>	<u>358,720</u>	<u>460,711</u>	<u><b>1,370,996</b></u>	<u>1,617,876</u>
Total 2021	<u><u>418,889</u></u>	<u><u>347,665</u></u>	<u><u>851,322</u></u>	<u><u>1,617,876</u></u>	

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 11. Analysis of expenditure by activities

#### (continued) Analysis of support costs

	Advice and Advocacy 2022 £	Other Charitable Activities 2022 £	Lifelong Links 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Organisational running costs	56,077	28,745	43,494	<b>128,316</b>	195,362
Trustee governance costs	492	252	381	<b>1,125</b>	-
Audit fees	3,715	1,904	2,881	<b>8,500</b>	8,120
Management	-	-	-	-	265
	<u>60,284</u>	<u>30,901</u>	<u>46,756</u>	<u><b>137,941</b></u>	<u>203,747</u>
Total 2021	<u>61,500</u>	<u>35,110</u>	<u>107,137</u>	<u>203,747</u>	

### 12. Staff costs

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	<b>1,077,999</b>	1,041,251
Social security costs	<b>109,844</b>	102,747
Pension costs	<b>74,261</b>	87,105
	<u><b>1,262,104</b></u>	<u>1,231,103</u>

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Project workers	<b>28</b>	26
Support and administration	<b>6</b>	6
	<u><b>34</b></u>	<u>32</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Average number of employees	<b>26</b>	24

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 12. Staff costs (continued)

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	1
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	1

Key Management Personnel are defined as the Senior Management Team, the gross cost including employer's national insurance and pension contributions was £269,494 (2021: £306,899).

### 13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2021 - £NIL). During the year ended 31 March 2022, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2021 - £NIL).

### 14. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 April 2021	1,997	26,766	28,763
Additions	-	8,465	8,465
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,997</u>	<u>35,231</u>	<u>37,228</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2021	1,962	9,459	11,421
Charge for the year	9	6,533	6,542
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,971</u>	<u>15,992</u>	<u>17,963</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2022	<u>26</u>	<u>19,239</u>	<u>19,265</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>35</u>	<u>17,307</u>	<u>17,342</u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 15. Stocks

	2022	2021
	£	£
Stock	<b>1,456</b>	-

### 16. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	<b>366,135</b>	126,041
Other debtors	<b>279</b>	484,758
Prepayments and accrued income	<b>28,373</b>	20,759
	<b>394,787</b>	631,558

### 17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	<b>26,870</b>	207,667
Other taxation and social security	<b>124,847</b>	31,462
Other creditors	<b>10,926</b>	5,957
Accruals and deferred income	<b>488,571</b>	271,142
	<b>651,214</b>	516,228
	2022	2021
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 April 2021	<b>174,582</b>	141,250
Resources deferred during the year	<b>426,737</b>	174,582
Amounts released from previous periods	<b>(174,582)</b>	(141,250)
<b>Deferred income at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>426,737</b>	174,582

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 18. Statement of funds

#### Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
<b>Designated funds</b>				
Staffing contingency fund	100,000	-	-	100,000
<b>General funds</b>				
General Funds	483,292	384,855	(401,625)	466,522
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>583,292</b>	<b>384,855</b>	<b>(401,625)</b>	<b>566,522</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Department for Education (Social Connections Tool)	89,300	-	(15,488)	73,812
KPMG Foundation (Scottish Lifelong Links)	(228)	228	-	-
KPMG Foundation (UK Lifelong Links)	28,125	65,625	(93,750)	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (Lifelong Links)	15,869	25,940	(41,809)	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (Kinship Care)	9,367	9,561	(18,928)	-
Lankelly Chase Foundation	17,863	80,286	(98,149)	-
Barings (Voluntary arrangements for children)	10,099	-	(10,099)	-
Matrix	1,000	3,250	(3,000)	1,250
Department for Education (Regional Recovery Fund)	-	133,443	(133,443)	-
Robertson Trust (Scottish Lifelong Links)	-	7,704	(7,704)	-
Department for Education (Advice Line)	-	480,000	(480,000)	-
Legal Education Foundation (Pre-Proceedings)	-	63,340	(45,436)	17,904
Legal Education Foundation (Trainee)	-	49,881	(49,881)	-
Rayne Foundation	-	40,000	(40,000)	-
DfE Innovation Unit Care Leavers Model	-	25,125	(25,125)	-
Lifelong Links CHK	-	8,750	(8,750)	-
Dulverton Trust	-	35,000	(35,000)	-
Esmee Fairbank Foundation (Lifelong Links Scotland)	-	750	(750)	-
	<b>171,395</b>	<b>1,028,883</b>	<b>(1,107,312)</b>	<b>92,966</b>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<b>754,687</b>	<b>1,413,738</b>	<b>(1,508,937)</b>	<b>659,488</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 18. Statement of funds (continued)

#### Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
<b>Designated funds</b>				
Staffing contingency fund	100,000	-	-	100,000
<b>General funds</b>				
General Funds	279,139	302,002	(97,849)	483,292
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>379,139</b>	<b>302,002</b>	<b>(97,849)</b>	<b>583,292</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Department for Education (Lifelong Links)	-	800,000	(800,000)	-
Department for Education (Social Connections Tool)	114,501	-	(25,201)	89,300
KPMG Foundation (Scottish Lifelong Links)	-	25,000	(25,228)	(228)
KPMG Foundation (UK Lifelong Links)	-	28,125	-	28,125
Robertson Trust (Lifelong Links)	-	42,108	(42,108)	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (Lifelong Links)	-	113,715	(97,846)	15,869
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (Kinship Care)	8,867	48,300	(47,800)	9,367
Lankelly Chase Foundation	26,939	130,000	(139,076)	17,863
Legal Education Foundation	(3,198)	13,333	(10,135)	-
Department for Education (Advice Line)	-	479,899	(479,899)	-
Home Office (Covid) Barings	-	39,940	(39,940)	-
(Voluntary arrangements for children)	-	30,000	(19,901)	10,099
Home Office (Domestic Abuse)	-	10,900	(10,900)	-
Matrix	-	1,000	-	1,000
DfE LL 'Pass Through' Fund	-	731,975	(731,975)	-
	147,109	2,494,295	(2,470,009)	171,395
<b>Total of funds</b>	<b>526,248</b>	<b>2,796,297</b>	<b>(2,567,858)</b>	<b>754,687</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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### 18. Statement of funds (continued)

#### Restricted funds were held for the following purposes:

Department for Education (Lifelong Links): to deliver the Lifelong Links trial in England. Lifelong Links aims to create lifelong support networks for children and young people in care. This grant included provision of a local authority Champions Fund administered by Family Rights Group to enable and encourage local authorities to develop, test and scale new approaches in the creation of life-long social networks for children and young people in care, and care leavers. The Fund was administered and apportioned separately from the charity's income.

Department for Education (Social Connections Tool): a digital programme to map the social networks of young people at the start of the Lifelong Links process.

KPMG Foundation: to contribute to the pilot of Lifelong Links across the UK.

Robertson Trust: to contribute to the pilot of Lifelong Links in Scotland.

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (Lifelong Links): to contribute to the pilot of Lifelong Links in Scotland.

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (Kinship Care): to support an alliance of organisations working to improve support for kinship carers through strategic work.

Lankelly Chase Foundation: to continue and progress the objectives of the Your Family, Your Voice alliance.

Barings (Voluntary arrangements for children): to support advice and advocacy work.

Matrix: to enhance advice resources available on the website for parents to-be and new parents involved in the child welfare system.

DfE Regional Recovery Fund: to support local authorities in North-West and South-East England to introduce and develop family group conference services and implement the Lifelong Links model.

Legal Education Foundation (Pre-Proceedings): to safely divert children from care proceedings and ensure the timeliness and fairness of court decisions.

Legal Education Foundation (Trainee): a Justice First Fellowship to support a trainee solicitor through a two-year placement with the charity.

Rayne Foundation: to build lasting relationships for children in care through the Lifelong Links model.

DfE Innovation Unit Care Leavers Model: to build lasting relationships for 18-25 care leavers in prison through the Lifelong Links model.

Lifelong Links CHK: to build lasting relationships for children in care through the Lifelong Links model.

Dulverton Trust: to expand the Lifelong Links model to new local authorities.

Esmee Fairbank Foundation (Lifelong Links Scotland): to pilot and develop the Lifelong Links model in Scotland.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 19. Summary of funds

#### Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	100,000	-	-	100,000
General funds	483,292	384,855	(401,625)	466,522
Restricted funds	171,395	1,028,883	(1,107,312)	92,966
	<b>754,687</b>	<b>1,413,738</b>	<b>(1,508,937)</b>	<b>659,488</b>

#### Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	100,000	-	-	100,000
General funds	279,139	302,002	(97,849)	483,292
Restricted funds	147,109	2,494,295	(2,470,009)	171,395
	<b>526,248</b>	<b>2,796,297</b>	<b>(2,567,858)</b>	<b>754,687</b>

### 20. Analysis of net assets between funds

#### Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	19,265	-	19,265
Current assets	1,102,221	189,216	1,291,437
Creditors due within one year	(554,964)	(96,250)	(651,214)
<b>Total</b>	<b>566,522</b>	<b>92,966</b>	<b>659,488</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

#### 20. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

##### Analysis of net assets between funds – prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	17,342	-	17,342
Current assets	1,082,178	171,395	1,253,573
Creditors due within one year	(516,228)	-	(516,228)
<b>Total</b>	<b>583,292</b>	<b>92,966</b>	<b>754,687</b>

#### 21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(95,199)	228,439
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	6,542	5,758
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(28)	(161)
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	-	490
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	(1,456)	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	236,771	(466,309)
Increase in creditors	134,986	309,585
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>281,616</b>	<b>77,802</b>

#### 22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash in hand	895,194	622,015

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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### 23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2021	Cash flows	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>622,015</u>	<u>273,179</u>	<u>895,194</u>

### 24. Pension commitments

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £74,261 (2021: £87,105). A liability of £7,720 (2021: £5,957) was payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and is included in creditors.

### 25. Contingent asset

The Charity undertook a detailed VAT review to make sure that the treatment of income and expenditure and subsequent identification of VAT to pay or reclaim was being carried out accurately.

With the assistance of a VAT specialist an asset of approximately £2,000 has been identified which is contingent on the completion of work to enable a claim to be submitted.

### 26. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions or balances during the year (2021: Nil).

### 27. Controlling party

There is no ultimate controlling party.

**Family Rights Group's mission is to create a more socially just society in which the child welfare and family justice systems support children to live safely and thrive within their family, while strengthening the family and community networks of those children who cannot live at home.**

**We seek to ensure that:**

- Families involved with the child welfare and family justice system are treated fairly, have their rights respected and are able to make informed decisions;
- Children and families get the help they need, so wherever possible children can live safely and flourish within their family network;
- All children, including those in care, have lasting and supportive relationships to sustain them throughout their lives;
- Our child welfare and family justice system – and wider society – promotes social justice and creates conditions that enable children to achieve their potential;
- Children and families' voices and experiences drive decision making at an individual and strategic level within the child welfare and family justice system.

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FRG Limited  
Established in 1974  
Company Registration No. 2702928  
Charity No. 1015665 (England and Wales)  
SC047042 (Scotland)  
VAT Registration No: 122 8302 49



**FRG LTD**

England & Wales - Charity number 1015665

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# Accounts

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# FAMILY RIGHTS GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

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for the year ended 31 March 2021

# FRG Ltd

## Legal & Administrative Information

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### Patron

The Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson

### Trustees

Martin Pilgrim MBE  
*Chair of Trustees*  
Stuart Black  
Jacqueline Campbell  
Ann Chavasse  
Elizabeth Cape Cowens  
Patricia Denney  
Angela Frazer-Wicks  
*appointed February 2021*  
Mark Gurrey  
Kevin Makwikila  
Chris Nicholson  
Jason Nisse  
Christine Smart  
John Trevor-Allen  
Jeremy Westhead  
Susan White

### Secretary

John Loveday  
*appointed December 2020*  
Steve Caldwell  
*resigned December 2020*

### Charity number (England and Wales)

1015665

### Charity number (Scotland)

SC047042

### Company number

2702928

### Principal address

The Print House  
18 Ashwin Street  
London, E8 3DL

### Registered office

The Print House  
18 Ashwin Street  
London, E8 3DL

### Auditor

Frances Wilde FCCA DChA  
Warner Wilde  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
4 Marigold Drive  
Bisley, Surrey, GU24 9SF

### Bankers

Unity Trust Bank plc  
Nine Brindley Place  
Birmingham, B1 2HB

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The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021. The Trustees' Report is also a Directors' Report for the purposes of company law, incorporating the Strategic Report as required by the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013.

