Voices From Care Cymru

England & Wales · Charity number 1108430

Details

Other names	VOICES FROM CARE, VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	03261608
Registered	2005-03-04
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	45the Parade Roath Cardiff CF24 3AB
Phone	02920451431
Email	info@vfcc.org.uk
Website	vfcc.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE SPIRITUAL, EDUCATIONAL AND PHYSICAL WELFARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN WALES WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN LOOKED AFTER BY A LOCAL AUTHORITY OR A VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION BY:A) ANY MEANS THAT IS CHARITABLE;B) INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS;C) IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SERVICES TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN WALES.

Activities: To advance the spiritual, educational and physical welfare of children in and from care by involving them in the decision making process and improving the effectiveness of services to them. To form forums of young people in and from care to provide them with advice and support in dealing with their problems, education and seaking employment. To increase their self esteem & confidence.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WALES.
- Throughout Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£870,055	£1,092,464	£510,229	21
2024-03-31	£949,646	£1,029,942	£732,638	21
2023-03-31	£1,001,830	£802,902	£777,455	18
2022-03-31	£865,927	£709,605	£539,402	18
2021-03-31	£824,159	£690,345	£383,080	18

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
CATRIONA ANN WILLIAMS	Chair	2006-09-30
CRAIG ANTHONY MEAD		2005-02-19
GRAHAM RODDIS		2012-01-27
Georgia Toman		2025-06-01
Ian Harvey		2018-04-05
Jeffery Champney-Smith		2018-04-05
Melissa Noot		2023-11-30
ROGER BISHOP		2014-11-20
Rosemary Squires		2025-06-01

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Voices From Care Cymru

England & Wales - Charity number 1108430

Accounts

Charity number: 1108430

Company number: 03261608 (England and Wales)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

FOR

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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Chief Executive's Report
For the Year Ending 31 March 2025

A Year of Progress, Partnership, and Purpose

This past year has been one of remarkable momentum and meaningful impact for Voices From Care Cymru. Grounded in the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, we have continued to champion the voices of care experienced children and young people across Wales—ensuring they are not only heard but are central to shaping the systems that affect their lives.

Driving Radical Reform

The Radical Reform Declaration, co-created by Welsh Ministers and our Young Ambassadors, was formally signed in May 2023—a landmark moment in our journey toward systemic change. This was followed by a second National Summit in North Wales in October, ensuring that young people from all communities had a platform to influence reform.

In March 2024, we hosted a Follow-Up National Summit where Welsh Ministers reported back directly to care experienced young people. This level of transparency and accountability is unprecedented and sets a new standard for co-production in public service reform. Another Summit is already in planning for 2024–2025.

Our young people continue to play a vital role in national governance structures, including the Transformation Delivery Board and the Corporate Parenting Implementation Group, participating as equals alongside senior professionals.

Following the transition in Welsh Government leadership, we have supported young people in building constructive relationships with new Ministers, ensuring continuity in our advocacy and influence.

We've also strengthened cross-party engagement through our role as secretariat for the Cross-Party Group on Children in Our Care. This group is now working on a legislative proposal to embed the best of the radical reform initiatives into law.

When the Welsh Government's initial response to the Children, Young People and Education Committee's report fell short, we acted. Drawing on the lived experience of young people, we submitted a compelling evidence-based report that led to significant revisions in the Government's position.

Looking ahead, we will co-develop a Manifesto for Change with care experienced young people in preparation for the 2026 Senedd elections.

Research, Consultation, and Collaboration

Our partnership with CASCADE at Cardiff University continues to thrive. This year, young people have contributed to research on the Welsh Government's Basic Income Pilot and evaluated the Looked After Children Nurse service. Through peer research training, they are not just participants—they are leaders in shaping knowledge and policy.

Wellbeing: Supporting the Whole Person

Our wellbeing services have expanded significantly. We launched a range of new resources, including our innovative Bibliotherapy Journal, designed to support emotional self-regulation and self-care.

We provided direct support to 117 young people and facilitated peer support cafés for students, care experienced parents, LGBT+ youth, and those navigating mental health challenges. These spaces have become vital communities of mutual support.

Our Sky's the Limit project, launched this year, is already making a difference for children aged 8 to 14 in care—offering creative, community-based activities that build confidence and connection.

We've also deepened our work with care experienced young men in the criminal justice system. From regular groups in Berwyn Prison to new partnerships with Cardiff and Parc Prisons, we are creating spaces for expression, healing, and advocacy. A powerful example was the play written and performed by care experienced prisoners, attended by Welsh Ministers. Their voices were also heard at the March 2024 Summit, calling for urgent action to prevent others from following the same path.

Looking Forward

As we move into the next year, our focus remains clear: to amplify the voices of care experienced children and young people, to influence lasting change, and to ensure that every young person in care feels seen, supported, and empowered.

With Gratitude

To our Board of Trustees—thank you for your unwavering guidance and belief in our mission. To our dedicated staff—your passion and commitment to children's rights; are the heartbeat of this organisation. To our Patron, Michael Sheen—your continued support means the world to us.

And most importantly, to the care experienced children and young people we work with your courage, honesty, and vision inspire everything we do. Diolch yn fawr i chi i gyd.

[_____]
Chief Executive
Voices From Care Cymru

Co-Chair's Statement

For the Year Ending 31 March 2025

Over the past year, there have been numerous accomplishments, and as Co-Chairs, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the care experienced children and young people who have generously volunteered their time. Their courage and dedication have been vital in helping policymakers gain a deeper understanding of their lives, identifying areas that require improvement, and suggesting effective solutions. The ongoing engagement of the care experienced community continues to inform and influence government actions at all levels.

The working relationship established through the Declaration with the Welsh Government has been further strengthened by a variety of activities. The sustained involvement of many young people has been crucial in ensuring continued progress. Their efforts have also led to meaningful changes in policy through persuasive advocacy.

We are also proud to highlight the work of our Carmarthenshire regional group, who came together to create The Adaptable Chef — a cookbook of simple, affordable recipes designed to support care-experienced young people in supported accommodation. Launched on 29 August, this project is more than a recipe book. It is a youth-led resource that builds confidence, independence, and community. We want to thank every young person involved for their dedication and for showing how care-experienced voices can lead positive change for their peers.

The VFCC project, The Sky's the Limit, has played an important role in making sure that the perspectives of younger children are reflected in policy development. The Well-being service has provided essential support to many children and young people.

Our funders are integral to the success of VFCC's work, enabling us to improve the lives of care experienced children and young people now and in the future. We offer our sincere thanks to all our funders and to our Patron, Michael Sheen.

Finally, it is vital that children and young people have access to relevant information and the support they need to gain the confidence to express their views to policymakers. We are deeply grateful to our staff team for their commitment and hard work throughout the year.

Catriona Williams OBE

Reference and administrative details

Company Registration number:

3261608

Charity Number:
1108430

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

Catriona Williams – Chair
Jo- Anne Griffith – Co Chair (resigned 25 June 2025)
Graham Roddis – Treasurer
Jeffery Champney-Smith
Roger Bishop
Ian Harvey
Craig Mead
Rhian Thomas (resigned 25 June 2025)
Melissa Noot
Sophie Laders (resigned 22 October 2025)
Louise Roberts (resigned 22 October 2025)
Rosemary Squires – co-opted (3 March 2025)
Georgia Toman – co-opted (3 March 2025)

Company Secretary
D A Jones

Chief Executive
D A Jones

Registered Office
45 The Parade, Roath, Cardiff CF24 3AB

Auditors
Hodge Bakshi - Churchgate House, 3 Church Road, Cardiff CF14 2DX

Bankers
Barclays Bank PLC - 28 Queen Street, St Davids Centre Cardiff CF10 2BY

CCLA Investment Management Limited, COIF, Charities Deposit Fund - One Angel Lane, London EC4R 3AB

CAF Account - 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Objectives and Activities

Voices From Care Cymru (VFCC) exists to advance the spiritual, educational, and physical welfare of care-experienced young people in Wales. Our mission is rooted in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ensuring that young people's voices are central to decision-making and service delivery.

We do this by:

- Gathering and representing the views of young people at all levels of authority in Wales.
- Providing advice, advocacy, and wellbeing support.
- Encouraging local and national participation frameworks to amplify youth voices.
- Supporting peer research and collaboration with partners like Cardiff University.
- Promoting training for service providers to improve outcomes for care-experienced children.

Our work is guided by safeguarding duties under the Children Acts, Rights of Children and Young Persons Measure, and the Social Care and Wellbeing Act.

Public Benefit

VFCC complies with Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act. Our services deliver clear public benefit by:

- Promoting knowledge of rights.
- Providing information and emotional support.
- Facilitating access to education, volunteering, and employment.
- Advocating for systemic change in Welsh Government policy.

This ensures that the care-experienced community has a stronger voice and better access to opportunities across Wales.

Achievements and Performance 2024–2025

Radical Reform and Government Engagement

The Radical Reform Declaration, signed in 2023, has continued to shape our advocacy. VFCC hosted national summits in Cardiff and North Wales, enabling over **65** young ambassadors to question Ministers directly. A third summit in March 2024 allowed Ministers to report back, setting a new benchmark for accountability. Following a change in First Minister, young people secured reassurances that Radical Reform would remain a government priority. VFCC also provided evidence to the Senedd, helping to secure commitments to end profit in children's care.

Corporate Parenting and Charter Work

Young people contributed directly to the Corporate Parenting Implementation Group, strengthening the Charter and Toolkit. They emphasised the need for real, measurable commitments and helped draft a Care Leavers Commitment for Wales.

Research and Consultation

Through partnerships with CASCADE and Coram Voice, young people informed the Basic Income Pilot's evaluation, including exit strategies and financial transition resources. Padlets and digital tools were produced to support budgeting, wellbeing, and rights awareness.

Representation and Advocacy

Our young ambassadors contributed to the Welsh Youth Parliament, the Five Nations One Voice Coalition, and UK-wide exchanges. Care Day 2024 saw the launch of the *Care Experience Scarf* campaign, symbolising a care system built on love.

Wellbeing and Peer Support

VFCC delivered **1,384** structured wellbeing sessions annually, supporting **125** young people directly. **158** engaged in wellbeing events and activities. The *Sky's the Limit* project supported younger children through creative programmes. Peer Support Cafés grew to include pilots for neurodivergent young people and Welsh speakers, while new groups supported parents, LGBT+ youth, and students. Work in prisons expanded to three peer support groups, creating platforms for advocacy and rehabilitation.

Impact Summary

- **125** young people accessed direct wellbeing services.
- **158** engaged in wellbeing events and activities.
- **74** new members (aged 8–23) joined VFCC.
- **1,384** structured sessions delivered annually.
- **65** young people involved in summits and influencing activities.
- **3** prisons engaged in peer support programmes.

Annual Totals and Observations

The **annual breakdown** of activity shows a significant scale of delivery across counselling, wellbeing, influencing, and group work. The largest share of sessions was delivered under *Wellbeing* (948 sessions), highlighting the increasing demand for emotional and mental health support. Participation and Influencing accounted for 220 sessions, demonstrating the strong role of young people in shaping policy. Smaller but essential contributions came from Counselling (100 sessions), Enquiries (28), Multi-Agency Working (56), and Getting Ready group work (32).

Observation:

- Demand for wellbeing support continues to rise, reflecting both the need for structured sessions and the effectiveness of new projects like the *Wellbeing Room* and *Sky's the Limit*.
- Influencing sessions confirm that young people are not just recipients of services but active leaders in advocacy and reform.
- Smaller session categories such as counselling and enquiries remain critical touchpoints, often serving as gateways to longer-term engagement.

This annual overview underlines VFCC's dual impact: **supporting the whole person through wellbeing services while simultaneously empowering care-experienced young people to influence systemic reform.**

Looking Forward

VFCC will co-develop a *Manifesto for Change* for the 2026 Senedd elections, expand trauma-informed wellbeing services, and strengthen partnerships in education, housing, and employment. We remain committed to embedding Radical Reform and building a stigma-free, love-led care system for Wales.

Organisational Overview

Voices From Care Cymru (VFCC) continued its mission to support care experienced children and young people across Wales. Activities included advocacy, wellbeing support, and community events such as cooking sessions, beach parties, and the Sing Proud Choir.

Key Highlights

- VFCC strengthened its policy influence, with some manifesto asks from the 2021 Senedd election incorporated into government programmes.
- Expanded collaboration with organisations supporting kinship carers and deepened evidence-based advocacy.
- Plans include supporting younger children (8–14), expanding peer support cafes, and refreshing the Five Nations Partnership.

Financial Review

For the year ended 31 March 2025 the charity recorded:

- A deficit: £222,409 (2024: deficit of £80,296)
- Total Income: £870,055 (2024: £949,646)
- Total Expenditure: £1,092,464 (2024: £1,029,942)

As at 31 March 2025 the charity funds were;

- Net Assets: £510,229 (2024: £732,638)
- Unrestricted Funds: £493,057
- Restricted Funds: £17,172

Reserves & Designated Funds

Trustees monitor progress towards achieving the Strategic Plan and have reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with guidance from the Charity Commission.

Trustees have considered the reserves required by the charity in the event of a funding crisis and have set a target equal to four months' running costs. Reserves can be used to sustain essential operations in periods of financial difficulty, and in exceptional circumstances, for other purposes agreed by the Trustees. The organisation raises funds by various means and continues on a path of diversifying its income streams.

The Trustees maintain free reserves (i.e. reserves drawn from funds which have no restrictions on their use within VFCC) at a level that is at least equivalent to four months' running costs. At the time of writing running costs are approximately £60,000/month, setting the desired reserve level at £220,000. This is in addition to any designated funds.

- General Reserves Target: £220,000 (4 months' running costs).

Designated Funds:

- Business Development: £70,000
  The business development expenditure reserve is established because it is important that the charity maximises its income and reduces overall expenditure when possible. Therefore, developing new income streams, strengthening existing ones and improving efficiency are a priority.
- Project Closure: £90,000
  Growth of activity and hence income streams in particular from projects give cause for the trustees to consider the costs associated with project closure and redundancy costs. This designated reserve has been established to ensure sufficient funds are available when projects come to an end; and if the organisation needs to relocate, and/or develop new offices. The trustees feels that a desired level of £90,000 is required.
- Property Fund: for future rental, office development, and dilapidation costs £50,000
  To cover the costs of either
  (i) investment in a property of our own or/provision in respect of future rental costs/ office development and
  (ii) provision in respect of dilapidation (repairs required during or the end of the tenancy).

Risk Management

Major risks identified include loss of funding and reputation. Mitigation includes annual reviews, action plans, and dispute resolution frameworks.

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

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

Governance & Structure

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

- Governed by a board of up to 10 trustees (4 member-nominated, 6 professional).
- Sub-committees for finance and HR.
- Trustees and key staff undergo enhanced DBS checks.
- Key management includes the Chief Executive, Programmes Director, and Policy Lead Manager.

Investment powers

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

Constitution

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

Trustees' Responsibilities

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make sound judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business
- Observe the methods and principles of the SORP

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. 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.

In accordance with company law, as the charity trustees, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity auditors are unaware; and
- as the trustees of the charity, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with The Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Issued in January 2019).

STATEMENT TO AUDITORS

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by the Charities Act 2011) of which the charity's auditors are unaware and each Trustee has taken steps that he ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

In accordance with the company articles, a resolution proposing that Hodge Bakshi will be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put to General Meeting

The trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees

.....	.....
Mr. G Roddis	Mr. J Champney-Smith
Dated 28 October 2025	Dated 28 October 2025

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Voices From Care Cymru

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Voices From Care Cymru ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise Statement of Financial Activity, balance sheet, cash flow and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 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 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 Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the 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 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustee's 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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 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, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's 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 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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the 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 the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

•adequate and proper 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.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the Trustees 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 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Voices From Care Cymru

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud.

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:

We obtain an understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, by reading the Charity's policies and procedures and carrying out audit work to ensure that the scope of its authorisation and the effectiveness of its control environment are maintained, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable, which includes the Companies Act and Charity Act, and how the entity is complying with those frameworks. Based on this understanding, we 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. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which include:

1. Assessing the extent of compliance with rules and regulations specifically in relation to Charities Act 2011 and employment laws which are considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the Charity through enquiry of the trustees and senior management team and inspection of records including review of board minutes during and subsequent to the year ended 31 March 2025.
2. Reviewing financial statement disclosure and verifying to supporting documentation, which included Trustee board minutes, to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

3. Performing audit work to mitigate risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

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 instance of non-compliance. 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.

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

Hodge Bakshi is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charitable company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

JJH

James Burnett ACA ACCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Hodge Bakshi Statutory Auditors
Churchgate House
3 Church Road
Whitchurch
Cardiff
CF14 2DX

28 *October 2025*

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Including income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 £	2024 £
INCOME						
Donations and Legacies	2	**21,460**	-	-	**21,460**	17,561
Charitable activities	3	**125,413**	-	**722,233**	**847,646**	931,108
Investments	4	**949**	-	-	**949**	977
Total income		**147,822**	-	**722,233**	**870,055**	949,646
EXPENDITURE						
Charitable activities	7	**106,423**	-	**986,041**	**1,092,464**	1,029,942
Total expenditure		**106,423**	-	**986,041**	**1,092,464**	1,029,942
Net (outgoing) /income and net movement in funds for the year before transfers		**41,399**	-	**(263,808)**	**(222,409)**	(80,296)
Transfers between funds	14	**(33,896)**	-	**33,896**	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		**7,503**	-	**(229,912)**	**(222,409)**	(80,296)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward 1 April 2024		**275,554**	**210,000**	**247,084**	**732,638**	812,934
Total funds carried forward 31 March 2025		**283,057**	**210,000**	**17,172**	**510,229**	732,638

An income and expenditure account has not been produced as the Statement of Financial Activities represents all the income & expenditure of the Charity.

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.

The notes form part of these financial statements.

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Charity number: 1108430

Company number: 03261608

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS:					
Tangible assets	11		**10,483**		19,460
CURRENT ASSETS:					
Debtors	12	**88,377**		154,853	
Cash at bank		**619,323**		640,546	
		707,700		795,399	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	13	**207,954**		82,221	
NET CURRENT ASSETS:			**499,746**		713,178
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES:			**510,229**		732,638
FUNDS:					
Unrestricted funds:					
Unrestricted funds:		**283,057**		275,554	
Designated funds	15	**210,000**		210,000	
			493,057		485,554
Restricted funds	14		**17,172**		247,084
NET ASSETS			**510,229**		732,638

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 2025, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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 and 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 Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 28 October 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Trustee
Mr G Roddie

Trustee
Mr J Champney-Smith

The notes form part of these financial statements.

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity number: 1108430
Company number: 3261608

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities				
Cash generated from operations		(20,666)		(25,999)
Investing activities				
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,506)		-	
Investment income received	949		977	
		(557)		977
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(21,223)		(25,022)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		640,546		665,568
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		619,323		640,546

Cash generated from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
(Deficit) for the year	(222,409)	(80,296)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(949)	(977)
Depreciation of fixed assets	10,483	6,487
Movements in working capital		
Decrease / (Increase) in debtors	66,476	33,115
(Decrease) / Increase in creditors	48,372	1,304
(Decrease) / increase in deferred income	77,361	14,368
Net cash used in operating activities	(20,666)	(25,999)

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Charity information

Voices From Care Cymru is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 45, The Parade, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3AB.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£)

1.2 Going Concern

These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees have prepared forecasts for the next two years. The trustees believe that these forecasts are based on realistic income assumptions and are confident that the charity will continue to be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

The charity has considered the impact of not receiving the same level of funding as in the past and has factored these assumptions into its cash flow forecasts and believe the charity will be able to continue in operation for the foreseeable future, albeit in a significantly reduced manner.

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity will have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees have reviewed the reserves policy which supports the long-term business plan of the Charity. The trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Significant Judgements and Estimates

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. Impairment of debtors.

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 if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Impairment of debtors
The charity makes an estimate of the recoverable value of trade and other debtors. When assessing impairment of debtors, the Trustees considers factors including the current credit rating of the debtor, ageing profile of the debtor as well as historical experience.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

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

Incoming resources (Continued)

1.5 Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the Friends is not recognised and refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

1.6 Resources expended

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

Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

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

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fee and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity costs category on a basis consistent with the use of resources. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in the notes

All costs all allocated between expenditure categories on a basis designated to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

Expenditure is reported gross due to the charity not being VAT registered.

1.7 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.

Restricted funds are funds that are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or that have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in note 14 of the financial statements.

Designated funds comprise of unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund are set out in note 15 of the financial statements.

1.8 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets held for the charity's own use are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives:

Fixtures and Fittings	25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	33% on cost

At each balance sheet date, the charity reviews the carrying amount of its tangible fixed assets to determine whether there is any indication that any items have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss, if any. Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of the asset, the Charity estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

1.9 Taxation

As a charity, Voices From Care Cymru is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 478 of the Taxes Act 2010 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects only. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

1.10 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. Payments to defined contribution retirement schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due. The pension contribution of the charity is at 8%.

The charge to income or expenditure in respect of the defined contribution pension scheme was £34,195 (2024: £25,458).

1.11 Cash and Cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial instruments and include cash in hand and bank accounts.

1.12 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 "Basic Financial Instruments".

Financial instruments are recognised when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets are 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.

1.13 Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include prepayments, other 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 financial asset is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

1.14 Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other creditors, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financial transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest.
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 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.

1.15 Investment income

Investment income is included when receivable.

1.16 Operating lease commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Income & expenditure account in equal amounts over the periods of the leases.

1.17 Gifts in Kind

Gifts in kind are valued at the invoice value for the service received.

1.18 Transfer Between Funds

Whilst the charity seeks to obtain sufficient funds to ensure each project is self-sustaining this is not always possible and a portion of the core funds have to be applied to ensure that the projects can continue. The application of core funds to support the projects is reflected by the transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds. Funds transfers also relate to projects that have ended and the charity has no expectation that the grants should be repaid to the funders.

1.19 Volunteers

The value of the services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial

Further details of their contribution is provided in note 2 to these financial statements and in the trustees' report.

1.20 Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the assets cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

1.21 Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is a reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

Income from government grants comprises performance related grants made by Welsh Government to fund the advancement of the spiritual, educational and physical welfare of young people in Wales. See note 3 for more information and to the amount and source of these grants.

A grant that specifies performance conditions are recognised as income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised with deferred income.