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities to undertake.

The Trustees regularly update the charity's risk register to identify and mitigate the major risks to which FRG Limited is exposed. The register incorporates both financial and non-financial risks and systems in place to reduce those risks to a reasonable level.

## **Objects**

The objects of the charity are to relieve families with children who are in need or distress.

### **And in furtherance of the above objects:**

- 1) Informing, supporting and advising families in relation to decisions affecting them and their children's lives;
- 2) Providing help to families through their wider communities;
- 3) Educating the public and practitioners and organisations, including those in the field of children's social care, education and youth justice in order to prevent difficulties families face;
- 4) Undertaking research, delivering training and campaigning to challenge injustice.

# Chief Executive's Welcome

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It has been a year like no other and one in which our work at Family Rights Group has become even more critical. The coronavirus pandemic has had a huge impact on the lives of children and families we work with and placed great strain on communities across the UK. Many families have faced increased stresses, including poverty and isolation. Many support services that families might usually have turned to have closed or restricted services to mitigate risks or as a result of financial pressures. The number of children in the care system is now at the highest level since 1985. The challenges already faced by the child welfare and family justice system – those we identified in the 2018 Care Crisis Review – have been amplified.

What has remained the same is Family Rights Group's commitment to helping create a society in which children live safely and thrive within their family and community. We have adapted at pace to the ever-changing situation to ensure that our work to support children and families in need has never faltered.

For the first time in the charity's 47-year history, more than 18,000 callers rang our advice line. Our expert advisers quickly adapted to remote working and have continued to answer calls from parents, relatives and friends throughout the pandemic.

With emergency COVID-19 funding from the Department for Education, we were able to recruit additional staff and answer more calls. During the year, we began a new partnership with the charity Become to provide bespoke advice and support young parents (and parents to be) who themselves have spent some or all of their childhood in the care system. A complete revamp of our website and online resources enables families to draw upon a huge repository of legal and practice information, advice and guidance about the child welfare and family justice system.

Domestic abuse is now consistently the prominent reason why callers are contacting our advice line about children's services involvement. Too often, mothers who have experienced domestic abuse feel that they are further punished by a system that blames them for failing to keep their children safe. We received COVID-19 funding from the Home Office to develop enhanced domestic abuse advice sections on our website for families and for practitioners and to provide follow up advice to parents and carers.

Our Lifelong Links programme, designed to build lasting support networks for children in care, has continued to grow, boosted by the evaluation by the Rees Centre, Oxford University, which was published in January 2021. The evaluation demonstrated the positive difference that Lifelong Links is making to the lives of children and young people in care. During the pandemic our team have worked with a growing number of local authorities, taken our training programme online and adapted the Lifelong Links approach so that it is also tailored to care leavers. Over 1500 children and young people in England and Scotland have now benefited from Lifelong Links or are currently in the middle of the process. In 2021 we continue our work so that more children and young people who are in care and care leavers can benefit, including extending Lifelong Links to Wales.

We have continued our campaign and policy work on kinship care, so more children are able to be raised safely with family or friends, when they are unable to live at home. This was a year when kinship care has taken on greater prominence in political and policy debates. In September 2020 – after contending with the general election and the ongoing pandemic – we held the virtual launch of the report of the Parliamentary Taskforce on Kinship Care.

The Taskforce called on kinship care to become the first thought, not an afterthought, when children cannot be raised by their parents, and published a series of recommendations as to how that can be achieved. As the Chair of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England, Josh MacAlister commented at a meeting of the new APPG on Kinship Care recently, the Taskforce's work put kinship care firmly on the policy map.

Early signs from the English Care Review suggest that focus on kinship care will continue. That being said, during the second national lockdown we had to issue a pre-action letter<sup>1</sup> to the Department for Health to challenge regulations which prevented prospective kinship carers from meeting with children in the same way prospective adopters could. While the move was a success and the Government issued amendments, the case demonstrated that kinship care is still an afterthought in policymaking. As secretariat to the new All Party Parliamentary Group on Kinship Care, we will continue to work with parliamentarians of all political colours to influence and promote solutions that support more children to live safely and thrive in their family network. We also continue to work with colleagues in the Kinship Care Alliance to campaign for change.

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<sup>1</sup> A pre-action letter is a formal letter notifying an individual, business or public agency that court proceedings may be brought against them.

In February, the Public Law Working Group, set up by Sir Andrew McFarlane, President of the Family Division of the High Court, published its report. This included best practice guidance on support for and work with families prior to court proceedings. Family Rights Group was the only voluntary sector organisation to have participated in the Working Group from the outset. The Group's report reinforces the principles of effective partnership working with families to safeguard children, that underpins the Children Act 1989. The crucial challenge is seeing those recommendations consistently put into practice. To that end, we are delighted to have successfully secured a major three-year grant from the Legal Education Foundation. We will be working with the judiciary, child welfare leaders, front-line practitioners and families to embed the key policy and practice messages from the Working Group, Care Crisis Review and other research.

Our parents' and kinship carers' panels continue to flourish and panel members are a fantastic demonstration of the contribution those with lived experience have to make in designing services and shaping culture and practice. The partnership between Family Rights Group and the communications charity Sound Delivery is stronger than ever and during the pandemic panels have continued to meet and take part in creative workshops remotely. The new skills learnt were brought together at the 'Our Families, Our Voices' event in March 2021.

It was a groundbreaking event comprising talks, performance and conversation curated and led by young people, parents and kinship carers with experience of the child welfare system.

All of these activities are underpinned by our new, ambitious Strategic Plan (2021-2026). Our mission is to create a more socially just society in which the child welfare and family justice systems support children to live safely and thrive within their family, while strengthening the family and community networks of those children who cannot live at home. Our Strategic Plan also sets out our vision, principles, way of working and our campaign and impact goals for the next five years.

Our work would not be possible without the unwavering support of our Board of trustees, our staff, our supporters and funders.

We are lucky to have an experienced, knowledgeable and committed group of trustees. Particular thanks go to Martin Pilgrim, Chair of Trustees, who has provided calm and reassuring leadership during a challenging year. When Martin steps down in Autumn 2021, we are delighted that Angela Frazer-Wicks will become Chair of Trustees. This is a significant step in our history. For the first time the Board will be led by a parent whose own children were adopted. Alongside this half of our trustees are now parents and kinship carers with child welfare or family justice experience.

To our incredible staff team, we are so thankful for your determination, commitment and hard work during a year which has been testing personally, for the charity, for the families we support and the organisations we work with. We have said goodbye to some longstanding team members, including Steve Caldwell who looked after the charity's finances and administration for 23 years and was a consistently calm and welcoming presence. We are also delighted to have welcomed new members to the team too. All have gone above and beyond to ensure we can continue our work and are a huge credit to Family Rights Group. We also simply couldn't do what we do without the support of our funders and donations from supporters. To everyone who has supported our work this year, we are very grateful for your generosity and your commitment to our work and our values.

In 2021 difficult times continue, but so too does our commitment to building a society where all children and families can thrive.

Cathy Ashley

**Cathy Ashley OBE, Chief Executive**

October 2021



# Trustees' Report

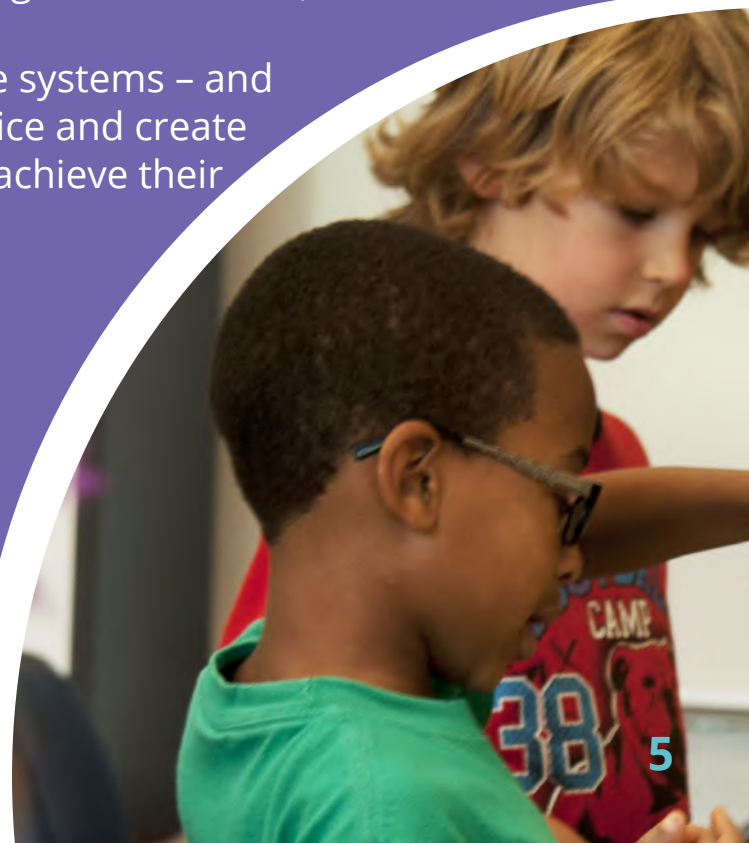
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## 1) Our 2021-26 strategy

The Charity was set up in 1974. During that time, Family Rights Group has achieved many successes, but even greater challenges remain. Our ambitious 2021-26 strategic plan, developed during the year, sets out Family Rights Group's vision, mission, principles, way of working and our campaign and impact goals for the next five years.

### Our strategic priorities are that:

- Families involved with the child welfare and family justice system are treated fairly, have their rights respected and are able to make informed decisions;
- Children and families get the help they need, so wherever possible children can live safely and flourish within their family network;
- All children, including those in care, have lasting and supportive relationships to sustain them throughout their lives;
- Our child welfare and family justice systems – and wider society – promote social justice and create conditions that enable children to achieve their potential;
- Children and families' voices and experiences drive decision making at an individual and strategic level within the child welfare and family justice systems.



## The strategy sets out our eight campaign goals:

Access to effective preventative services and support for families to help children.

A right for all families to be offered a family group conference before their child enters the care system (except in emergencies) so that the family's knowledge and strengths inform and enhance decision-making and planning about their child and all efforts are made to enable the child to remain safely within the family network.

Kinship care households are properly supported and resourced to maximise the chances of positive outcomes for the children, and that kinship carers are not plunged into poverty or discriminated against for taking on the children.

That the law is changed to require local authorities to allow a looked after child reasonable contact with their brothers and sisters.

A right to independent legal advice and advocacy for all families whose children are subject to child protection enquiries or other compulsory interventions within the child welfare or family justice system, including through extending legal aid.

Where the plan is for a child to return home from care, there is a duty on the local authority and other public agencies to provide (or once the child has returned home continue to offer) such support to the child and family as necessary to safeguard the child and promote their welfare.

A duty on local authorities to offer therapeutic support and counselling to parents whose children are removed, to help them deal with their grief and to address the reasons why their child was removed.

Every child in care has the opportunity of Lifelong Links, to help build and maintain a support network that they can turn to in child and adulthood.

and

That the above services and duties are adequately funded by Government. The strategy also sets seven impact goals which are summarised in this report.