1.22 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.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM GENERATED FUNDS

Donations and legacies	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	2024
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	**21,460**	-	**21,460**	17,561

The charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the

3 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Advice, Support, Participation & Collaboration	13,630	41,866
Central Administration	31,783	47,164
Grants -Restricted	722,233	842,078
Grants -Unrestricted - The Esme Fairbairn Foundation	80,000	-
		-
Total income from charitable activities	847,646	931,108
Analysed by fund		
Unrestricted funds	125,413	89,030
Restricted funds	722,233	842,078
	847,646	931,108
Grants		
S.S.S.G (Welsh Government)	265,000	324,000
National Summit Follow up Activity Grant (Welsh Government)	28,000	-
Child Poverty Inovation and Supporting Communities Grant (W	35,217	-
Education Grant (Welsh Government)	4,830	-
Homelessness Prevention (Welsh Government)	131,016	181,922
The Henry Smith Charity	19,150	55,450
BBC Children in Need - Million And Me Grant	122,000	112,000
British & Foreign School Society (BFSS)	14,334	28,905
Charles Hayward Foundation Grant	25,000	-
National Lottery Community Fund	14,368	131,051
National Lottery Shine that Light Again	54,568	-
5NIV Funding from Paul Hamlyn Foundation	8,750	8,750
	722,233	842,078

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024
	£	£
Interest receivable	949	977

6 ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Research	Canvas YP	Encourage, Support & Develop-ment	Raise Participatio n/Profile	Advocacy	Provide/ Assisting Oppor-tunities	Total	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	21,708	62,520	52,968	134,591	66,861	95,516	434,164	458,838
Depreciation and impairment	338	1,384	2,115	2,970	1,913	2,306	11,026	6,487
Travel	804	3,295	5,036	7,072	4,554	5,491	26,251	19,163
Volunteer expenses	373	1,528	2,336	3,280	2,112	2,547	12,176	9,321
Consultancy	920	3,771	5,764	8,094	5,212	6,285	30,047	18,626
Payroll and pension preparation	156	232	79	770	156	153	1,546	1,536
Occupancy	1,437	5,892	9,006	12,646	8,144	9,820	46,945	30,864
HR, Legal and professional	467	1,915	2,927	4,110	2,646	3,191	15,256	8,704
Office running costs	722	2,960	4,524	6,353	4,091	4,933	23,582	14,516
Communication and facilitation	991	4,065	6,213	8,725	5,618	6,775	32,388	41,473
Bank charges	26	42	10	141	26	77	321	563
Grant Partner Payment	2,018	8,273	12,645	17,758	11,435	13,789	65,918	68,203
Training and meeting costs	4,685	19,684	30,415	41,925	27,402	24,280	148,390	112,065
	34,644	115,560	134,038	248,434	140,169	175,165	848,010	790,359
Share of support costs (see note 7)	17,322	28,890	33,509	74,530	35,042	43,790	233,084	230,733
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	348	1,427	2,181	3,063	1,972	2,378	11,370	8,850
	52,314	145,877	169,728	326,027	177,184	221,333	1,092,464	1,029,942
Analysed by fund								
Unrestricted funds	5,321	15,325	12,983	32,991	16,389	23,414	106,423	129,883
Restricted funds	49,302	141,990	120,297	305,673	151,850	216,929	986,041	900,059
	54,623	157,315	133,280	338,664	168,239	240,343	1,092,464	1,029,942

7 SUPPORT COSTS

	Support Costs	Governance costs	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	177,899	-	177,899	195,139
Occupancy costs	30,044	-	30,044	19,948
HR Costs	8,848	-	8,848	5,032
Office running costs	14,856	-	14,856	9,193
Payroll	1,437	-	1,437	1,421
Audit fees - non audit	-	2,400	2,400	-
Audit fees	-	8,970	8,970	8,850
	233,084	11,370	244,454	239,583

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £11,370 (2025: £8,970 for audit fees and £2,400 for accountancy fees).

8 TRUSTEES

The trustees of the charity were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity. One trustee was reimbursed £63 expenses during the year (2024: £50). One charity trustee received payment of £250 for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024: £nil).

9 EMPLOYEES

The average number of employees analysed by function was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Direct charitable expenditure	16	16
Management and administration	5	5
Total	21	21

EMPLOYMENT COSTS	**2025 £**	2024 £
Wages & Salaries	568,806	593,483
Social Security Costs	48,245	40,971
Pensions Costs	34,195	25,458
	651,246	659,912

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£80,000 -£89,999	1	1

Key management personnel

The gross benefits received by key management personnel of the charity were £256,844 (2024: £254,148).

10 NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

The operating deficit (2024 : deficit) is stated after charging:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of owned assets	10,483	6,487
Rent	28,944	28,944
Auditors remuneration	8,970	7,000
Accountancy and taxation advice	2,400	1,850

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures & Fittings	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
COST:			
At 1 April 2024	**16,370**	**88,192**	**104,562**
Additions	**-**	**1,506**	**1,506**
At 31 March 2025	**16,370**	**89,698**	**106,068**
DEPRECIATION:			
At 1 April 2024	**16,370**	**68,732**	**78,615**
Charge for year	**-**	**10,483**	**10,483**
At 31 March 2025	**16,370**	**79,215**	**89,098**
NET BOOK VALUE:			
At 31 March 2025	**-**	**10,483**	**10,483**
At 31 March 2024	-	19,460	25,947

12 DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Debtors	**2,500**	4,940
Prepayments and accrued income	**85,877**	149,913
	88,377	154,853

13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Creditors	**106,985**	59,603
Deferred income	**77,361**	14,368
Accruals	**23,608**	8,250
	207,954	82,221

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income		
Balance brought forward	**14,367**	-
Income received in the year	**77,361**	14,368
Released to income	**(14,367)**	-
Balance carried forward	**77,361**	14,368

Income is recognised when the charity has met the conditions of the grant. Until those conditions are met income is deferred.

14 RESTRICTED FUNDS

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

The income funds of the charity include

	Balance 1.4.24	Income	Expenses	Funds Transfer	Balance 31.3.25
	£	£	£	£	£
S.S.S.G (Welsh Government)	2,624	265,000	289,813	22,189	-
National Summit Follow up Activity Grant (Welsh Government)	-	28,000	28,000	-	-
Child Poverty Innovation and Supporting Communities Grant (Welsh Government)	-	35,217	35,217	-	-
Education Grant (Welsh Government)	-	4,830	4,830	-	-
Homelessness Prevention (Welsh Government)	54,408	131,016	185,424	-	-
The Henry Smith Charity	42,749	19,150	51,742	-	10,157
BBC Children in Need - Million And Me Grant	(2,175)	122,000	118,050	-	1,775
British & Foreign School Society (BFSS)	8,928	14,334	38,153	14,891	-
Charles Hayward Foundation Grant	-	25,000	25,000	-	-
National Lottery - Community Fund	105,618	-	102,434	(3,184)	-
National Lottery - Shine that Light Again	-	54,568	49,328	-	5,240
National Lottery - PROUD	-	14,368	14,368	-	-
WVCA	1,891	-	1,891	-	-
WVCA (RFW)	3,280	-	3,280	-	-
WVCA (TSRF)	21,011	-	21,011	-	-
5NIV Funding from Paul Hamlyn Foundation	8,750	8,750	17,500	-	-
	247,084	722,233	986,041	33,896	17,172

The funds transfer relate to projects that have ended and the charity has no expectation that the grants should be repaid to the funders. The Trustees consider that they have followed the SORP guidelines to enable the funds to be transferred.

S.S.S.G (Welsh Government) : to deliver a number of outcomes related to our wellbeing and information services and to support those aspects of our influencing programme that support Welsh Government priorities.

National Summit Follow up Activity Grant (Welsh Government) : This grant was provided by Welsh Government to enable VFCC to work with a wider range of young people to follow up on the issues raised in the Summit between care experienced young people and Welsh Ministers in March 2024 and to prepare for the new Summit planned for May 2025. It was used to fund a series of regional workshops and the time of a specialist consultant we brought in to increase the capacity of the Influencing team.

Child Poverty Innovation and Supporting Communities Grant (Welsh Government) : to enabled us to work with our partners Children in Wales to develop a suite of resources to help professionals support care experienced young people in managing their finances successfully, and to develop a trauma informed training package for professionals to support them in using these resources.

Education Grant (Welsh Government) : to enable a consultation with care experienced unaccompanied asylum seekers about their experiences of the education system in Wales and what they needed from the system. The evidence they provided has helped shaped new government guidance to Local Authorities.

Homelessness Prevention (Welsh Government) : to support the Getting Ready Project which prepares care experienced young people for independent living.

The Henry Smith Foundation : to fund our care experienced peer support groups.

BBC Children in Need : to support work to create national conversation on the needs of care experienced children and young people (CYP) and in particular those in the 8 - 13 age group.

British & Foreign School Society (BFSS) : to support young carers.

Charles Hayward Foundation Grant : to develop our programme of work supporting care experienced people in the criminal justice system.

Restricted funds (Continued)

National Lottery Community Fund : to create a national mental health and well-being service for care experienced young people.

National Lottery - Shine that Light Again : This major grant from the National Lottery is enabling us to continue and further develop our wellbeing programme which provides trauma informed person-centred support to individual care experienced people to help them address issues effecting their lives and thrive.

National Lottery - PROUD : This grant from the National Lottery Awards for All programme enabled us to fund our annual celebration of the care experienced community. This year saw over 100 care experienced young people coming together to take part in workshops and fun activities, with 15 partner organisations also attending to promote their services and activities to young people.

WVCA (RFW) : The project will support volunteers from the care experienced community.

WVCA (TSRF) : The project will provide volunteers to support the wellbeing of future generations.

5NIV Funding from Paul Hamlyn Foundation : supports the CEO project meeting costs.
and to support the work of the Five Nations Once Voice Coalition, through which we co-operate with similar charities that support the care experienced community in Scotland, the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and England.

15 DESIGNATED FUNDS

The Trustees have designated the following designated funds to enable the charity to continue to deliver enhanced services for:

Purpose of designated fund	2024 £	provided in year £	2025 £
Business Development fund	70,000	-	70,000
Project closure	90,000	-	90,000
Building	50,000	-	50,000
	210,000	-	210,000

Business Development fund
The business development expenditure reserve is established because it is important that the charity maximises its income and reduces overall expenditure when possible. Therefore, developing new income streams, strengthening existing ones and improving efficiency are a priority. The required level of £70,000 is set aside.

Project closure
Growth of activity and hence income streams in particular from projects gives cause for the trustees to consider the costs associated with project closure and redundancy costs. This designated reserve has been established to ensure sufficient funds are available when projects come to an end; and if the organisation needs to relocate, and/or develop new offices. The trustees feel that a desired level of £90,000 is required.

DESIGNATED FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Property fund
To cover the costs of either (i) investment in a property of our own or/provision in respect of future rental costs/office development and (ii) provision in respect of dilapidation (repairs required during or the end of the tenancy).

The timescale associated with this reserve will vary depending upon project delivery.

These designation reflects the intentions as to the future application of funds as at the balance sheet date and do not reflect an external transaction or present obligation to a third party.

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted 2024	Designated 2024	Restricted 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	10,483	-	-	10,483	19,460	-	-	19,460
Net current assets	272,574	210,000	17,172	499,746	256,094	210,000	247,084	713,178
Total net assets	283,057	210,000	17,172	510,229	275,554	210,000	247,084	732,638

17 LIABILITY OF MEMBERS

The charity is limited by guarantee, not having a share capital, the word limited being omitted from its name pursuant to a licence from the Department of Trade. Each member of the Company is liable to a maximum of £1 in the event of the winding up of the Charity and is not entitled to any share in the assets of the Company.

18 OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31st March 2025, the charity had total commitments under non- cancellable operating leases over the remaining life of those leases of £69,648 (2024: £102,888).

19 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The charity and Children In Wales - Plant Yng Nghymru have common trustees.

During the year the charity paid £65,918 (2024: £46,928) to Children In Wales - Plant Yng Nghymru relating to membership, training and reimbursement for the "Getting Ready Project", £14,643 was outstanding at the year end (2024: £14,079).

There were no other related party transactions to disclose.