## 2) Advice & Advocacy Service



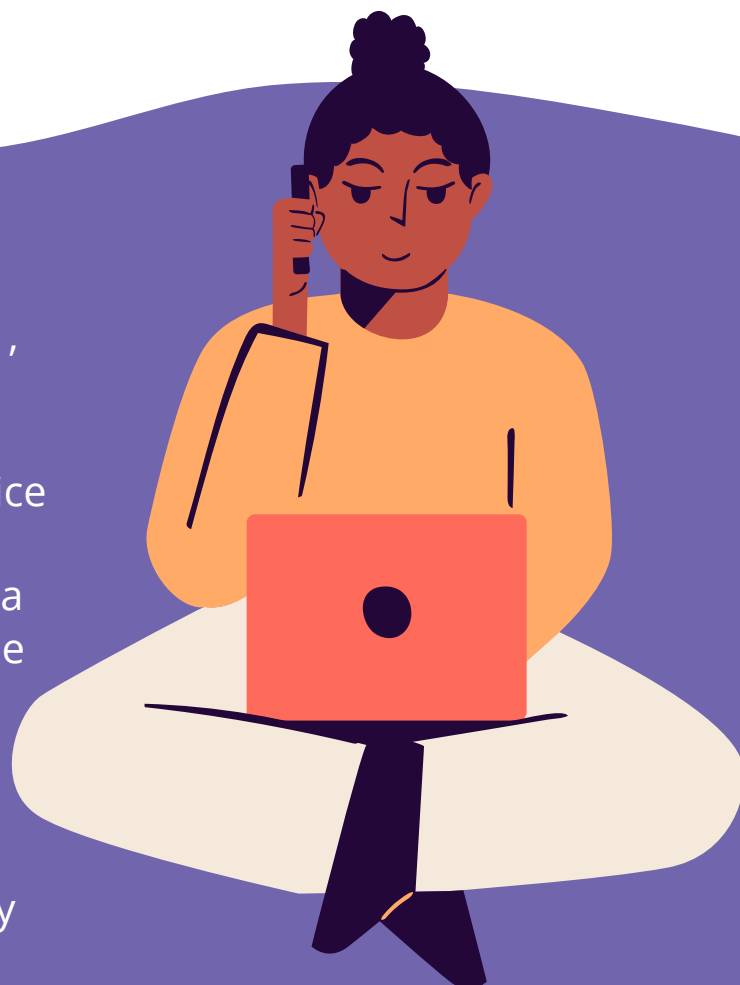
Family Rights Group runs a free, independent and confidential advice service. We advise families when they are involved with children's services or need their help. We provide specialist legal and practice advice for parents, grandparents, relatives and friends including kinship carers in England. Our expert advisers help families to understand the law and child welfare processes and their rights and options, and better to understand social work concerns.

We secured £350,000 funding from the Department for Education (DfE) towards delivering our specialist legal advice service to families in 2020/21, and during the year we were also awarded a further £130,000 in emergency COVID-19 grant funds from the DfE. This allowed us to recruit more advisers and answer more calls. It has also led to a partnership with Become (the charity for children in care and young care leavers), to provide a bespoke advice and support service to care experienced young people who are parents or are pregnant mothers or expectant fathers involved with children's social care services. Some of the parents may have had their child removed, whilst others are involved with social workers due to concerns about the child (or baby when born) being at risk.

Nevertheless, the impact of the pandemic on children, families and communities has been dramatic. Demand for the advice service has increased significantly.

## Advice Service

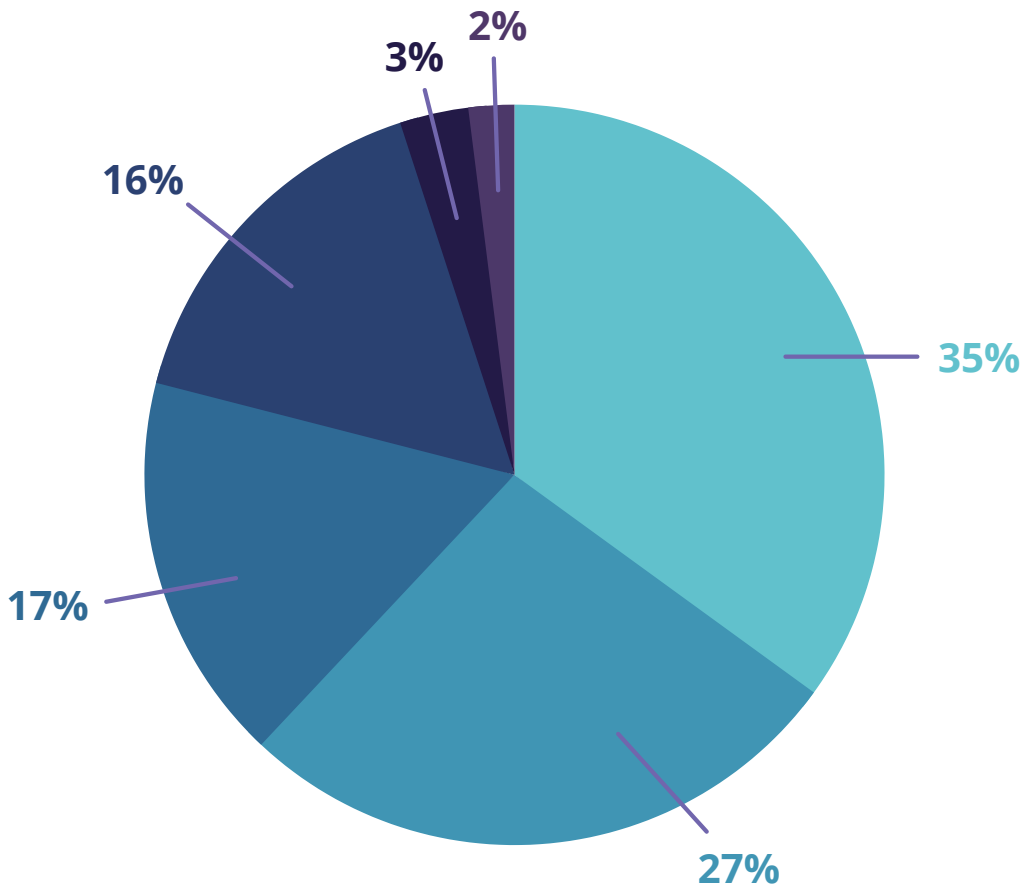
- We answered 6953 calls in 2020/21, 1500 more than the previous year
- 18,000 callers rang the advice service in 2020/1, the highest number in Family Rights Group's history. And a rise of 3300 callers compared to the year before
- Resource constraints and rising demand meant that despite answering more calls, we were only able to answer four in ten callers.



**46% of calls answered are from mothers, 20% from fathers and 30% from kinship carers or prospective kinship carers.**

Domestic abuse has consistently been the most commonly cited reason by callers as to why children's services are involved with their family. We received COVID-19 extraordinary Home Office funding for domestic support services to develop enhanced domestic abuse advice sections on the website for families and for practitioners and to provide advocacy support to parents/carers.

## Reasons for calls



**35%** Care Proceedings/Child in Care

**27%** Child Protection

**17%** Private Law

**16%** Family Support

**3%** Accommodation

**2%** Adoption

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a white and blue striped sweater, is sitting at a white desk. She is holding a baby in a white blanket and looking at a laptop screen. The laptop is open and displaying a blue screen. There are some papers and a small plant on the desk. The background is a bright, out-of-focus office or home workspace.

# WEBSITE RE-DESIGN AND NEW ONLINE ADVICE RESOURCES

We know the value of accurate and reliable advice for families involved with children’s services and the consequence of not getting the right help when it is needed. That is why we have upgraded [www.frg.org.uk](http://www.frg.org.uk) to provide families and practitioners with comprehensive and easy to follow content.

The advice content for families is organised in tiers, tailored to particular circumstances. An updated and expanded A-Z of key terms provides families with quick reference information to respond to initial queries. Users can then search under “Who?”, “What?”, or “Why?” categories to reach content directly applicable to their circumstances. A small suite of legal advice sheets provides more in-depth advice on topics that families involved with children’s services or the Family Court might need guidance about. This includes providing litigants in person with step-by-step guides through various court applications.

Other features include: practical tips and tools including template letters and “working with” guides; explainers on the law and child welfare processes that families may come across including infographics; interactive advice forums; and sharing of families’ stories and experiences through blogs, vlogs and podcasts. All content has been developed using readability software and with feedback from members of Family Rights Group’s family panels to ensure that it is easy to follow and accessible.

We are grateful for the support of the Legal Education Foundation to meet the technical and design costs of the work to redesign our website.

We have also obtained funding from Matrix Chambers to enhance advice resources available on the website for parents to-be and new parents involved in the child welfare system. Funds secured from the Baring Foundation have also enabled us to produce more extensive advice and resources on the new website for families and practitioners about children who come into the care system under a voluntary arrangement (under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989).

Our on-line advice is proving invaluable to many more families. There were more than 650,000 visitors to our website and on-line parents and kinship care discussion boards during the year, a rise of over 100,000 compared to the year before.



## Impact of the advice service:

Family Rights Group worked with New Philanthropy Capital (NPC) in 2015 to establish a framework that would enable us to regularly conduct impact evaluations of our advice and advocacy services, including measuring economic outcomes. We used this for a 2020 evaluation of a sample of advice line callers which found that:

### Immediately after the call to our advice line:

**83%**

of respondents felt that they understood the law better as a result of the call

**85%**

felt that they understood their rights and responsibilities better as a result of the call

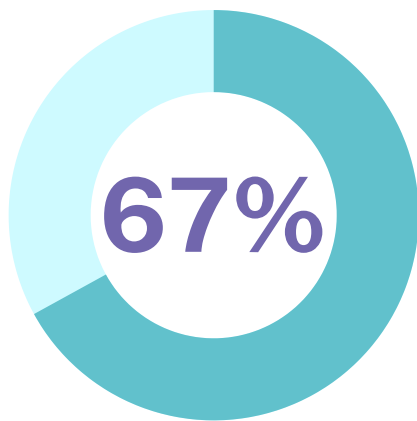
**62%**

felt that the call with Family Rights Group helped them to understand the concerns of the social worker

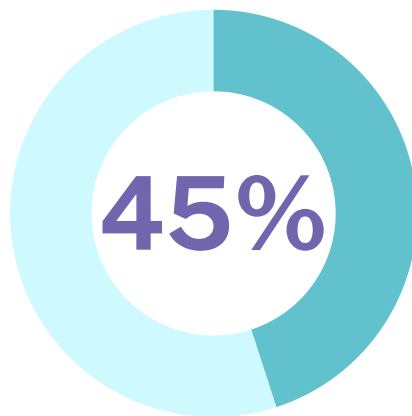
**81%**

felt that the call improved their understanding of children's services procedures

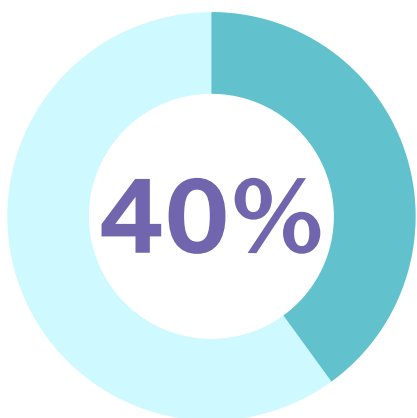
## Four to six months following the call to the advice line:



felt that the call with Family Rights Group helped them to understand the concerns of the social worker



felt better able to work with the social worker/children's services



agreed that the support they received from us made a positive difference to the local authority plan and/or services for their child/children

## Our cost effectiveness:

New Philanthropy Capital also constructed an economic model to estimate the public savings of the advice line from care costs avoided and local authority costs saved by averting the need for long term or more intensive statutory involvement. The findings suggest that the service saves an average of £15 for every £1 invested.

## Moving forward:

We successfully secured an increased funding settlement from the Department for Education for the advice service in 2021/22. This will enable us to answer 7,200 calls to our free, specialist telephone advice line and to provide in depth follow up support to 315 callers. Whilst this is positive news, it still equates to our being able to advise only fewer than four in ten callers.

## We aim that by 2026, at least:



**10,000**

calls a year will be answered



**1 in 2**

callers will report that our advice has made a positive difference to the child remaining or returning to their family, and/or to the local authority plan for the child and services provided



**750,000**

unique visitors per year accessing information and advice from the website or discussion forums

We will further develop our advice and advocacy work for families involved in the child welfare system, including using technology where appropriate to enable more families to get the advice they need, and setting and promoting advocacy standards and best practice for other services to adopt.

### 3) Lifelong Links



Our Lifelong Links programme is designed to build lasting support networks for children in care. It involves an independent coordinator, employed or commissioned by the local family group conference services and trained by Family Rights Group, working with the child and their social worker to explore who is connected with or important to the child. They use a range of bespoke tools and techniques. The network is then brought together at a Lifelong Links family group conference, which is a celebratory event at which a lasting support plan is made with and for the child or young person. The plan should be actively supported by the local authority, as long as it is safe and be embedded in the child's care plan.

Lifelong Links have involved finding family members the child never knew about or had not met, such as grandparents, great aunts and uncles and even fathers, brothers and sisters. It has involved reconnecting children with former foster carers who always fretted about the children who had left their care; their former teachers and friends' parents who had looked out for the child; and estranged relatives who cared about the children even if they could not provide them with a home.

**1400 +**

Over 1400 children and young people in England and Scotland have now benefited from Lifelong Links or are currently in the middle of the process.



**My life has changed for the good since Lifelong Links have been involved, the worker that helped me was a lovely woman and she helped me develop my family tree and guided me the right way to get in contact with family I haven't seen in 14 years. I am now frequently talking to my family and spending some quality time with them.**

Comment from young person

In January 2021 the report of the [independent evaluation into Lifelong Links was published](#). The evaluation covered the three-year trial of Lifelong Links involving 13 local authorities in England. The evaluation was carried out by Dr Lisa Holmes at the Rees Centre, University of Oxford.



## Some of the key findings of the Lifelong Links evaluation were:

- An increase in family and friends connections
- 78% children and young people felt an improved sense of identity
- Improved stability for children: 74% of the children and young people who participated in Lifelong Links were in the same foster or residential home a year later compared with only 41% of a comparator group of young people who did not experience Lifelong Links
- Value for money: Cost benefit analysis showed a return on investment of monetisable outcomes was £1.02 for every £1 spent. These savings were mainly due to placement stability and children ceasing to be looked after. However, the primary outcome achieved by Lifelong Links was an increase and improvement in the number of sustainable and supportive relationships which is not directly monetisable, but is attributable to better longer-term outcomes, and reduced isolation and loneliness.



**Analysis of practice summaries provided by local authorities found that on average children and young people increased their social networks from seven to 26 people.**

Family Rights Group has continued during the year to support the rollout of Lifelong Links geographically, supporting 18 local authorities in England, two in Wales and five in Scotland to provide the service. We have also expanded access to the service for children and young people beyond the trial criteria, for example where they have been in care for more than three years or where they are care leavers.

During the pandemic, we have continued to support local authorities to deliver Lifelong Links, including developing bespoke guidance on providing the service remotely.

## **Moving forward:**

Over the next 5 years we want to see a significant expansion of the Lifelong Links programme across the UK. We aim for at least 3000 children and young people in care or care leavers to direct benefit from Lifelong Links by 2026.

Primarily focusing on children in care, we will further develop Lifelong Links to support children and young people in particular situations, including those facing exploitation or impacted by the criminal justice system.



## 4) Kinship Care

Kinship carers are relatives or friends who raise children who cannot safely remain with their parents. Across the UK more than 180,000 children are living with kinship carers – significantly more than are in the care system and many more than are adopted; this makes kinship care a key element of the children’s social care system. Yet kinship care is widely unrecognised, underappreciated and often unsupported – it is, in effect, the unacknowledged third pillar of the children’s social care system.

Kinship care enables children, who cannot live with their parents, to be brought up in the family and friends network, often by people who already know and love them. Research demonstrates the benefits include emotional stability, sense of identity and improved educational outcomes. However, both the child and their carers often struggle to get support, despite the child often having suffered tragedy or trauma and having multiple needs. Unlike adopters, the kinship carers are not entitled to a period of paid leave to settle in the children, instead half of kinship carers in work have to give up their job to take on the children, and many kinship care families end up in poverty.<sup>2</sup>



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<sup>2</sup> Hunt J (2020) [Two decades of UK research on kinship care: an overview](#). Family Rights Group

## Parliamentary Taskforce on Kinship Care



Family Rights Group worked with the then Member of Parliament, Anna Turley, to set up the Parliamentary Taskforce on Kinship Care in 2018. It was the first inquiry by parliamentarians focused on kinship care. Catherine McKinnell MP succeeded Anna as Chair following the 2019 General Election. Thousands of kinship carers and the children they are raising shared their evidence and experiences with members of the Taskforce. The inquiry also heard evidence from those engaged in frontline practice, grassroots charities, legal professionals, academics, and senior professionals and policymakers.

The launch of the Taskforce report was delayed by the general election and the Coronavirus pandemic. In the meantime, the Taskforce commissioned Family Rights Group to carry out a survey into the experiences of kinship carers and the children they are raising during the pandemic. The Taskforce published a report on the survey and 57 parliamentarians supported a letter to the Prime Minister.

They urged the Prime Minister to take steps to ease the situation of kinship carers and to avoid placements breaking down, resulting in more children entering the care system. The Taskforce commissioned Family Rights Group to undertake an [updated survey in January 2021](#) in order to understand the impact of a third lockdown on kinship carers.

In September 2020, the Taskforce published its main inquiry report '[First Thought Not Afterthought](#)' which summarised the research and evidence gathered by the Taskforce and made a series of recommendations for Government, local authorities and other public agencies to help deliver a vision for kinship care. FRG facilitated the [virtual launch event](#) which included speeches from the Children and Families Minister, Vicky Ford MP, and the Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Kate Green MP. Members of FRG kinship carers' panel also participated in a discussion with our patron, Alan Johnson, on their experiences.

## All Party Parliamentary Group on Kinship Care



In March 2021, in order to embed kinship care into the structures of Parliament, the new [All Party Parliament Group on Kinship Care](#) as established. It continues the work of the Parliamentary Taskforce to press the case for change. Family Rights Group provides the secretariat. The group has a strong team of officers, with Andrew Gwynne MP, a kinship carer, as the group's Chair and Vice Chairs from across the political spectrum.

## Legal aid for special guardians

In February 2019, the Ministry of Justice committed to extending the scope of legal aid to include special guardianship in a private law context by autumn 2020. Two years have now passed and this work has yet to be completed. Family Rights Group, with other legal organisations, including the Law Society met with the Ministry of Justice and drew up a paper aimed at influencing the draft regulations. Family Rights Group with partner organisations continues to pursue these commitments with the Government, alongside the APPG on Kinship Care.

## Challenging COVID-19 regulations

The Covid regulations that applied during under Tier 2 and 3 restrictions and the subsequent national lockdown, included exemptions that allowed a child who could not live at home to be introduced to a potential adopter. But no similar exemption was made for children to meet with potential kinship carers, i.e. people from within their own family and friends network who could potentially care for them. This could have later impacted on decisions made by the family court and thus have lifelong consequences. In November 2020 FRG issued a pre-action letter requesting that the Department for Health urgently amend the regulations to address this. Following this threat of legal action, the Government introduced an exemption to the Covid Regulations.

## Kinship care research synthesis

Professor Joan Hunt OBE, University of Cardiff, undertook a research synthesis of the evidence from across the UK about kinship care in order to develop an agreed understanding and narrative on kinship care. The document is a comprehensive, reliable, concise and accessible evidence base on kinship care. We are grateful to Professor Hunt for undertaking this work and to the John Ellerman Foundation for funding the project. A summary was included in the report of the Parliamentary Taskforce on Kinship Care. The full research report was published in December 2020 and is available [on our website](#).

## Media

We have worked with parliamentarians involved in the Taskforce and the APPG, and with members of our kinship carers' panel, to focus more media attention on the benefits and challenges of kinship care. We have secured coverage on Channel 4 News, Sky News, BBC Look North, The Guardian, The Telegraph, The Mirror, The Times, and Politics Home/House Magazine.

Kinship care panel members have also worked with Sound Delivery to create and share their stories and experiences. One of the resources produced by a kinship carer - 'A letter to my daughter' - gives an account of how a mother saw her daughter change and withdraw as a result of a domestically abusive relationship. This featured in The [Guardian](#) and an audio recording (voiced by another member of our kinship panel) was played on [BBC Woman's Hour](#) along with an interview with Cathy Ashley, our Chief Executive, as part of a feature on domestic abuse.

Panel members have also led our 'Kinship Carers in Conversation With...' podcast series, where they interview prominent politicians and decision makers, which can be heard [here](#).

## Kinship Care Alliance

The Kinship Care Alliance is a group of organisations which subscribe to a set of shared aims and beliefs on the issue of family and friends care. We meet regularly to develop a joint policy agenda and agree strategies to promote our aims.

### The aims of the Kinship Care Alliance are to:

Prevent children from being unnecessarily raised outside of their family network

Secure improved recognition and support for family and friends carers and the children they are raising

Ensure that the opportunities and resources available to children living with kinship carers maximise their chances of positive outcomes

Family Rights Group lead the legal and policy work of the Kinship Care Alliance (KCA), thanks to funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. We draft consultation responses on the Alliance's behalf, develop its policy agenda, raise awareness within the media and influence decision makers, including politicians. KCA membership has risen from 21 to 29 in the last three years. New members include GMB Union, Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), Kinship Carers Cooking Club, Accidentally Healthy CIC, Home for Good, AFA Cymru, and Children at Risk Foundation UK. KCA meetings are also attended by a number of academics with a research interest in kinship care.

The KCA has met remotely during the pandemic, focusing particularly on maximising support for kinship carers to cope with the strains of Coronavirus. The KCA's Agenda for Action formed the basis of an e-lobbying campaign during the 2019 General Election. The development of a forward strategy will form the basis of discussions with KCA members in 2021.

## Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board

Our Chief Executive is a member of the Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board which exists to provide leadership and to drive improvements in performance in the adoption system and in respect of Special Guardianship Orders. Following lobbying from Family Rights Group and other members of the Kinship Care Alliance, the Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board (ASGLB) has set up a Special Guardianship Reference Group to mirror its Adopters Reference Group. Some members of our kinship carers panel are part of the new Special Guardianship Reference Group. The Group recently met with Vicky Ford MP, Children and Families Minister at the Department for Education.

## Moving forward

We are at a crucial moment where kinship care is a key feature of debates around children's social care and the future of the system.

### Some of our aims over the next five years:

- To support an active All Party Parliamentary Group on Kinship Care
- To establish a councillors' network to raise awareness of kinship care in local government and help equip local politicians to champion kinship care
- To address gaps in research evidence, including the experience of children from Black and minority ethnic communities who are be raised by kinship carers.
- To continue to be recognised as the national policy and legal authority on kinship care and in leading the campaign for kinship care to be prioritised and adequately supported.

## 5) Family Rights Group's Parents' and Kinship Carers' Panels

Our parents' panel, comprising mothers and fathers with experience of the child welfare system, and our kinship carers' panel are continuing to flourish. Nineteen parents and twenty-three kinship carers are currently involved with our panels. Members reflect a range of different family circumstances and FRG has worked to expand the panels to ensure inclusivity of marginalised groups, including young fathers and sibling carers raising their younger brothers and sisters. We continue to work to improve the diversity of our panels further.

Members of our panels are active participants in the direction we take as a charity. They provide insight and feedback which shape our priorities and our campaigns. They are involved in the co-production of resources and co-delivery of training courses and events. They also engage with other child welfare organisations, including Cafcass and local authorities, to motivate them and to support them to set up family engagement structures.