Voices From Care Cymru

England & Wales - Charity number 1108430

Accounts

Charity number: 1108430

Company number: 3261608 (England and Wales)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FOR

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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Voices From Care Cymru

Chief Executive's Statement

For the Year Ending 31 March 2024.

Chief Executive's Comments

This year has seen Voices From Care Cymru go from strength to strength. Centring the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in all that we do, we have continued to empower care experienced children and young people to play a full part in their communities, to make changes for the better in their own lives, and to engage with decisions makers to deliver radical reform of the care system in Wales.

Influencing

The Radical Reform Declaration agreed between Welsh Ministers and care experienced Young Ambassadors at the first National Summit in December 2022 was finalised, and formally signed by the First Minster and representatives of Young Ambassadors at a public ceremony in May 2023. An additional Summit was held in October 2023 in the North, to ensure that voices of care experienced children and young people from communities across Wales continue to be heard in the radical reform process. The Deputy Minister for Social Services attended with two of her senior advisers, and they heard from 17 care experienced young people about their experiences and their views about the need for change.

In March 2024 a Follow Up National Summit was held. Welsh Ministers and their senior officials reported back to care experienced Young Ambassadors on the work done so far to deliver radical reform. This was a groundbreaking event, as it is unprecedented for Welsh Ministers to show this level of accountability and transparency to any group of service users. A further Summit is planned for the year 2024 – 2025.

Voices From Care Cymru has continued to support care experienced young people to participate in the structures set up by Welsh Government to oversee the delivery of the radical reform programme, including the Transformation Delivery Board and the Corporate Parenting Implementation Group. Young People participate in these groups on an equal basis with the most senior professionals in the field.

Following the resignation of former First Minister Mark Drakeford we began the process of supporting care experienced young people in developing positive working relationships with the new Ministers.

We have continued to work with Senedd Members across Party to strengthen their understanding of the issues faced by the care experienced community. We have provided the secretariat for the Cross-Party Group on Children in Our Care, and that Group has begun work to develop a new legislative proposal to enshrine in law some of the positive initiatives developed through the radical reform process.

The Welsh Government's initial response to the Children, Young People and Education Committee's Report on Radical Reform was disappointing. Using evidence provided by care experienced children and young people we provided the Deputy Minister with a report suggesting that the initial response be modified and her appearance before the Committee to discuss her response in detail showed the impact of that evidence, with several of the Government's initial responses modified or qualified.

Next year will see a further Follow Up Summit and work with care experienced children and young people to develop a Manifesto for the next Senedd election in 2026.

Voices From Care Cymru

Chief Executive's Statement

For the Year Ending 31 March 2024.

Chief Executive's Comments

In addition to our national influencing work we have continued to enable young people to contribute to a number of consultations. Our ongoing partnership with Cascade at Cardiff University enables young people to advise on academic projects studying the experiences of care experienced young people and their families. There has been a particular focus this year on the evaluation of the Welsh Government Basic Income Pilot. Young people have taken part in training to enable them to develop skills as peer researchers, and they have played an important role in evaluating the Looked After Children Nurse service for the NHS in Wales.

Wellbeing

This has been a busy and successful year for our wellbeing services.

Our wellbeing team have developed a range of new resources to support care experienced children and young people with their wellbeing. We are particularly proud of our Bibliotherapy Journal which is designed to support emotional self-regulation and self-care.

VFCC have provided direct support to 146 individual young people, and our online peer support café's have enabled care experienced young people with shared experiences to support one another. Currently we support students, care experienced parents, LGBT+ young people and young people needing support with mental health and wellbeing through the peer support cafes.

We have been particularly pleased to launch our **Sky's the Limit project,** supporting children aged 8 to 14 in the care system to develop and strengthen their links in the community, taking part in fun and creative activities and supporting each other at care experienced meet ups. It is early days, but the in initial responses from care experienced children and from their carers have been overwhelmingly positive.

VFCC have continued supporting care experienced young men in the criminal justice system. We run a regular group with care experienced prisoners in Berwyn Prison and are developing our relationship with Cardiff Prison. Our partnership with Parc Prison in Bridgend saw us bringing the Welsh Minister for Social Justice and the Deputy Minister for Social Services into the prison to view a play written and performed by care experienced prisoners. Care experienced prisoners sent a presentation to the Follow Up Summit in March 2023, urging Ministers and other decision makers to listen to children in the care system and act on their concerns. We will look to expand our work with this highly vulnerable section of the care experienced community in the coming year.

This work could enable a preventative approach in reducing numbers of the care experienced population from entering prison systems.

Conclusion.

In conclusion I would like to thank all our trustees. I can't say how much we value their expertise, support and guidance. Our staff are second to none in their passionate commitment to children's rights – I am very proud to work alongside them, and thank them all for the dedication they show every day to our care experienced community.

Voices From Care Cymru

Chief Executive's Statement

For the Year Ending 31 March 2024.

Chief Executive's Comments

We are so grateful to our Patron – Actor and Activist Micheal Sheen - who always finds time in his unbelievably busy schedule to show support for our young people.

And above all, I want to thank all the wonderful care experienced children and young people we work with. They inspire us every day with their courage, and their honesty in speaking out and using their voices to deliver change is what keeps us going. Diolch yn fawr I chi I gyd!

.....

Mrs D Jones

Dated 3.12.24 .

Voices From Care Cymru

Chief Executive's Statement

For the Year Ending 31 March 2024.

Co-Chair's Statement

Looking back on the year, the work of VFCC staff and care experienced children and young people has gone from strength to strength. The reach of the organisation has continued to grow throughout Wales with increased numbers of young people and children actively involved.

Notably there has been a considerable increase in the number of occasions whereby care experienced children and young people have influenced decision makers, such as Welsh Government and the Senedd when law, policies and practice are being developed. The organisation has actively ensured that their voices are heard because care experienced children and young people have the expertise due to their personal experience which cannot be argued against. Facts are facts and the power of young people articulately expressing what they know what works well and what must improve, has resulted in a significant ongoing dialogue with policy makers. Our young Advisory Group has ensured that a wide range of views are collected, and that evidence presented to policy makers reflects this.

The continuing development of the work of VFCC Young Ambassadors has resulted in both increased numbers together with their enhanced knowledge and confidence when dealing with policy makers and the media throughout Wales.

During the year we continued to successfully increase and diversify funding and expanded the wellbeing services with new projects such as for 8 to14 year olds. Many supportive resources were developed, and the valued peer support groups continued to thrive.

We are extremely grateful to all our funders for their recognition of the importance of VFCC work in trying to improve the lives of care experienced children and young people in Wales.

We are also exceptionally grateful to the amazing young people and children who have so generously given of their time and of themselves and to the wonderful staff who have worked so hard to ensure they are well supported.

Across the UK and Ireland we have shared and benefited from cross border knowledge and experience with similar national partner organisations. Internationally VFCC benefits from being a member of Eurochild through its network of Children in Alternative Care.

Finally, as an organisation we have many challenges ahead, but VFCC will continue to put the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the centre of our Work, across all of our governance and operational activity

Catriona Williams OBE and Jo-Anne Griffith

Voices From Care Cymru

Trustees Report

31 March 2024

Reference and administrative details
Company Registration number:
3261608

Charity Number:
1108430

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

Catriona Williams – Co Chair
Jo Anne Griffith – Co Chair
Graham Roddis – Treasurer
Jeffery Champney-Smith
Roger Bishop
Ian Harvey
Craig Mead
Rhian Thomas
Natalie Hughes
Melissa Noot
Brendan Roberts

Company Secretary
D A Jones

Chief Executive
D A Jones

Registered Office
45 The Parade, Roath, Cardiff CF24 3AB

Auditors
Hodge Bakshi - Churchgate House, 3 Church Road, Cardiff CF14 2DX

Bankers
Barclays Bank PLC - 28 Queen Street, St Davids Centre Cardiff CF10 2BY

CCLA Investment Management Limited, COIF, Charities Deposit Fund - One Angel Lane, London EC4R 3AB

CAF Account - 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Voices From Care Cymru

Trustees Report

31 March 2024

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the charity are to advance the spiritual, educational and physical welfare of young people in Wales who are or have been looked after by a local authority, third sector and private organisation by any charitable means, involving young people in the decision-making processes and improving the effectiveness of services to young people in Wales.

To achieve this Voice is from Care Cymru will:

- Canvas the views and opinions of young people who are care experienced (i.e. are or have been looked after by local authorities, third sector and private organisations) and ensure that such views are taken into account at all levels of authority in Wales;
- carry out and support research;
- encourage and support the development of local groups of young people and enable them to meet together to discuss common interests and identify and agree common goals;
- increase the profile and participation of care experienced children and young people at all levels of decision making in Wales;
- provide advice assistance and advocacy for care experienced children and young people to ensure that the legal human and civil rights are upheld; provide or assist in providing opportunities for young people who are looked after to reach their full potential.

Objectives

- Continue to monitor and identify policy and practise issues of common concern by gathering and distributing information to appropriate bodies and organisations throughout Wales.
- Represent the views of children and young people and actively campaign to improve the conditions of children and young people.
- Act as an interface on behalf of children and young people to encourage relevant bodies and organisations to take appropriate action.
- Encourage and promote the participation of children and young people within Voices from Care Cymru's operational strategy and service provision.
- Assisting the development of participation frameworks within decision making processes to further enable children and young people to have a voice.
- Promoting training for service providers and encouraging the strategic development to include children and young people within its delivery.
- Act as a safeguard within current legislation, including the Children Act 1989, the Children and Adoption Act 2002, the Children Act 2004, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Rights of Children and Young Persons Measure 2011 and the Social Care and Wellbeing Act 2016.
- Provide an independent advice support and well-being service on an ongoing basis.
- Continue to promote an support research relevant to the well-being of care experienced children and young people, including through our partnership with Cardiff University.
- Continue and further develop the corporate parenting frameworks with local authorities and other public bodies in Wales.

Voices From Care Cymru

Trustees Report

31 March 2024

How our services deliver public benefit

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

Demonstrating public benefit

The funding and objectives are specific to care experienced children and young people (looked after children and care leavers) on a Wales wide basis. This promotes benefit for this minority group, promoting further opportunities for:

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

These mechanisms allow Voices from Care Cymru to have significant impact on many relevant policy areas of the Welsh Government.

Mission statement

Voices from Care Cymru is Wales's independent agency for those dedicated to upholding the rights and welfare of children and young people who are or have been looked after. In this regard, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is key to the organisation's philosophy.

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

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

Achievements and performance 2023 - 2024

Influencing, work with Welsh Government and research

The formal signing of the Declaration agreed between Welsh Government and young people at the Summit meeting in December 2022 took place on May 10th, 2023, in Cardiff. Care experienced Young Ambassadors addressed the event, setting out the Summit process and their aspirations for the future of radically reformed services for the care experienced community now the Declaration has been agreed. The signing event was very well attended, with over 100 invitees, including leaders in service delivery. Attendees reported that they were inspired by what young people had said, and by the commitments made by the First Minster to the care experienced community in his speech.

The event was widely covered in the media, with VFCC staff preparing young people to take part in interviews in English and in Welsh.

In October 2023 VFCC organised a Summit in the North. 17 care experienced children and young people attended, ages ranging between 12 and 26. We were particularly pleased to welcome three young people with high support needs who are currently living in residential homes. It was important to be able to include their perspectives in the Summit process. The Deputy Minister met Young Ambassadors who had not participated before, while senior staff with responsibility for delivery met with experienced Young Ambassadors to discuss how the Radical Reform Declaration can be delivered. Reports following the Summit were prepared and circulated.

VFCC organised and facilitated a further National Summit on March 2nd, 2024, at Cardiff University. We had anticipated that this would take place in May, one year after the signing of the Declaration, but it was brought forward because the outgoing First Minster wished to attend to report back to young people before his resignation. The Summit was attended by 35 Young Ambassadors – some experienced and some new - and by the Minister for Social Justice, the Minister for Education, the Deputy Minister for Social Services, and the Deputy Minister for Mental Health.

Video of Scarf at Summit: https://x.com/i/status/1763908362889298371

Video snapshot of Podcast Messages from care experienced prisoners Berwyn Prison: https://x.com/i/status/1763935616079663566

In the workshops Ministers fed back to Young Ambassadors on the work they and their teams had been doing to deliver the commitments made in the Declaration and young people responded and raised new issues.

Young Ambassadors then fed back from the Workshops to the First Minister and an audience that included senior officials and the Chair of the Senedd Children Young People and Education Committee.

Feedback from the Summit was very positive, with Yong Ambassadors saying they had felt more confident in presenting their views and Ministers saying they had felt the discussions were productive as well as challenging.

We also showcased the Care Experience Scarf at the Summit, (see above) and young people said an emotional farewell to ‘their’ First Minister.

In April, following the election of the new First Minister a small group of Young Ambassadors attended the Senedd (Welsh Parliament) Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister, as the Committee had chosen the topic of care experienced children and young people for its in-depth scrutiny. Young Ambassadors were able to meet with Committee Members before the meeting and ask them to raise some points with the new First Minster. Some of the Young Ambassadors were concerned that delivering on Radical Reform might be a lower priority for the new First Minister and his team. They very much reassured by the First Minister’s response to Members’ questions.

The new First Minister has agreed to re-signed the Declaration, and Young people will also meet the new Deputy Minister for Social Care shortly and will attend the Senedd to see the laying of the new Social Care Bill that will remove profit from the children’s care system.

Elimination of profit from care, Voices from Care Cymru (VFCC) has continued to sit within the strategic meetings and provide advice and information. Young people raised this issue with Ministers both at the Summit in the North and at the National Summit. They remain overwhelmingly in favour of removing profit from care and were reassured by Ministers' commitment to ensuring that this would happen with the minimum disruption to the care of individual young people. VFFC senior staff have continued to attend the

Elimination of Profit Programme Board, consulting young people in between. VFCC staff, in consultation with young people, have responded to the Welsh Government consultations and surveys on this matter, supporting the principle of removing profit and explaining why it matters from a care experienced young person's perspective.

Following the launch of the new the **Corporate Parenting Charter** in the summer of 2023 VFCC has continued to support young people to participate in the Corporate Parenting Implementation Group. Young people have expressed their views about the importance of organisations making real, meaningful, measurable commitments when they sign up to the Charter, and to those commitments being effectively monitored. They have had input into the draft Corporate Parenting Toolkit, suggesting substantial edits after the most recent meeting. They believe that all organisations signing up to the Charter need to understand the importance of building a care system with love at its heart, and their responsibility to tackle stigma against the care experienced community.

Young people have continued to work in VFCC on developing a Care Leavers Commitment for Wales. We now have a draft ready to present to Welsh Government colleagues with a view to it acting as a supporting document for the Corporate Parenting Charter Toolkit.

We have continued to work with Welsh Government to support the delivery and evaluation of the **Basic Income Pilot** for young people leaning care. (BIP). In the first six months of this period VFCC with Coram Voice facilitated 3 meetings, 2 online and 1 face to face to consult on the baseline evaluation survey questions. VFCC has also facilitated a meeting with the Cascade research unit at Cardiff University to set up the evaluation process of the pilot and facilitated 3 face - face evaluation meetings with young people. In the second six months we facilitated two further meetings with the Cascade evaluation team, and this work will continue into the next financial year.

In the first six months of this reporting period VFCC staff worked closely with young people creating accessible information which has become part of the growing up in care guides Padlets. Further to this, VFCC has created a Basic Income Pilot Padlet in order to support the exit and financial transition of young people out of the pilot. This padlet supports the exit strategy guidance currently being implemented by Welsh Government and Local Authorities. It aims to provide relevant information to young people on budgeting for transition, additional funding and grant schemes, Universal Credit application guidance, wellbeing and additional services sign posting.

Draft of Padlet: Basic Income Pilot (padlet.com)

VFCC Operational Director continued to chair the BIP practitioner's forums in North and South Wales. During the Autumn set of forums VFCC facilitated a separate meeting with young people, looking at their needs at point of exit from the pilot in order to inform the implementation of the Pilot exit strategy.

Following the Children and Education Committees recommendations regarding radical reform and seeing developments in England, there has been much discussion with our young people around the protected characteristics narrative. Both VFCCs Operational Director and Head of Policy attended a partnership meeting to explore the impact this workstream has had in England and if in fact children and young people in care have benefited from this. Although we are still unclear of its impact, our Advisory Group and Young Ambassadors feel it is important to explore the view of Welsh care experienced children and young people. We have conducted further small-scale consultation with our members, and opinion remains split, with some seeing this as an important contribution to promoting the rights of care experienced young people and others feeling that it is at best a distraction and at worst stigmatising. The concept on care experience as a protected characteristic was discussed at the recent meeting of the **Five Nations One Voice Coalition**. There is little appetite for this across the member organisations, and a clear belief that unless it was enshrined in legislation – in England, Scotland and Wales by an amendment to the Equality Act – it would have no meaning.

Nevertheless, this remains a live issue. We will consult young people further as part of our work to develop a Manifesto around non devolved issues for the Westminster Parliamentary election.

Parliamentary Engagement - VFCC continue to provide the secretariat to the **Senedd (Welsh Parliament) Cross Party Group** on Children in Our Care. The Group has met formally five times during this reporting period, supported by additional informal meetings. Topics discussed have included independent advocacy and delivery of Radical Reform. We have facilitated the Deputy Minister to meet twice with the Cross-Party Group,

VFCC provided written evidence to the formal consultation on the proposed legislation aiming to remove profit from the provision of children's care,

highlighting the potential breach of children's rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child inherent in the current for-profit model.

VFCC provided written evidence to the **Senedd Children, Young People and Education Committee's Review into Children at the Margins** and will participate in further stakeholder events.

In July 2023 VFCC Young Ambassadors were supported to attend the Senedd to hear the debate on the Children Young People and Education Committee Report on Radical Reform. Following the debate, we provided the Deputy Minister with a written response to her Response to the Committee. We supported young people to attend the Committee meeting in September 2023 where the Deputy Minister further discussed Radical Reform with Members.

Care Day in February 2024 saw young people bring their Care Experience Scarf to the Senedd. Supported by community groups and individuals across Wales and beyond, young people have been creating what will be Wales's longest ever scarf. The Scarf is a symbol of young people's ongoing campaign to build a care system with love at its heart. In the Senedd young people challenged MSs to commit to helping build that system and to take the Scarf Challenge into their own community. Their aim is to create a Scarf made up of almost 8,000 squares – one for each child in the care system in Wales.

Scarf (image at National Summit of Young Ambassadors with the First Minister):



Welsh Youth Parliament – VFCC has continued to support a care experienced representative to the Wales Youth Parliament. Our Youth Parliament representative draws on the views of our members to ensure that the care experienced community remains central to the work of the Youth Parliament in Wales. During this reporting period we have supported our representative to attend four face-to-face meetings. Our representative has been supported to present to the Children's and Education Committee, played a central role in the Radical Reform workstream and has devised resources and videos to promote and encourage the engagement of young people in VFCC services. In February 2024 she delivered a powerful 90 Second Statement to the Youth Parliament about the radical reform process.

The Five Nations, One Voice Coalition, which brings together organisations representing the care experienced community in Wales, Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland, continues to meet on a quarterly basis. This enables us to share experience, initiatives, and good practice. One meeting this year focused on care experienced children and the criminal justice system. Our Acting Chief Executive also presented to the Group on the progress towards eliminating profit from care, and there was much interest in how this might be replicated elsewhere. The four UK organisations discussed how we might develop some common policy calls on non-devolved issues to influence parties in the run up to forthcoming Westminster Parliament elections. We have recently established a new knowledge exchange network, bringing policy officers across the network together every two months to discuss developments and share ideas.

Cascade Voices Research – Our research group facilitated by VFCC and led by the Cascade research unit at Cardiff University, sees the attendance of ten care experienced young people who have been involved in 8 meetings during this reporting period. This collaboration between VFCC and CASCADE was set up in 2014, its purpose is to bring a group of care experienced young people together to advise on research to take part consultation, collaboration, and co-production. The group meets every 2 months at VFCC offices. The group has supported research by supporting discussions and consultations on a range of topic including the following:

- Child and adolescent mental health
- Educational outcomes for care experienced children and young people.
- Exploring bullying as part of the experience of care experienced children and young people
- Advocacy services, experience of and ways to be made better.
- Exploring the role of PAs
- Exploring factors affecting care entry

In addition to participating in established research projects the group has supported the development of new research, advising researchers and enabling them to trial creative research approaches before using them in the field.

In August 2023 10 young people who are members of our internal Advisory Group undertook Peer research training with Cascade University. This training provided the understanding of how data is collected, how research is used to influence change, research methods and reporting findings. This training is the first of a series of training to be delivered to young people to prepare them for their role in scrutinizing policy and gathering data for VFCC and government workstreams.

In August 2023 VFCC entered a research partnership with a PHD student from Cardiff University, who is exploring the importance of sibling relationships for care experienced children and young people and the impact this has on their care journey. This research paper will be submitted to Welsh Government in March 2024. At this point the researcher is engaging with young people gathering the narrative to inform this paper.

The VFCC team regularly contribute to the work of the Children in Wales Policy Council. VFCC presented on the Summit and the Declaration to a Policy Council meeting in the spring 2023. We ensure that the voices of the care experienced community are heard in wider discussions about policy as it effects children and young people. Most recently we have shared the concern of other organisations represented on the Policy Council about the impact or rising levels of poverty on the numbers of children being taken into care because of neglect because their families simply cannot afford to keep them, clean, well fed and warm.

National Advisory Group, Information and support.

National Advisory Group is a reference group of care experienced children and young people that guides and supports the work of Voices From Care Cymru. The new model of the Advisory Group has been embedded during the first 6 months of this reporting period and the new structure for sub-committees has been piloted. The consultations and work of the group in the last 12 months has included:

- Radical reform – VFCC response
- Care leavers Commitment – VFCC research paper
- North Wales Summit planning
- Second National Summit planning
- Two consultation sessions with Public Health Wales about annual health checks for care experienced children and young people
- Protected Characteristics
- Cardiff and Vale wellbeing project rename.
- Educational Maintenance Allowance

In July 2023 VFCC Advisory Group travelled to Luton to support and partake in a UK wide, Australia and all Ireland care leavers information exchange event. This event provided the opportunity for young people to share the progress and development within Social Care in Wales, its motivation and commitment to radical reform and the implementation of the Basic income Pilot. The young people were able to connect with other care leavers from across the UK building their network with lived experience peers.

The Advisory Group has continued to provide advice to the VFCC Board of Trustees about the management and direction of the charity. In November 2023 the Advisory Group held its first formal election to elect young trustees on to the Board.

We have been approached by two other voluntary organisations for advice as to how they can meaningfully involve young service users in decision making in their organisations. The Advisory Group will lead this work.

Our National Advisory Group was shortlisted for the National Youth Work Excellence Awards. While we were obviously disappointed not to win we were delighted to see young peoples' contribution recognised in this way.

Resources

Growing Up in Care Padlets. The staffing team are working internally and in collaboration with care experienced young people to fill the gaps identified in last reporting period. Over the first 6 months of this reporting period, we further progressed information around BIP, wellbeing, rights, independent living and began our series of "who's the professional" a pallet of resources aimed to support the understanding of the role's professionals play in the care experienced child's life.