Since early 2019, we have worked with the specialist digital storytelling consultancy, SoundDelivery, to run a series of creative workshops with panel members and our staff. These are designed to increase family members' confidence and skills to share their experiences to a range of audiences, including at meetings with decision makers and via social media. They also help equip the charity to support such an approach as a central part of our communications strategy. As a result, a wealth of creative content has been published on our [Families' Voices section](#) of the website. Since the onset of the pandemic, panel meetings and SoundDelivery workshops have transitioned to a virtual format, allowing the panels to continue to meet, to contribute, and to continue to develop their skills with SoundDelivery.



Panel members worked with SoundDelivery on preparing and speaking at an 'Our Families, Our Voices' event which was held on 30th March 2021. This was an evening of talks, performance and conversation curated and led by young people, parents and kinship carers with experience of the child welfare system. It was an opportunity to showcase their experiences in order to challenge presumptions, help change narratives and affect changes to benefit the lives of children, young people and families. The event had a wide-ranging invitation list, including decision makers and practitioners from across the child welfare and family justice system, as well as journalists, other opinion formers and family members. A recording of the event has been published on our [website](#).

Panel members have been regularly consulted by academics and child welfare and family justice organisations, such as Ofsted, What Works Centre for Children's Social Care and the National Family Justice Observatory. For example, panel members helped shape the National Family Justice Observatory research project led by Dr Mary Baginsky on child protection conferences during Covid.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of the LankellyChase Foundation for our Family Voices work.

## Moving forward

We want it to become the norm that children and families with experience of the child welfare and family justice system help shape it, at local and national level.

### Our goals include:

- For families with experience of the child welfare system to be directly involved in the co-production and co-delivery of training to the judiciary, social work students and social workers;
- By 2026 at least 20% of children's services departments and other child welfare and family justice agencies will have an engagement mechanism in place, in which parents and kinship carers influence policies and the commissioning of services;
- To continue to support the development and influence of our family panels, and address under representation of fathers, disabled parents and carers and Black and minority ethnic parents and kinship carers.
- We will also co-develop platforms to enable young parents and those who have grown up in kinship care or in the care system to have their voice, views and experiences heard.

## 6) Public Law Working Group

In 2017, Family Rights Group instigated the sector-led Care Crisis Review, which involved sector leaders, social workers, lawyers, families and the former and current Presidents of the Family Division of the High Court. The Review explored the contributory factors to the record number of care proceedings and proposed twenty recommendations.

Following the Care Crisis Review, the President of the Family Division of the High Court, Sir Andrew McFarlane, convened a working group to consider what might be done to reduce the volume of care applications being made, and to enhance the ability of the courts to deal with these cases justly and efficiently.

**Specifically, the working group was asked to consider how children and young people may:**

1. be safely diverted from becoming the subject of public law proceedings; and
2. once they are subject to court proceedings, best have a fully informed decision about their future lives fairly and swiftly made.

In October 2018, FRG was invited to sit on the public law working group, to offer our expertise in relation to the child welfare and family justice system. The working group is comprised of members of the judiciary, lawyers, directors of children's services, and representatives from Cafcass, the Department for Education and the Ministry of Justice. FRG is the only voluntary sector organisation to have participated in the working group from the outset. We took the findings from the Care Crisis Review, including the Options for Change, as a starting point. We have also drawn on: learning from the Knowledge Inquiry, which we led in respect of section 20/section 76 voluntary accommodation; calls to our advice service; the views of our parents' and kinship carers' panels; and other related evidence including Professor Broadhurst's born into care research.

We have worked to shape the PLWG's recommendations. We held focus groups on special guardianship orders and on voluntary arrangements to influence the PLWG's thinking and best practice guidance. FRG has sat on a number of its sub-groups, and has led specific pieces of engagement work with families to inform its conclusions.

The PLWG published its report in February 2021. The report reinforces the principles of effective partnership working with families to safeguard children, that underpins the Children Act 1989. It complements a wider body of material on effective family engagement and emphasises the importance of collaboration and co-production with families, at a strategic and individual level.



## Legal Education Foundation – Disseminating best practice

We are delighted to announce that Family Rights Group (FRG) has been successful in securing a major three-year grant from The Legal Education Foundation. This funding is being awarded to enable FRG to develop an approach that will promote, support the implementation of, and embed the key policy and practice messages regarding pre-proceedings work arising from:

- The Care Crisis Review
- The reports and guidance produced by the Public Law Working Group and
- Relevant academic and voluntary sector research.

All the elements of the work to be undertaken will be co-produced, in design and delivery, with families and we will be working closely with a range of practitioners. The grant will also fund an academic evaluation of the approach FRG develops and the impact it makes. We are pleased to announce that the evaluation will be led by Caroline Thomas, Independent Researcher and Honorary Research Fellow, University of Stirling.

In pursuing this project we are grateful to have had the endorsement of both Sir Andrew McFarlane, President of the Family Division of the High Court, and Mr Justice Keehan, Chair of the Public Law Working Group.



## 7) Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England

In January 2021, the government launched the 'independent review of children's social care in England'. The Review proposes to 'provide a once in a generation opportunity to transform the children's social care system and provide children with loving, safe and stable families'.

Family Rights Group believes that the Care Review is an important opportunity to influence proposals for change across the child welfare system in England. We are engaging with the Review, challenging where we think necessary and seeking to influence its recommendations, including through contributing evidence and sharing insight from our services and legal and policy experience. We are also working to ensure the Review hears the voices and experiences of mothers, fathers and kinship carers involved with the child welfare system.

Angela Frazer-Wicks, a member of our Board and parents' panel, was appointed to independent Care Review's Experts by Experience working group which is leading on the Review's engagement work with families and children. In April 2021, our parents' and our kinship care panel members met with the Care Review to share their experience and influence the Review's thinking. In May 2021 we also hosted a workshop for mothers, fathers and kinship carers with experience of the child welfare system to share their experiences and ideas with the Care Review engagement team.

## 8) Born Into Care

The number of new-born babies subject to care proceedings had risen significantly prior to the pandemic. Research conducted by Professor Karen Broadhurst and Claire Mason of Lancaster University has shone a light on this hitherto underexplored issue.

Further research, commissioned by the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory and published in June 2021, revealed a significant increase in the number of newborn babies (i.e babies under 2 weeks old) in England and Wales who are subject to care proceedings. It also found many cases in which the notice to parents of care proceedings for their newborn baby was given on the same day as the court hearing. There are significant regional variations – with 41% of same day hearings for newborns in North East England, compared to 9% in London. Previous research found that final legal order outcomes for nearly half of newborns subject to care proceedings was placed for adoption.

Family Rights Group staff and Angela Frazer-Wicks (parents' panel member and trustee) sit on a project board, led by Prof Broadhurst, designed to develop national best practice guidance for health, legal and social care practitioners working with families whose newborn baby has been, or is at risk of, removal. They have also been meeting regularly, including with the charity Birth Companions, considering ways to highlight the impact of the pandemic on parents/parents to be, who are at risk of losing their children.

For example, some mother and baby units closed during the pandemic, in some cases mothers, including those who had health complications or learning disabilities, were not allowed to have their partner or supporter at the birth, and, following removal, contact between a mother and her baby was severely restricted in some areas. They have also been promoting measures used by some innovative authorities to creatively support parents in this situation, including use of family group conferences in early stages of pregnancy, working closely with maternity teams and adapting local facilities so contact to be safely supported.



## Moving forward – leading and influencing policy and practice

Our mission can only be achieved by working with: children and families with experience of the child welfare system and those practitioners working within in it; national and local decision makers; academics; and, our organisational friends.

### We will:

- Continue to promote at national and local level in England and Wales implementation of the findings of the Care Crisis Review.
- Engage with the independent Care Review in England and the Ministry of Justice’s ongoing consideration of legal aid reform.
- Develop and implement a five year vision for our work in Scotland, to help realise The Promise.

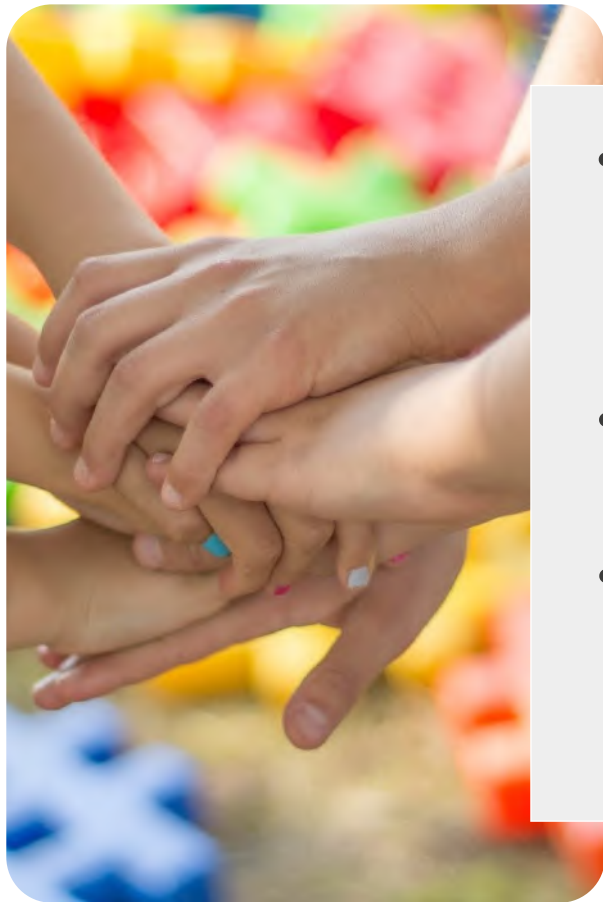
### Our work will further enhance our position, reputation and recognition and media presence as the leading:

- organisation working with government, local authorities and other public agencies to introduce and embed family led practices in the interests of children.
- voice on safe and effective alternatives to children having to enter the care system and to nurturing supportive relationships for those who are in care.

## 9) Family Group Conferences

A family group conference (FGC) is a family-led meeting in which the family and friends network come together to make a plan for a child where there is a concern. The process is supported by an independent coordinator who helps the family prepare in advance for the family group conference. Children are usually involved in their own family group conference, often with support from an advocate. It is a voluntary process and families cannot be forced into one. The process should be organised to reflect the culture and wishes of the family, and effective preparation is key.

### The FGC conference itself involves three parts:



- The information sharing stage, in which the social worker (or referring agency) sets out why the FGC was called and ways that agencies can support the child and family
- Private time, in which the family produce their plans for the child or young person; and
- The third stage, in which the social worker (or other referring agency) agrees the plan as long as it is legal, safe and addresses any 'bottom line'.

Families should be offered the opportunities for a review FGC three months later or at another time agreed with the family.

FGCs can help ensure that wider family members and friends understand at an early stage the seriousness of the situation and have the opportunity to support the child to live safely with their parents where feasible and make contingency plans for alternative care within the family if the child cannot remain at home.



**Family Rights Group introduced the family group conference model to the UK in the early 1990s. Our most recent mapping of FGC services across England in 2019 found that 78% of local authorities had or commissioned a family group conference services service, compared to 75% in 2017.**

We host the National Family Group Conference Network, including an electronic discussion board for FGC coordinators and managers and holding quarterly Network meetings focused on relevant themes. We continue to be the foremost organisation in providing consultancy services in supporting local authorities to set up or commission FGCs and in training FGC coordinators. We also run an accreditation scheme to promote consistent, high quality standards amongst local FGC services and have pioneered an accredited post graduate certificate for coordinators which is run with the University of Salford.

During the pandemic, we have held regular virtual meetings with family group conference service managers and published a guide to promote ways that family group conferences can continue to be offered to families.

Our new strategic plan spells out how we want family group conferences to become a common approach across the child welfare system to embed partnership working between families and the state to address needs and resolve safeguarding concerns in relation to a child.

The Public Law Working Group best practice guidance includes recommendations on the use of family group conference pre proceedings. The Parliamentary Taskforce report also made recommendations to local and national government in relation to offering a family group conference before a child enters the care system, unless there is an emergency.

We were pleased to host a virtual event in June 2021, bringing together the four family group conference networks of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to share learning and insight.