Additional to this, through our engagement with young people VFCC devised information resources around, owning a pet, support animals and informed decisions.

All resources can be accessed via our Padlet pages and are disseminated to our members through varying social media platforms and are used in our one-to-one structured support projects.

This reporting period we launched our **Bibliotherapy Journal**: a self- help tool designed by care experienced young people for care experienced children and young people. This self-help journal seeks to support emotional self-regulation and self-care -tools to support the journey of those children entering care today. The journal is intended to reduce the need of accessing mental health and wellbeing support later in life. It can be used on an individual basis, through group work and through online workshops.

See more about the bibliotherapy here:

https://twitter.com/VoicesFromCare/status/1658863127335665665 - Young Person's Feedback

https://twitter.com/VoicesFromCare/status/1658417517637820416 - Launch Invite

https://twitter.com/VoicesFromCare/status/1658064792370794496 - Launch Invite

https://twitter.com/VoicesFromCare/status/1626587010764013574 - Care Day, Bibliotherapy Announcement

Information resources and support sessions were delivered online to young people over the last 6 months these have included.

Self-Care – Budgeting – Rights – Advocating for self, dealing with grief.

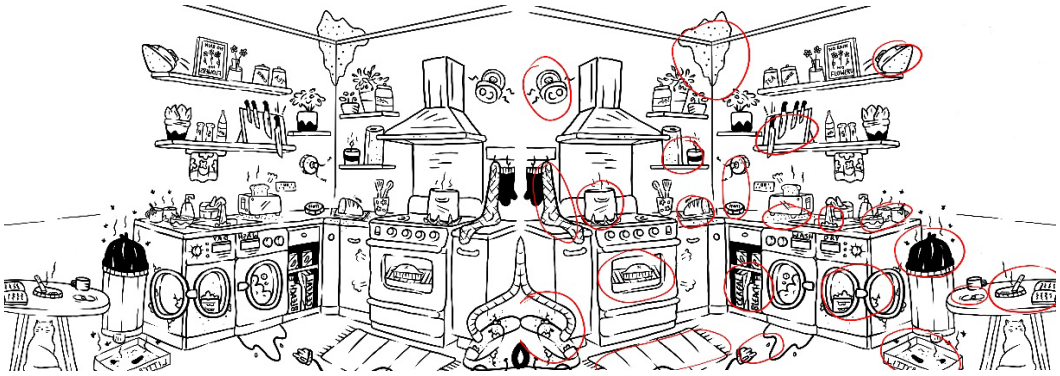
We now have in place 59 financial resources to support young people's decisions on financial matters and where to seek help. All the Padlet information is available in downloadable information resources, the resources can also be discussed in one-to-one session or delivered in group work settings.

We have started work on the co-production of new resources and tools, to support young people into employment and supporting the development of healthy relationships through our "5 Ways to Employment" and "5 Ways to Health Connections" self-help programmes which will be rolled out in the next financial year.

With young people we have developed the Ladder to Independence, an interactive self-help journal promoting independent living, wellbeing and good financial management and we are piloting our Explore Board, a board game that provides a fun way to help young people improve their independent living, budgeting, decision making and building healthy relationship skills.

Explore Board Video for professionals launch; https://x.com/i/status/1790064587699589169

Ladder of Independence (images):



VFCC success clubs, (homework clubs which seeks to raise the educational attainment of care experience children) was launched this reporting period. This project will set the data and narrative baseline for VFCC exploration of our community's experience of education, findings of which will be fully reported on at the end of this project life. The project has produced study guides aimed specifically at care experienced young people, and weekly virtual study sessions have been held.

Wellbeing events and activities.

During this period 146 children and young people have engaged in VFCC well-being events and activities.
68 young people have entered our wellbeing services on a 1-2-1 basis; 592 structured support sessions were delivered; and we received 68 new members to the organisation ages ranging from 8 – 23 yrs from across Wales. We referred 18 young people on to other sources of support.

Themes and issues – The narrative for common themes and issues is not changing for our care experienced community. We are still seeing wellbeing issues presented around, isolation, grief, identity access to services, financial support, homelessness, and low-level mental health concerns. We continue to provide crisis intervention, respond to professionals and non-professionals enquires and remain the vital communication link between care experienced young people and external services.

In July 23 VFCC launched its wellbeing room, a bespoke space for one-to-one mental health and wellbeing interventions. This space also provides access to laptops, phone lines and information resources to support the connections of young people to services and act as a safe warm space for our community to access drop-in support.

59 young people took part in the Radical Reform Summits and other influencing activities.

Skys the Limit

This reporting period saw the launch of our **Sky's the Limit project**. Working with care experienced children aged 8 – 14, the project supports them to engage in positive and fun activities, including sport and the arts, to help them develop confidence and integrate into the community. It also enables them to socialise with other care experienced children, gaining support from a feeling of acceptance and belonging.

Peer Support Café model:

Our peer support cafes bring together care experienced young people with additional shared experiences for mutual support and to explore common issues. During the first six months of this reporting period we reviewed the model.

We are working with young people on the development of a possible new peer support café for neuro divergent care experienced young people and one for care experienced Welsh speakers.

Student Peer Support Group – The group continues to meet on a social platform allowing networks of support to be built within local universities. whilst informing the building of resources for our growing up in care guides. Internally we have had a change of staffing regarding the facilitation of this group and it is hoped the new model will provide opportunities for our students to become roles models and mentors within the wider delivery of the peer support cafes

Mental health and wellbeing – **Our mental health and wellbeing group** has been fundamental in the development of VFCC's well- being service. The group is currently supporting the co-production of training materials which will be delivered to professionals, enabling them to understand the care experienced journey and how with undealt trauma can impact in later life. At recent meetings topics of discussion have focused on the need for every care experienced child to have an automatic partnership with a counselling/ mental health service on entry into care. The group feel this is one way the care experienced community can thrive and aspire, by ensuring early intervention to prevent and attempt to eradicate mental health concerns at the point of leaving care. The group will explore this further over the coming months whilst keeping the focus of the group as peer support, building positive relationships, and the engagement in positive activities.

Parent group –This group has been using their time to build support networks. They have linked with Children in Wales to drive forward policy work, as well as engaging in positive activities such as visits to the beach and pampering days. The main themes and issues we are seeing emerge from this group are managing removal of children, financial matters, and wellbeing support. Over the forthcoming months workshops and resources will be developed to support these themes, including external signposting to resources and rights as a care experienced parent. Fundamental to this group is the positive role modelling we have seen form our members, the sharing of information/advice and the genuine peer support and guidance shared between members which has evidently impacted on the wellbeing of individuals.

Care leavers group – This reporting period saw the launch of our new leaving care group. The group now run in Carmarthenshire, consist of 9 care experienced young people. They are currently devising an implementation plan to expand the group to areas of Pembrokeshire and Port Talbot, where key connections with services and young people have been made. This group of young people have already embarked on consultation with Llamau and Foster Wales and will be supporting Swansea University in their recruitment and training of social work learners for 24-25 cohort.

The **LGBT+ Peer Support Group's** current focus is championing care experienced people in the LGBT+ community and raising awareness of the issues faced by care experienced LGBT+ people. The young people felt they wanted support in feeling confident and comfortable in their identities and using their experiences to inspire others. From discussions within the group young people highlighted their main challenges are lack of awareness and understanding from professionals leading them to feel lonely and their identities belittled or denied. Young people also identified a common experience of feeling too afraid to come out, due to fear of losing their homes in foster placements. This year, for the first time VFCC supported our young people to take part in the PRIDE celebrations, where they were invited to join the parade in our capital. They reported this gave them a sense of belonging to community they identify as theirs.

Criminal Justice peer support – The work around this group has grown significantly over the past 12 months. The element of our VFCC peer support model started in Berwyn prison with one group of care experienced men, this has now rapidly grown to 3 peer support groups in the same prison, has been to Cardiff prison and continues to be developed in Parc prison Bridgend. Through this work VFCC has supported prison staff by suggesting and advising on processes which leads to the confidential identification of care experienced individuals which has enabled prison staff to provide a more holistic approach and external connections to statutory services.

Other specific groups within the care experienced community.

We collaborated with TGP Cymru, a specialist provider of advocacy, to enable a small group of unaccompanied young asylum seekers to attend the first Radical Reform Summit. The use of in person translation enabled them to effectively give their opinion on their experience with education, mental health, and social care support since coming to Wales. We will be facilitating further meetings between the new Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and young asylum seekers early in the new reporting period.

In the next reporting period, we will undertake further work to strengthen our links with black communities and communities of colour to enable us to learn more about how best to support care experienced children and young people with these characteristics.

We have continued to strengthen our links with Adoption UK, exploring the need of adopted children and young people to be able to feel part of the care experienced community and access support if they and their families wish them to do so.

Voices From Care Cymru supported young people to present at a recent Kinship Care Conference and we continue to work with organisations supporting kinship carers to help ensure that they and the children and young people they care for get access to the same support as foster carers and the children and young people they care for.

We will continue to work to expand our reach and to be able to offer our support to the widest possible range of care experienced children and young people and to ensure that we are able to meet their needs.

Having Fun!

In addition to our formal support services, we also run events and activities that enable care experienced children and young people to get together and enjoy themselves. This year activities have included Christmas events – in person and online – regular cooking sessions, a beach party, and walks. In addition, of course, to our **Sing Proud Choir**, where care experienced young people and those who support them meet weekly for singing and snacks.

Conclusion

Overall, this has been a busy and positive year for Voices From Care Cymru. Next year we will continue to strengthen our influencing work, enabling care experienced children and young people to continue to support the drive for radical reform of services, and we will continue to broaden our networks to ensure that our wellbeing and information support is available to all care experienced children and young people who need our support.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity reported a net deficit of £80,296 for the year end 31 March 2024, compared to surplus of £234,407, as restated, for 2023.

Incoming resources from charitable activities was £931,108 (2023: £1,025,118, as restated), and donation and legacies at £17,561 (2023: £11,755 as restated).

Total income was £949,646 (2023: £1,037,309 as restated)

Total resources expanded was £1,029,942 (2023: £802,902 as restated)

The total of unrestricted funds at 31 March 2024 was £485,554 (2023: £432,033 as restated). The total of restricted funds at 31 March 2024 was £247,084 (2023: £380,901 as restated).

The net assets of the charity have reduced from £812,934, as restated, in 2023 to £732,638 in 2024.

RESERVES POLICY

General Reserves

Trustees monitor progress towards achieving the Strategic Plan and have reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with guidance from the Charity Commission.

Trustees have considered the reserves required by the charity in the event of a funding crisis and have set a target equal to four months' running costs. Reserves can be used to sustain essential operations in periods of financial difficulty, and in exceptional circumstances, for other purposes agreed by the Trustees. The organisation raises funds by various means and continues on a path of diversifying its income streams.

The Trustees maintain free reserves (i.e. reserves drawn from funds which have no restrictions on their use within VFCC) at a level that is at least equivalent to four months' running costs. At the time of writing running costs are approximately £60,000/month, setting the desired reserve level at £220,000. This is in addition to any designated funds.

The trustees feel it prudent that the charity set up designated funds, which fall under the general reserves.

DESIGNATED FUNDS:

Business Development Fund

The business development expenditure reserve is established because it is important that the charity maximises its income and reduces overall expenditure when possible. Therefore, developing new income streams, strengthening existing ones and improving efficiency are a priority. The required level of £70,000 is set aside.