## Moving forward:

Our impact goals. By 2026 we want:

- 75% of local authorities to be offering families the option of a family group conference if their child is at risk of entering the care system;
- Half of family group conference services to have been accredited by Family Rights Group;
- There is a growing body of evidence and awareness amongst the public and decision-makers as to the benefits of family group conferences and how they contribute to improved decision making and better outcomes for children.

## 10) Domestic abuse

The impact of domestic abuse on adult and child victims can be devastating and long lasting. However, too often parents, most commonly mothers, who have experienced domestic abuse, feel that they are further punished by a child welfare system that blames them for failing to protect their child but neither engages nor holds the perpetrator of the abuse to account.

**Domestic abuse remains consistently the main reason callers to our advice line cite as to why children's services are involved with their family and this has increased during the pandemic. There were 64% more calls where domestic abuse was a factor in the last quarter of 2020/21 than there had been in the same period in 2019/20. In comparison, the overall increase in total number of callers advised between Jan-March 2019 to Jan-March 2020 was 35%.**

We now have an enhanced section of our website focused on advice on domestic abuse, including bespoke resources for mothers and fathers. Our panel members have also created [new audio-visual resources](#) focused on their experienced of domestic abuse, to support other families facing similar situations.

Family Rights Group has established a knowledge inquiry on child protection and domestic abuse, which aims to develop principles for good practice for children's social care services. The principles are being developed in partnership with children, mothers, fathers, wider family members, practitioners, managers, commissioners and academics. Our ambition is that this will help to deliver respectful, effective work with families that safeguards children, recognises the needs and wishes of adult and child victims, including their safety and holds perpetrators to account.

## Cafcass Learning and Improvement Board

Our Chief Executive and Angela Frazer-Wicks (one of our trustees and a member of our parents' panel) are co-chairs of the Cafcass Learning and Improvement Board which is overseeing an improvement programme for Cafcass' work with children and families who have experienced domestic abuse.

## Thank you to staff

The Board of Trustees would like to register their gratitude to the staff team at Family Rights Group whose range of skills, expertise and dedication are truly impressive. We would like to thank them for their passion, creativity, empathy and hard work on behalf of the Charity,



# The Legal Form of the Company

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Family Rights Group is legally formed as FRG Ltd, a charity registered in England and Wales (1015665) and Scotland (SC047042). The charity is a company limited by guarantee (company number 02702928).

## Structure, governance and management

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Martin Pilgrim MBE (Chair of Trustees)

Stuart Black

Jacqueline Campbell

Ann Chavasse

Elizabeth Cape Cowens

Patricia Denney

Angela Frazer-Wicks

Mark Gurrey

Kevin Makwikila

Chris Nicholson

Jason Nisse

Christine Smart

John Trevor-Allen

Jeremy Westhead

Susan White

The liability of the trustees is limited to £1, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charity in the event of the same being wound up while they are a member. The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities as detailed on page 44 for the preparation of the charity's annual financial statements, upon which the auditors are obliged to report to the members of the charity.

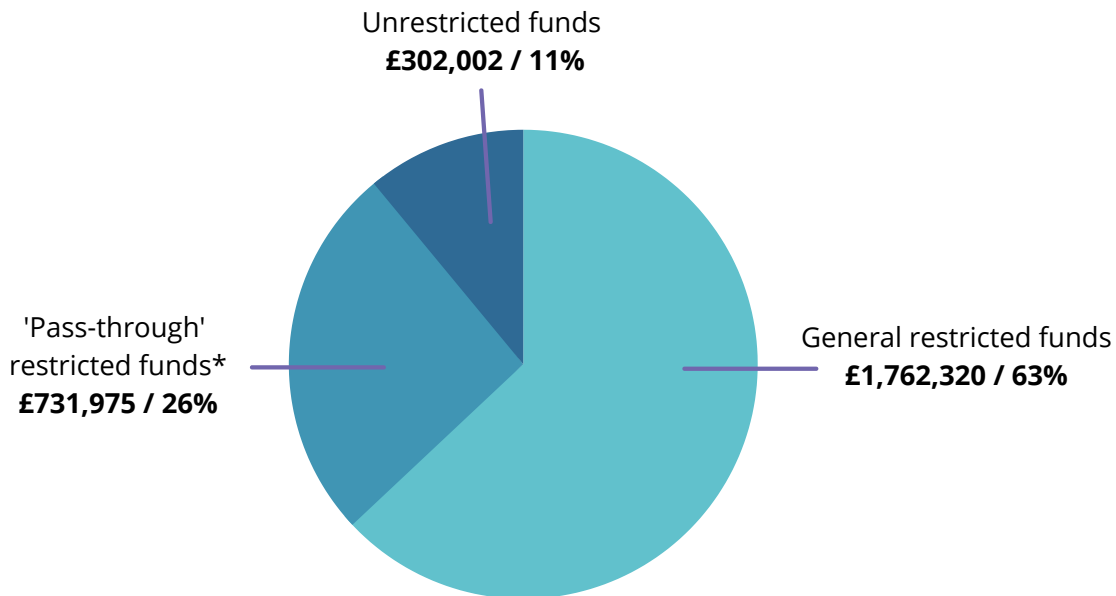
## Appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed to the board upon delivery of an application for admission in accordance with the wishes of the board, and with the board's approval. Trustees are appointed for a term of three years; this is renewable up to a period of no more than nine years.

# Financial Results 2020/21

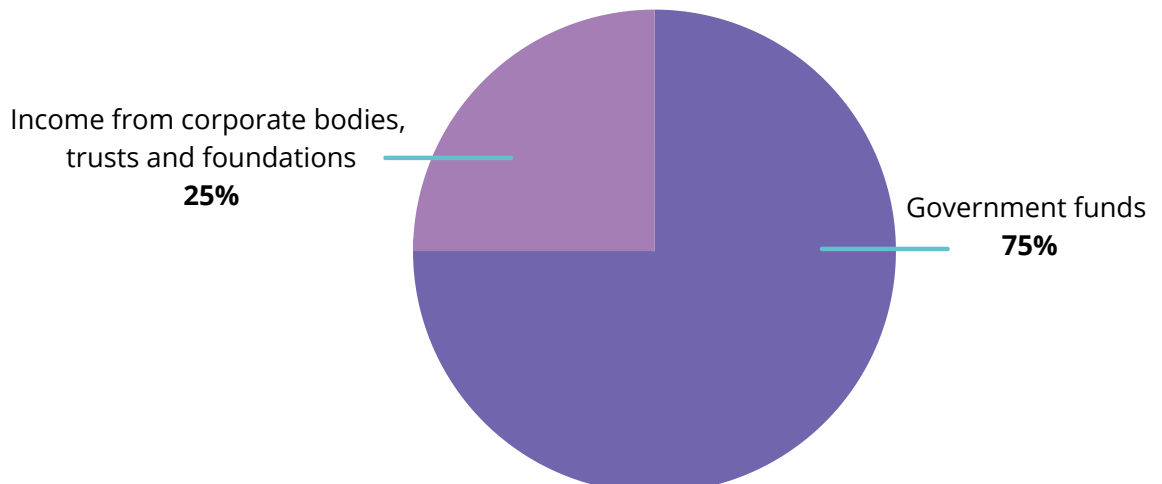
During the year the charity raised £2,799,297 (2020: £1,756,245) and spent £2,570,858 (2020: £1,449,290). Restricted income from government grants and charitable trusts made up 89% of total income (2020: 86%). Unrestricted income from grants, sale of goods and services, subscriptions, donations and fundraising events made up 11% of total income (2020: 14%). Unrestricted (free) reserves at the end of the year (including designated reserves) were £583,292 (2020: £379,139).

## TOTAL INCOME = £2,796,297

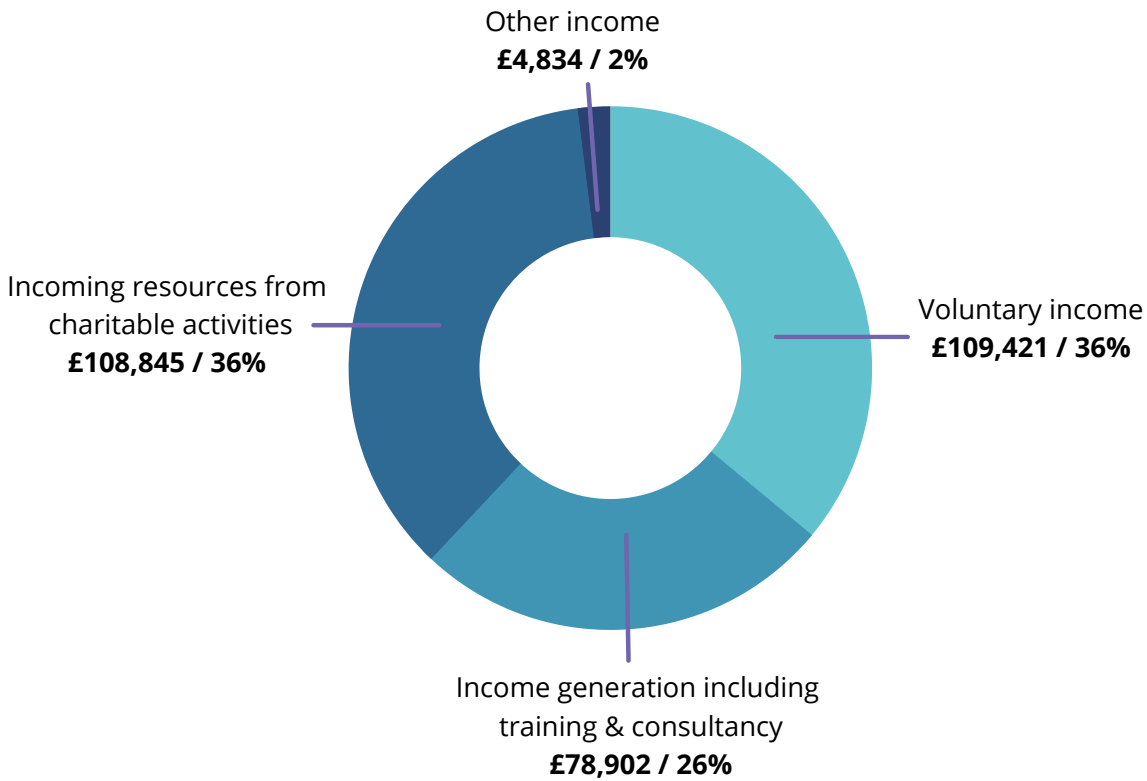


\*DfE Lifelong Links Champions Fund for local authorities, administered separately from the charity's income streams

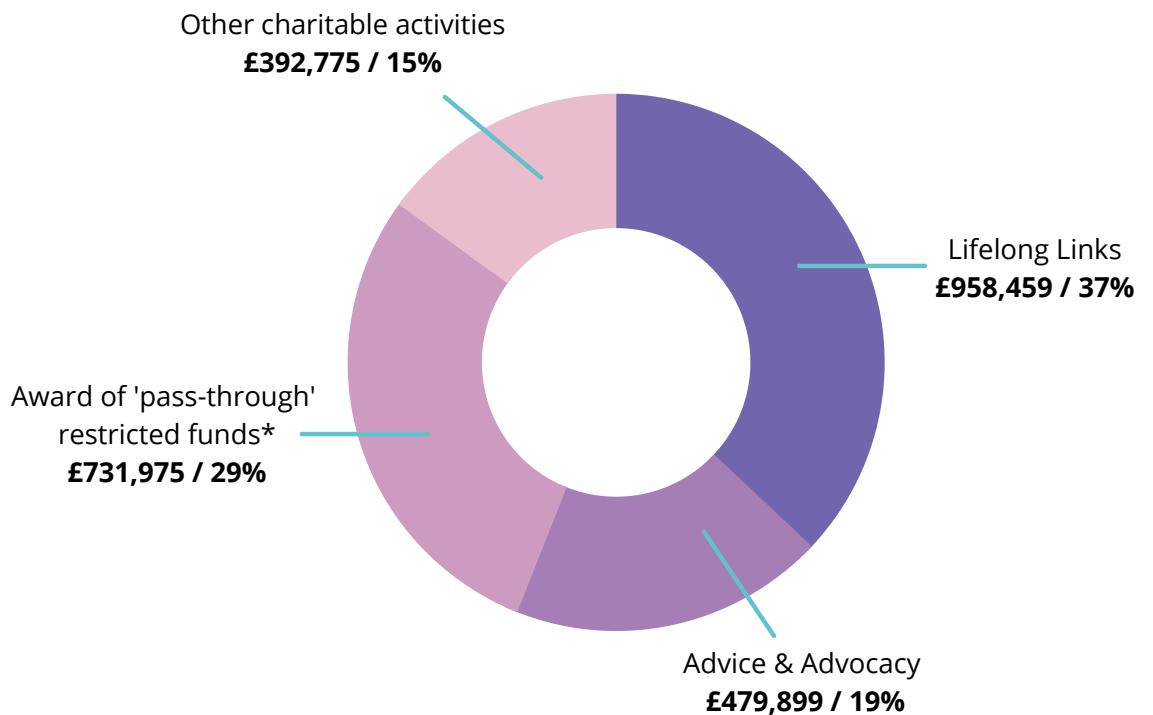
## RESTRICTED INCOME BY FUNDER



## UNRESTRICTED INCOME = £302,002



## EXPENDITURE = £2,563,108



\*DfE Lifelong Links Champions Fund for local authorities, administered by FRG

## Unrestricted funds

The charity raised £302,002 (2020: £250,053) of general or unrestricted income. Expenditure of £97,849 (2020: £113,156) was set against this, leaving a surplus of £204,153 (2020: £136,897). When added to balances brought forward of £279,139, the fund balance at 31 March 2021 was £483,292.