Project Closure

Growth of activity and hence income streams in particular from projects give cause for the trustees to consider the costs associated with project closure and redundancy costs. This designated reserve has been established to ensure sufficient funds are available when projects come to an end; and if the organisation needs to relocate, and/or develop new offices. The trustees feels that a desired level of £90,000 is required.

Property Fund

To cover the costs of either

(i) investment in a property of our own or/provision in respect of future rental costs/ office development and

(ii) provision in respect of dilapidation (repairs required during or the end of the tenancy).

Risk Management

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

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

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

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

Appraisal of activities and future developments

Summary

This year saw VFCC expanding the reach of our wellbeing provision, providing vital support to some of the young people in the care experienced community in Wales who need it most.

We have worked with partners to deepen the evidence base about the experiences of young people in the care community, strengthening the case for change. We have deepened our partnerships and grown their reach.

We have seen some of our Manifesto asks from the May 2021 Senedd election included in Party manifestos and then incorporated into the Programme of Government. We have brought care experienced young people together with influencers and decision makers, both to steer the delivery of specific policy commitments and to influence the wider policy agenda.

Future plans

Next year we will further strengthen our wellbeing provision, enabling us to support more care experienced children and young people. We will develop a new project working with younger children aged 8 to 14, aiming to support them in the present and help them build positive futures. We will support the expansion of our peer support cafes, bringing more groups of care experienced young people with common interests and experience together to support each other

We will continue to enable care experienced young people to work with Welsh Government to support the effective delivery of specific policy commitments, and we will continue to press for the voices of care experienced children and young people to be at the heart of the delivery of the wider commitment to explore radical reform of services to the care experienced community.

We will review our own constitution and ways of working to ensure that we continue to be truly young person led and young person inspired.

We will refresh our Five Nations Partnership, ensuing that the work of the five organisations supporting the care experienced community across the nations and jurisdictions of Great Britain and Ireland, continues to cross fertilize to strengthen the ability of all five organisations to make a positive difference for our care experienced communities.

Structure, governance and management

Organisation

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

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

Investment powers

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

Constitution

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

Voices From Care Cymru

Trustees Report

31 March 2024

Directors and trustees

The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. As set out in the Articles of Association dated 15 May 2010, the members of the company at the annual general meeting nominate six trustees from among the members and six trustees from professionals. The Members Committee also elects a Chair and 6 member trustees to the Management Committee. The Chair of the Members Committee is also Chair of the Board of Trustees in conjunction with the Professional Chair nominated by Trustees from the Professional Trustees elected. The trustees further nominate a Treasurer from among the professional trustees.

The trustees serve for a period of three years with one third retiring at each annual general meeting. The trustees have the power to co-opt members to fill causal vacancies in their number.

Key management personnel

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

Trustee's Responsibilities

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make sound judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business
- Observe the methods and principles of the SORP

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Voices From Care Cymru

Trustees Report

31 March 2024

In accordance with company law, as the charity trustees, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity auditors are unaware; and
- as the trustees of the charity, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with The Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Issued in January 2019).

STATEMENT TO AUDITORS

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by the Charities Act 2011) of which the charity's auditors are unaware and each Trustee has taken steps that he ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

In accordance with the company articles, a resolution proposing that Hodge Bakshi will be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put to General Meeting

The trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees

Mr G Roddis

Dated 3-12-2024

Ms C Williams OBE

Dated 3rd December 2024

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Voices From Care Cymru

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Voices From Care Cymru ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise Statement of Financial Activity, balance sheet, cash flow and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 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 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 Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the 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 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustee's 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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 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.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Voices From Care Cymru

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's 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 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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the 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 the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

•adequate and proper 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.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the Trustees 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 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Voices From Care Cymru

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud.

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:

We obtain an understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, by reading the Charity's policies and procedures and carrying out audit work to ensure that the scope of its authorisation and the effectiveness of its control environment are maintained, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable, which includes the Companies Act and Charity Act, and how the entity is complying with those frameworks. Based on this understanding, we 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. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which include:

1. Assessing the extent of compliance with rules and regulations specifically in relation to Charities Act 2011 and employment laws which are considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the Charity through enquiry of the trustees and senior management team and inspection of records including review of board minutes during and subsequent to the year ended 31 March 2024.

2. Reviewing financial statement disclosure and verifying to supporting documentation, which included Trustee board minutes, to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

3. Performing audit work to mitigate risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

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 instance of non-compliance. 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [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 charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

JBH

James Burnett ACA ACCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Hodge Bakshi Statutory Auditors
Churchgate House
3 Church Road
Whitchurch
Cardiff
CF14 2DX

20 *December 2024*

Voices From Care Cymru is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charitable company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Including income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	as restated 2023 £
INCOME						
Donations and Legacies	2	**17,561**	**-**	**-**	**17,561**	11,755
Charitable activities	3	**89,030**	**-**	**842,078**	**931,108**	1,025,118
Investments	4	**977**	**-**	**-**	**977**	436
Total income		**107,568**	**-**	**842,078**	**949,646**	1,037,309
EXPENDITURE						
Charitable activities	6	**129,883**		**900,059**	**1,029,942**	802,902
Total expenditure		**129,883**	**-**	**900,059**	**1,029,942**	802,902
Net (outgoing) /income and net movement in funds for the year before transfers		**(22,315)**	**-**	**(57,981)**	**(80,296)**	234,407
Transfers between funds	14	**75,836**	**-**	**(75,836)**	**-**	-
Net movement in funds for the year		**53,521**	**-**	**(133,817)**	**(80,296)**	234,407
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward 1 April 2023		**222,033**	**210,000**	**380,901**	**812,934**	578,527
Total funds carried forward 31 March 2024		**275,554**	**210,000**	**247,084**	**812,934**	578,527

An income and expenditure account has not been produced as the Statement of Financial Activities represents all the income & expenditure of the Charity.

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.

The notes form part of these financial statements.

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Charity number: 1108430

Company number: 3261608

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	as restated 2023 £	as restated 2023 £
FIXED ASSETS:					
Tangible assets	11		**19,460**		25,947
CURRENT ASSETS:					
Debtors	12	**154,853**		187,968	
Cash at bank		**640,546**		665,568	
		795,399		853,536	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	13	**82,221**		66,549	
NET CURRENT ASSETS:			**713,178**		786,987
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES:			**732,638**		812,934
FUNDS:					
Unrestricted funds:					
Unrestricted funds:		**275,554**		222,033	
Designated funds	15	**210,000**		210,000	
			485,554		432,033
Restricted fund	14		**247,084**		380,901
NET ASSETS			**732,638**		812,934

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 2024, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The director acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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 and 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 Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on __ December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Trustee
Mr G Roddis

Trustee
Mrs C Williams OBE

The notes form part of these financial statements.

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Charity number: 1108430
Company number: 3261608

	2024		as restated 2023	
	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities				
Cash generated from operations		(25,999)		93,602
Investing activities				
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-		(23,661)	
Investment income received	977		436	
		977		(23,225)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(25,022)		70,377
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		665,568		595,191
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		640,546		665,568

Cash generated from operating activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	(80,296)	234,407
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(977)	(436)
Depreciation of fixed assets	6,487	3,122
Movements in working capital		
Decrease / (Increase) in debtors	33,115	(37,685)
(Decrease) / Increase in creditors	1,304	14,848
(Decrease) / increase in deferred income	14,368	(120,654)
Net cash used in operating activities	(25,999)	93,602

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Charity information

Voices From Care Cymru is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 45, The Parade, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3AB.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£)

1.2 Going Concern

These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees have prepared forecasts for the next two years. The trustees believe that these forecasts are based on realistic income assumptions and are confident that the charity will continue to be able to meet its liabilities as they fell due.

The charity has considered the impact of not receiving the same level of funding as in the past and has factored these assumptions into its cash flow forecasts and believe the charity will be able to continue in operation for the foreseeable future, albeit in a significantly reduced manner.

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity will have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees have reviewed the reserves policy which supports the long-term business plan of the Charity. The trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Significant Judgements and Estimates

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. Impairment of debtors.

The charity makes an estimate of the recoverable value of trade and other debtors. When assessing impairment of trade debtors, management considers factors including the current credit rating of the debtor, aging profile of the debtor as well as historical experience.

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 if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Impairment of debtors

The charity makes an estimate of the recoverable value of trade and other debtors. When assessing impairment of debtors, the Trustees considers factors including the current credit rating of the debtor, ageing profile of the debtor as well as historical experience.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether ‘capital’ grants or ‘revenue’ grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

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

Incoming resources (Continued)

1.5 Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the Friends is not recognised and refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

1.6 Resources expended

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

Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

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

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fee and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity costs category on a basis consistent with the use of resources. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in the notes

All costs all allocated between expenditure categories on a basis designated to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

Expenditure is reported gross due to the charity not being VAT registered.

1.7 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.

Restricted funds are funds that are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or that have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in note 13 of the financial statements.

Designated funds comprise of unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund are set out in note 15 of the financial statements.

1.8 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets held for the charity's own use are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives:

Improvements to property -	over the terms of the lease
Fixtures and Fittings	25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	33% on cost

At each balance sheet date, the charity reviews the carrying amount of its tangible fixed assets to determine whether there is any indication that any items have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss, if any. Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of the asset, the Charity estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

1.9 Taxation

As a charity, Voices From Care Cymru is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 478 of the Taxes Act 2010 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects only. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

1.10 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. Payments to defined contribution retirement schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due. The pension contribution of the charity is at 8%.

The charge to income or expenditure in respect of the defined contribution pension scheme was £25,458 (2023: £18,153).

1.11 Cash and Cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial instruments and include cash in hand and bank accounts.

1.12 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 "Basic Financial Instruments".

Financial instruments are recognised when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets are 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.

1.13 Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include prepayments, other 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 financial asset is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

1.14 Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other creditors, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financial transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest.
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 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.

1.15 Investment income

Investment income is included when receivable.

1.16 Operating lease commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Income & expenditure account in equal amounts over the periods of the leases.

1.17 Gifts in Kind

Gifts in kind are valued at the invoice value for the service received.

1.18 Transfer Between Funds

Whilst the charity seeks to obtain sufficient funds to ensure each project is self-sustaining this is not always possible and a portion of the core funds have to be applied to ensure that the projects can continue. The application of core funds to support the projects is reflected by the transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds. Funds transfers also relate to projects that have ended and the charity has no expectation that the grants should be repaid to the funders.

1.19 Volunteers

The value of the services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

Further details of their contribution is provided in note 2 to these financial statements and in the trustees' report.

1.2 Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the assets cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

1.21 Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is a reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

Income from government grants comprises performance related grants made by Welsh Government to fund the advancement of the spiritual, educational and physical welfare of young people in Wales. See note 3 for more information and to the amount and source of these grants.

A grant that specifies performance conditions are recognised as income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised with deferred income.