Income from training and consultancy made up 13% of total unrestricted income (2020: 20%), grants made up 68% (2020: 50%), donations, supporters' fees and Family Group Conference Network membership made up 14% (2020: 17%), and fundraising events and publication sales made up 4% (2020: 13%).

## Designated funds

The trustees have previously set aside £100,000 of unrestricted funds to cover staffing contingencies. This fund makes up part of the total free reserves and remains unused in the year.

## Restricted funds

A total of £2,497,295 (2020: £1,506,192) of restricted income was received in the year. This included a pass through fund for local authorities of £731,975, leaving restricted income for the charity to spend at £1,762,320. Expenditure of £1,741,034 (2020: £1,545,826) was set against this and, after bringing forward funds of £147,109, the balance of restricted funds was £171,395. Income from government grants made up 75% (2020: 68%) of total restricted income. The Department of Education gave a grant of £480,000 for the national advice service, and the largest restricted grant of £800,000 for the Lifelong Links project. Income from corporate bodies, trusts and foundations made up 25% (2020: 32%) of restricted income.

### Note on Restricted income

Included in the restricted income total is £731,975, shown in the accounts as "Pass Through" income. This income was matched by an equivalent expense and represented payments to Family Rights Group that were due to local authorities in respect of the Life Long Links Innovation Programme. Under the legal agreement with the Funder, these amounts were contractually obliged to be passed on to those local authorities which met a set of requirements once received by the charity. This amount did not therefore represent an incoming resource that was available for the charity to fund its operations.

## Funders and Fundraising

We are grateful for the generous support received from a variety of funders and individuals. The following funders supported projects and activities during the year and without them we would have been unable to continue our work: The Baring Foundation, Batchworth Foundation, Department for Education, The Dulverton Trust, The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Home Office, The John Armitage Trust, John Ellerman Foundation, KPMG Foundation, The Law Society, The Legal Education Foundation, Lankelly Chase Foundation, Matrix Chambers, The Rayne Foundation, The Robertson Trust and Segelman Trust. We would also like to thank all those individuals who supported us by giving a donation or raising funds from participation in sponsored activities. This year due to the pandemic many of our usual fundraising events including organised sporting challenges were cancelled. Instead, FRG staff, trustees and supporters collectively ran, swam and cycled an ultratriathlon in the very first Family Rights Groupathlon. The event raised over £8000 to support our work, contributing to a total of £11,761 raised from fundraising events. We also raised £10,716 from donations from supporters. These generous donations form an absolutely essential part of our funding and we are extremely grateful to all our supporters.

## Reserves Policy

The trustees previously decided that it was appropriate to set a minimum level of free reserves to cover known wind-up costs, and to set a target to increase the level to cover three to six months' expenditure, allowing for changes in expenditure patterns and the fundraising climate. The current level of reserves now exceeds three months' expenditure, but falls short of 6 months' expenditure. Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future in particular given the level of committed funding. Furthermore, the trustees are confident that there are no material uncertainties that may cast doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The reserves policy will be kept under review and reserve levels adjusted as perceptions of risk and other factors change.

## Asset cover of funds

The notes to the accounts set out an analysis of the assets attributable to the various funds. These assets are sufficient to meet the charity's obligations on a fund-by-fund basis.

## Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the directors has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditors are aware of such information.

## Directors' Responsibilities

The directors acknowledge their responsibility as detailed on page 4 for the preparation of the charity's annual financial statements, upon which the auditors are obliged to report to the members of the charity.

## Auditors

Auditors shall be appointed and their duties regulated as required in accordance with the Companies Act and the Charities Act.

## Appointment of directors

Every person desiring to become a member must, before she/he can do so, sign and deliver to the company an application for admission in such form as the Management Committee may from time to time require. The Management Committee may, on passing of a special resolution, determine the membership of any member of the company.

## Organisation

The governing document of FRG Limited is the memorandum and articles of association incorporated 1st April 1992 and as amended by special resolution dated 22nd April 1993.

## The Management Committee

The Management Committee shall manage the business of the company and may raise or borrow for the purposes of the company such money as they think fit and may secure the repayment of or raise such sum as aforesaid by mortgage or charge upon any part of the property and assets of the company. It shall appoint and employ all such officers and servants as they consider necessary and shall (subject to the provisions of the Memorandum of Association) regulate their duties and fix their salaries.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



**Martin Pilgrim, Chair of Trustees**

2 October 2021

# FRG LIMITED

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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The Trustees, who are also the directors of FRG Limited 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; 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, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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.

# Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of FRG Ltd

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## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of FRG Limited (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 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 2021 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, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

## Basis for opinion

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

### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the 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.

## 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 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) 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 and proper 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.

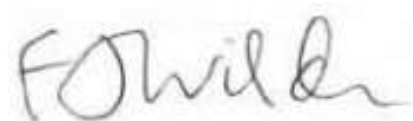
## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Acts 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 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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.



**Frances Wilde FCCA DChA**  
**For and on behalf of Warner Wilde**  
**Chartered Certified Accountants**  
**Statutory Auditor**  
 18 October 2021

Warner Wilde  
 Chartered Certified Accountants  
 4 Marigold Drive  
 Bisley, Surrey GU24 9SF

Frances Wilde FCCA DChA is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

## Current financial year

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds "Pass Through"	Restricted funds general	Total	Total
	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Voluntary income	3	109,421	-	-	109,421	71,705
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4	108,845	731,975	1,762,320	2,603,140	1,565,043
Activities for generating funds including training and consultancy	5	78,902	-	-	78,902	111,069
Investments	6	161	-	-	161	545
Other Incoming resources	7	4,673	-	-	4,673	7,883
<b>Total income</b>		<u>302,002</u>	<u>731,975</u>	<u>1,762,320</u>	<u>2,796,297</u>	<u>1,756,245</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	8	<u>4,260</u>	-	-	<u>4,260</u>	<u>37,161</u>
<u>Charitable activities</u>						
Advice and Advocacy	9	-	731,975	479,899	1,211,874	380,991
Training and Consultancy	9	-	-	-	-	32,398
Other Charitable Activities	9	93,099	-	299,676	392,775	563,864
Lifelong Links	9	-	-	958,459	958,459	644,568
<b>Total charitable expenditure</b>		<u>93,099</u>	<u>731,975</u>	<u>1,738,034</u>	<u>2,563,108</u>	<u>1,621,821</u>
Other	14	<u>490</u>	-	-	<u>490</u>	-
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>97,849</u>	<u>731,975</u>	<u>1,738,034</u>	<u>2,567,858</u>	<u>1,658,982</u>
<b>Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		204,153	-	24,286	228,439	97,263
<b>Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		204,153	-	24,286	228,439	97,263
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		<u>379,139</u>	-	<u>147,109</u>	<u>526,248</u>	<u>428,985</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2021</b>		<u><u>583,292</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>171,395</u></u>	<u><u>754,687</u></u>	<u><u>526,248</u></u>

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.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### Prior financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>				
Voluntary income	3	71,705	-	71,705
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4	58,851	1,506,192	1,565,043
Activities for generating funds including training and consultancy	5	111,069	-	111,069
Investments	6	545	-	545
Other Incoming resources	7	7,883	-	7,883
<b>Total income</b>		<u>250,053</u>	<u>1,506,192</u>	<u>1,756,245</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising funds	8	<u>37,161</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,161</u>
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Advice and Advocacy	9	25,122	355,869	380,991
Training and Consultancy	9	32,398	-	32,398
Other Charitable Activities	9	10,979	552,885	563,864
Lifelong Links	9	7,496	637,072	644,568
<b>Total charitable expenditure</b>		<u>75,995</u>	<u>1,545,826</u>	<u>1,621,821</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>113,156</u>	<u>1,545,826</u>	<u>1,658,982</u>
<b>Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		136,897	(39,634)	97,263
Fund balances at 1 April 2019		<u>242,242</u>	<u>186,743</u>	<u>428,985</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2020</b>		<u><u>379,139</u></u>	<u><u>147,109</u></u>	<u><u>526,248</u></u>

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.

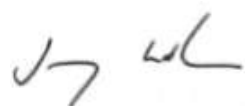
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021**

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	15		17,342		1,300
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	16	631,558		165,249	
Cash at bank and in hand		622,015		566,342	
		<u>1,253,573</u>		<u>731,591</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	17	<u>(516,228)</u>		<u>(206,643)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>737,345</u>		<u>524,948</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>754,687</u>		<u>526,248</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds - general	19		171,395		147,109
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds:					
Staff Contingency		100,000		100,000	
		<u>100,000</u>		<u>100,000</u>	
General unrestricted funds	21	483,292		279,139	
			<u>583,292</u>		<u>379,139</u>
			<u>754,687</u>		<u>526,248</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 2021, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

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. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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 27 September 2021.



J Westhead, Trustee

**Company Registration No. 2702928**

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	25		77,802		173,284
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(22,976)		(833)	
Proceeds on disposal of tangible fixed assets		686		-	
Interest received		161		545	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(22,129)		(288)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			55,673		172,996
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			566,342		393,346
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			622,015		566,342

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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## 1 Accounting policies

### Charity information

FRG Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is The Print House, 18 Ashwin Street, London, E8 3DL.

### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) 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) (effective 1 January 2019)". 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. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

### 1.2 Going concern

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.

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.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

### 1.4 Income

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.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### 1.5 Expenditure

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Overheads and support costs are apportioned to activities on a reasonable and consistent basis for example, hours engaged in different activities for staff costs which is then used to apportion other overheads.

Irrecoverable VAT is allocated in the same way as the cost to which it is associated.

##### 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:

IT equipment	25% reducing balance method
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% reducing balance method

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 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

##### 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.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### 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.

##### **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.

##### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised. Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### **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.

#### 1.12 Leases

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

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 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

#### 3 Voluntary income

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	Unrestricted funds
	<b>2021</b>	2020
	<b>£</b>	£
Donations and gifts	11,921	5,705
Unrestricted Grant Income	97,500	66,000
	<u>109,421</u>	<u>71,705</u>
<b>Donations and gifts</b>		
Other	<u>11,921</u>	<u>5,705</u>
	<u>11,921</u>	<u>5,705</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 4 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Grant Income	Advice and	Other	Total Grant Income	Advice and	Other	Total
	2021	Advocacy	2021	2021	Advocacy	2020	2020
	£	2021	£	£	2020	£	£
		£					
Sales within charitable activities	-	-	114	114	-	-	295
Performance related grants	1,784,654	479,899	338,473	2,603,026	1,244,748	320,000	1,564,748
	<u>1,784,654</u>	<u>479,899</u>	<u>338,587</u>	<u>2,603,140</u>	<u>1,244,748</u>	<u>320,000</u>	<u>1,565,043</u>
Analysis by fund							
Unrestricted funds	43,731	-	65,114	108,845	58,556	-	58,851
Restricted funds - "Pass Through"	731,975	-	-	731,975	-	-	-
Restricted funds - general	1,008,948	479,899	273,473	1,762,320	1,186,192	320,000	1,506,192
	<u>1,784,654</u>	<u>479,899</u>	<u>338,587</u>	<u>2,603,140</u>	<u>1,244,748</u>	<u>320,000</u>	<u>1,565,043</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 5 Activities for generating funds including training and consultancy

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	Unrestricted funds
	<b>2021</b>	2020
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Training and consultancy	38,176	50,354
Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance a payment for goods and services	28,965	28,601
Fundraising events	11,761	32,114
	<u>78,902</u>	<u>111,069</u>
Activities for generating funds including training and consultancy	<u>78,902</u>	<u>111,069</u>

#### 6 Investments

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	Unrestricted funds
	<b>2021</b>	2020
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest receivable	161	545
	<u>161</u>	<u>545</u>

#### 7 Other Incoming resources

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	Unrestricted funds
	<b>2021</b>	2020
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other incoming resources	4,673	7,883
	<u>4,673</u>	<u>7,883</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 8 Raising funds

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	Unrestricted funds
	<b>2021</b>	2020
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<u>Costs of generating voluntary and charitable income</u>		
Other fundraising costs	4,260	12,808
Staff costs	-	24,353
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Costs of generating voluntary and charitable income	4,260	37,161
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>4,260</u>	<u>37,161</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 9 Charitable activities

	Advice and Advocacy	Other Charitable Activities	Lifelong Links	Total 2021	Advice and Advocacy	Training and Consultancy	Other Charitable Activities	Lifelong Links	Total 2020
	2021	2021	2021		2020	2020	2020	2020	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	370,584	256,865	603,654	1,231,103	289,260	4,798	46,953	637,072	978,083
Depreciation and impairment	-	5,758	-	5,758	-	-	411	-	411
Other costs	47,815	85,042	247,668	380,525	10,255	26,665	383,234	7,496	427,650
	<u>418,399</u>	<u>347,665</u>	<u>851,322</u>	<u>1,617,386</u>	<u>299,515</u>	<u>31,463</u>	<u>430,598</u>	<u>644,568</u>	<u>1,406,144</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 10)	731,975	10,000	-	741,975	-	-	-	-	-
Share of support costs (see note 11)	61,500	26,725	107,137	195,362	56,354	935	133,266	-	190,555
Share of governance costs (see note 11)	-	8,385	-	8,385	25,122	-	-	-	25,122
	<u>1,211,874</u>	<u>392,775</u>	<u>958,459</u>	<u>2,563,108</u>	<u>380,991</u>	<u>32,398</u>	<u>563,864</u>	<u>644,568</u>	<u>1,621,821</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>									
Unrestricted funds	-	93,099	-	93,099	25,122	32,398	10,979	7,496	75,995
Restricted funds - "Pass Through"	731,975	-	-	731,975	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted funds -	<u>479,899</u>	<u>299,676</u>	<u>958,459</u>	<u>1,738,034</u>	<u>355,869</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>552,885</u>	<u>637,072</u>	<u>1,545,826</u>
	<u>1,211,874</u>	<u>392,775</u>	<u>958,459</u>	<u>2,563,108</u>	<u>380,991</u>	<u>32,398</u>	<u>563,864</u>	<u>644,568</u>	<u>1,621,821</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 10 Grants payable

	Advice and Advocacy 2021 £	Other Charitable Activities 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Grants to institutions:			
DfE Lifelong Links "Pass Through" Grants	731,975	-	-
Other	-	10,000	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### 11 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2021 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2020 £
Staff costs	-	-	-	-	13,600	13,600
Organisational Running Costs	195,362	-	195,362	190,555	2,650	193,205
Audit fees	-	8,120	8,120	-	7,374	7,374
Management	-	265	265	-	1,498	1,498
	<u>195,362</u>	<u>8,385</u>	<u>203,747</u>	<u>190,555</u>	<u>25,122</u>	<u>215,677</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>195,362</u>	<u>8,385</u>	<u>203,747</u>	<u>190,555</u>	<u>25,122</u>	<u>215,677</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £8,120 (2020: £7,374) for audit fees (including accounts preparation and VAT) and £240 (2020- £nil) for other services.

### 12 Trustees

No (2020:1) trustee was reimbursed a total of £nil (2020: £159 travelling, training and conference expenses).

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 13 Employees

##### Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Project workers	26	23
Support and administration	6	5
	<u>32</u>	<u>28</u>

##### Employment costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	1,041,251	862,037
Social security costs	102,747	89,792
Other pension costs	87,105	64,207
	<u>1,231,103</u>	<u>1,016,036</u>

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
60,001 - 70,000	1	1
70,001 - 80,000	1	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

Pension contributions for higher paid staff amount to £10,761 (2020: £5,881).

Key Management Personnel are defined as the Senior Management Team, the gross cost including employer's national insurance and pension contributions was £306,899 (2020: £294,358).

#### 14 Other

	Unrestricted funds	Total
		£
	2021	2020
Net loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	<u>490</u>	<u>-</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 15 Tangible fixed assets

	IT equipment	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2020	6,794	1,997	8,791
Additions	22,976	-	22,976
Disposals	(3,004)	-	(3,004)
At 31 March 2021	26,766	1,997	28,763
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>			
At 1 April 2020	5,541	1,950	7,491
Depreciation charged in the year	5,746	12	5,758
Eliminated in respect of disposals	(1,828)	-	(1,828)
At 31 March 2021	9,459	1,962	11,421
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 March 2021	17,307	35	17,342
At 31 March 2020	1,253	47	1,300

#### 16 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	126,041	16,986
Other debtors	484,758	138,313
Prepayments and accrued income	20,759	9,950
	631,558	165,249

#### 17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2021	2020
		£	£
Other taxation and social security		31,462	23,668
Deferred income	18	174,582	141,250
Trade creditors		207,667	25,302
Other creditors		5,957	256
Accruals		96,560	16,167
		516,228	206,643

#### 18 Deferred income

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other deferred income	174,582	141,250

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 19 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds set up to account for grant funding given to support specific projects.

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Expenditure £	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Department for Education (Lifelong Links)	-	-	-	-	800,000	(800,000)	-
Department for Education (Social Connections Tool)	163,238	699,752	(748,489)	114,501	-	(25,201)	89,300
KPMG Foundation (Scottish Lifelong Links)	(12,500)	100,000	(87,500)	-	25,000	(25,228)	(228)
KPMG Foundation (UK Lifelong Links)	-	-	-	-	28,125	-	28,125
Robertson Trust (Lifelong Links)	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	42,108	(42,108)	-
RS MacDonald Trust	5,513	-	(5,513)	-	-	-	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (Lifelong Links)	-	99,000	(99,000)	-	113,715	(97,846)	15,869
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (Kinship Care)	-	62,690	(53,823)	8,867	48,300	(47,800)	9,367
Lankelly Chase Foundation	33,715	133,000	(139,776)	26,939	130,000	(139,076)	17,863
Noel Buxton Trust	-	(5,000)	5,000	-	-	-	-
Legal Education Foundation	-	26,667	(29,865)	(3,198)	13,333	(10,135)	-
Trust for London	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-	-	-
Erasmus	(3,223)	5,083	(1,860)	-	-	-	-
Department for Education (Advice Line)	-	320,000	(320,000)	-	479,899	(479,899)	-
Home Office (COVID)	-	-	-	-	39,940	(39,940)	-
Barings (Voluntary arrangements for children)	-	-	-	-	30,000	(19,901)	10,099
Home Office (Domestic Abuse)	-	-	-	-	10,900	(10,900)	-
Matrix	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
	<u>186,743</u>	<u>1,506,192</u>	<u>(1,545,826)</u>	<u>147,109</u>	<u>1,762,320</u>	<u>(1,738,034)</u>	<u>171,395</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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### 19 Restricted funds

#### Restricted funds were for the following purposes:

Department for Education (Family and Friends Advice Line): to supply information, advice and guidance and intensive support services through digital and telephony services.

Department for Education (Lifelong Links): to deliver the Lifelong Links trial in England. Lifelong Links aims to create lifelong support networks for children and young people in care. This grant included provision of a local authority Champions Fund administered by Family Rights Group to enable and encourage local authorities to develop, test and scale new approaches in the creation of life-long social networks for children and young people in care, and care leavers. The Fund was administered and apportioned separately from the charity's income.

Department for Education (Social Connections Tool): a digital programme to map the social networks of young people at the start of the Lifelong Links process.

KPMG Foundation: to contribute to the pilot of Lifelong Links across the UK.

Robertson Trust: to contribute to the pilot of Lifelong Links in Scotland.

RS MacDonald Trust: to contribute to the pilot of Lifelong Links in Scotland.

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (Lifelong Links): to contribute to the pilot of Lifelong Links in Scotland.

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (Kinship Care): to support an alliance of organisations working to improve support for kinship carers through strategic work.

Lankelly Chase Foundation: to continue and progress the objectives of the Your Family, Your Voice alliance.

Noel Buxton Trust: to support advice and advocacy work.

Trust for London: to enhance knowledge and skill of domestic violence agencies to support mothers involved with children's services.

Erasmus: participation in the project 'European exchanges on family group conferencing'.

Legal Education Foundation: to improve access via the website to legal advice for families involved with the child welfare system.

Matrix: to enhance advice resources available on the website for parents-to-be and new parents involved in the child welfare system.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 20 Restricted funds - "Pass Through"

These are restricted funds which are material to the charity's activities made up as follows:

	Movement in funds		Movement in funds		
	Incoming resources £	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
DfE LL "Pass Through" Fund	-	-	731,975	(731,975)	-

#### 21 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds		Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2021 £
	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	
Staffing contingency fund	100,000	-	100,000	-	100,000
	100,000	-	100,000	-	100,000

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 22 Analysis of net assets between funds

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Designated funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:							
Tangible assets	17,342	-	-	17,342	1,300	-	1,300
Current assets/(liabilities)	465,950	100,000	171,395	737,345	277,839	147,109	524,948
	<u>483,292</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>171,395</u>	<u>754,687</u>	<u>279,139</u>	<u>147,109</u>	<u>526,248</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 23 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2020 - none).

### 24 Contingent Asset

The charity undertook a detailed VAT review to make sure that the treatment of income and expenditure and subsequent identification of VAT to pay or reclaim was being carried out accurately.

With the assistance of a VAT specialist an asset of approximately £2,000 has been identified which is contingent on the completion of work to enable a claim to be submitted.

25 Cash generated from operations	2021 £	2020 £
Surplus for the year	228,439	97,263
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(161)	(545)
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	490	-
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	5,758	411
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(466,309)	32,659
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	276,253	(12,034)
Increase in deferred income	33,332	55,530
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<b>77,802</b>	<b>173,284</b>

### 26 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.

**Family Rights Group's mission is to create a more socially just society in which the child welfare and family justice systems support children to live safely and thrive within their family, while strengthening the family and community networks of those children who cannot live at home.**

**We seek to ensure that:**

- Families involved with the child welfare and family justice system are treated fairly, have their rights respected and are able to make informed decisions;
- Children and families get the help they need, so wherever possible children can live safely and flourish within their family network;
- All children, including those in care, have lasting and supportive relationships to sustain them throughout their lives;
- Our child welfare and family justice system – and wider society – promotes social justice and create conditions that enable children to achieve their potential;
- Children and families' voices and experiences drive decision making at an individual and strategic level within the child welfare and family justice system.



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FRG Limited  
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