1.22 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.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM GENERATED FUNDS

Donations and legacies	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	as restated 2023
	£	**£**	**£**	£
Donations and gifts	**17,561**	**-**	**17,561**	11,755

The charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the

3 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024	as restated 2023
	£	£
Advice, Support, Participation & Collaboration	41,866	53,000
Central Administration	47,164	-
Grants	842,078	970,345
Other income	-	1,773
Total income from charitable activities	931,108	1,025,118
Analysed by fund		
Unrestricted funds	89,030	54,773
Restricted funds	842,078	970,345
	931,108	1,025,118
Grants		
S.S.S.G (Welsh Government)	324,000	399,441
The Henry Smith Charity	55,450	49,650
Lloyds Bank Foundation	-	26,370
Erasmus + (Citizenship)	-	18,796
Homelessness Prevention (Welsh Government)	181,922	180,079
The Esme Fairbairn Foundation	-	13,350
National Lottery Community Fund	131,051	161,084
WVCA	-	31,005
British & Foreign School Society (BFSS)	28,905	14,570
BBC Children in Need	112,000	76,000
5NIV Funding from Paul Hamlyn Foundation	8,750	-
	842,078	970,345

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024	as restated Unrestricted funds 2023
	£	£
Interest receivable	977	436

6 ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Research	Canvas YP	Encourage, Support & Develop-ment	Raise Participation/Profile	Advocacy	Provide/ Assisting Oppor-tunities	Total	As restated 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	22,942	91,767	68,826	114,709	91,767	68,826	458,837	357,019
Depreciation and impairment	649	973	324	3,244	649	648	6,487	3,122
Travel	901	3,130	2,790	5,735	4,186	2,421	19,163	12,158
Volunteer expenses	373	1,425	1,292	2,463	1,971	1,798	9,321	9,702
Consultancy	745	2,847	2,581	4,923	3,938	3,592	18,626	24,123
Payroll and pension preparation	154	230	77	768	154	153	1,536	447
Occupancy	1,234	4,718	4,277	8,157	6,526	5,953	30,864	20,890
HR, Legal and professional	348	1,330	1,206	2,300	1,840	1,679	8,704	7,303
Office running costs	1,452	2,177	725	7,258	1,452	1,452	14,516	11,471
Communication and facilitation	1,659	6,339	5,747	10,961	8,769	7,998	41,473	29,904
Bank charges	56	84	28	282	56	57	563	505
Grant Partner Payment	3,410	6,820	10,230	34,102	6,820	6,821	68,203	57,034
Training and meeting costs	4,954	16,996	16,068	28,942	23,155	21,950	112,065	83,291
	38,876	138,838	114,171	223,844	151,282	123,348	790,359	616,969
Share of support costs (see note 8)	11,536	46,147	34,610	57,683	46,147	34,610	230,733	178,363
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	442	1,770	1,328	2,212	1,770	1,328	8,850	7,570
	11,978	47,917	35,938	59,895	47,917	35,938	1,029,942	802,902
Analysed by fund								
Unrestricted funds	442	1,770	1,328	2,212	1,770	1,328	8,850	7,570
Restricted funds	50,412	184,985	148,781	281,527	197,429	157,958	1,021,092	795,332
	50,854	186,755	150,109	283,739	199,199	159,286	1,029,942	802,902

7 SUPPORT COSTS

	Support Costs	Governance costs	2024	As restated 2023
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	195,139	-	195,139	153,008
Occupancy costs	19,948	-	19,948	12,803
HR Costs	5,032	-	5,032	4,476
Office running costs	9,193	-	9,193	7,031
Payroll	1,421	-	1,421	1,045
Audit fees	-	8,850	8,850	7,570
	230,733	8,850	239,583	185,933

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £8,850 (£7,000 for audit fees and £1,850 (2023: £570) for accountancy fees).

8 TRUSTEES

The trustees of the charity were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity. One trustee was reimbursed £50 expenses during the year (2023: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: £nil).

9 EMPLOYEES

The average number of employees analysed by function was:

	2024	As restated 2023
	Number	Number
Direct charitable expenditure	16	15
Management and administration	5	3
Total	21	18

EMPLOYMENT COSTS	**2024**	As restated 2023
	£	£
Wages & Salaries	593,483	453,373
Social Security Costs	40,971	38,501
Pensions Costs	25,458	18,153
	659,912	510,027

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000;

	2024	As restated 2023
	Number	Number
£60,000 -£69,999	-	1
£80,000 -£89,999	1	-

Key management personnel

The gross benefits received by key management personnel of the charity were £254,148 (2023: £241,221).

10 NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

The operating deficit (2023 : surplus) is stated after charging:

	2024	As restated 2023
	£	£
Depreciation of owned assets	6,487	3,122
Rent	28,944	31,781
Auditors remuneration	7,000	6,820
Accountancy and taxation advice	1,850	750

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures & Fittings	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
COST:			
At 1 April 2023	**16,370**	**88,192**	**104,562**
At 31 March 2024	**16,370**	**88,192**	**104,562**
DEPRECIATION:			
At 1 April 2023	**16,370**	**62,245**	**78,615**
Charge for year	**-**	**6,487**	**6,487**
At 31 March 2024	**16,370**	**68,732**	**78,615**
NET BOOK VALUE:			
At 31 March 2024	**-**	**19,460**	**19,460**
At 31 March 2023	-	25,947	25,947

12 DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	as restated 2023
	£	£
Debtors	**4,940**	47,792
Prepayments and accrued income	**149,913**	140,176
	154,853	187,968

13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	as restated 2023
	£	£
Creditors	**59,603**	45,244
Other creditors	**-**	13,805
Deferred income	**14,368**	-
Accruals	**8,250**	7,500
	82,221	66,549

	2024	as restated 2023
	£	£
Deferred income		
Balance brought forward	**-**	-
Income received in the year	**14,368**	-
Released to income	**-**	-
Balance carried forward	**14,368**	-

Income is recognised when the charity has met the conditions of the grant. Until those conditions are met income is deferred.

14 RESTRICTED FUNDS

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

The income funds of the charity include

	Balance 1.4.23	Income	Expenses	Funds Transfer	Balance 31.3.24
	£	£	£	£	£
S.S.S.G (Welsh Government)	38,103	324,000	359,479	-	2,624
Erasmus + (Citizenship)	20,010	-	22,825	2,815	-
Comic Relief	21,097	-	-	(21,097)	-
The Paul Hamlyn Foundation	3,192	-	-	(3,192)	-
The Esme Fairbairn Foundation - Foster Care	54,362	-	-	(54,362)	-
Homelessness Prevention (Welsh Government)	54,408	181,922	181,922	-	54,408
The Henry Smith Charity	31,737	55,450	44,438	-	42,749
WVCA	1,891	-	-	-	1,891
National Lottery Community Fund	115,071	131,051	140,504	-	105,618
WVCA (RFW)	13,180	-	9,900	-	3,280
WVCA (TSRF)	21,011	-	-	-	21,011
British & Foreign School Society (BFSS)	5,243	28,905	25,220	-	8,928
BBC Children in Need	1,596	112,000	115,771	-	-2,175
5NIV Funding from Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	8,750	-	-	8,750
	380,901	842,078	900,059	(75,836)	247,084

The funds transfer relate to projects that have ended and the charity has no expectation that the grants should be repaid to the funders. The Trustees consider that they have followed the SORP guidelines to enable the funds to be transferred.

S.S.S.G (Welsh Government) : to deliver a number of outcomes related to our wellbeing and information services and to support those aspects of our influencing programme that support Welsh Government priorities.

Erasmus + (Citizenship) : to enable care experienced young people to participate in our influencing work and in the democratic process.

Comic Relief : to support wellbeing programmes during the COVID pandemic

Paul Hamyln Foundation : to support the work of the Five Nations Once Voice Coalition, through which we co-operate with similar charities that support the care experienced community in Scotland, the Republic of Ireland, Northen Ireland and England.

Emse Fairbain Foundation : Foster Care – to fund research in to the When I'm Ready Programme and disseminate the findings of the research

Restricted funds (Continued)

Homelessness Prevention (Welsh Government) : to support the Getting Ready Project which prepares care experienced young people for independent living.

The Henry Smith Foundation : to fund our care experienced peer support groups.

National Lottery Community Fund : to create a national mental health and well-being service for care experienced young people.

WVCA (RFW) : The project will support volunteers from the care experienced community.

WVCA (TSRF) : The project will provide volunteers to support the wellbeing of future generations.

British & Foreign School Society (BFSS) : to support young carers.

BBC Children in Need : to support work to create national conversation on the needs of care experienced children and young people (CYP) and in particular those in the 8 - 13 age group.

5NIV Funding from Paul Hamlyn Foundation : supports the CEO project meeting costs.

15 DESIGNATED FUNDS

The Trustees have designated the following designated funds to enable the charity to continue to deliver enhanced services for:

	as restated 2023	provided in year	2024
Purpose of designated fund	**£**	**£**	**£**
Business Development fund	70,000	-	70,000
Project closure	90,000	-	90,000
Building	50,000	-	50,000
	210,000	-	210,000

Business Development fund
The business development expenditure reserve is established because it is important that the charity maximises its income and reduces overall expenditure when possible. Therefore, developing new income streams, strengthening existing ones and improving efficiency are a priority. The required level of £70,000 is set aside.

Project closure
Growth of activity and hence income streams in particular from projects gives cause for the trustees to consider the costs associated with project closure and redundancy costs. This designated reserve has been established to ensure sufficient funds are available when projects come to an end; and if the organisation needs to relocate, and/or develop new offices. The trustees feel that a desired level of £90,000 is required.

DESIGNATED FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Property fund
To cover the costs of either (i) investment in a property of our own or/provision in respect of future rental costs/office development and (ii) provision in respect of dilapidation (repairs required during or the end of the tenancy).

The timescale associated with this reserve will vary depending upon project delivery.

These designation reflects the intentions as to the future application of funds as at the balance sheet date and do not reflect an external transaction or present obligation to a third party.

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted 2023	Designated 2023	Restricted 2023	as restated Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	19,460	-	-	19,460	25,947	-	-	25,947
Net current assets	256,094	210,000	247,084	713,178	196,086	210,000	380,901	786,987
Total net assets	275,554	210,000	247,084	732,638	222,033	210,000	380,901	812,934

17 LIABILITY OF MEMBERS

The charity is limited by guarantee, not having a share capital, the word limited being omitted from its name pursuant to a licence from the Department of Trade. Each member of the Company is liable to a maximum of £1 in the event of the winding up of the Charity and is not entitled to any share in the assets of the Company.

18 OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31st March 2024, the charity had total commitments under non- cancellable operating leases over the remaining life of those leases of £102,888 (2023: £127,397).

19 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The charity and Children In Wales - Plant Yng Nghymru have common trustees.

During the year the charity paid £46,928 (2023: £57,114 to Children In Wales - Plant Yng Nghymru relating to membership, training and reimbursement for the "Getting Ready Project", £14,079 was outstanding at the year end (2023: £14,344).

There were no other related party transactions to disclose.

20 PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT

In the 2023 financial statements, an adjustment was made to correct an understatement of restricted income by £35,479. This amount represents income that the charity was entitled to but had not been recorded as receivable in the previous year. As a result, the restricted funds and debtor balances have been restated accordingly.

Summary of Adjustment:

The following table summarises the original, adjustment, and restated figures for affected areas in the 2023 financial statements:

Affected Account	Original (£)	Adjustment (£)	Restated (£)
Restricted Income	934,866	35,479	970,345
Debtors (within one year)	12,313	35,479	47,792
Total Restricted Funds	270,292	35,479	305,065
Surplus for the Year	198,928	35,479	234,407

Details of impacted accounts:

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA): Restricted income has been restated from £934,866 to £970,345, increasing the reported surplus for the year.

Balance Sheet: The debtors due within one year increased from £12,313 to £47,792, and restricted funds increased to reflect the additional restricted income received.

Charitable Activities Income Note: Income from charitable activities now includes the £35,479 adjustment.

Government Grants Note: This adjustment also affects the income from government grants under the charitable activities income note.

Debtors (Amounts Falling Due within One Year): Debtors have been restated to include the previously unrecorded receivable amount of £35,479.

Restricted Funds Note: Total restricted funds as of 31 March 2023 increased by £35,479 due to the income adjustment.

20 **PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT (CONTINUED)**

Analysis of Net Assets between Funds: The restricted funds balance increased by £35,479, resulting in a restated net asset distribution.

Cash Generated from Operations: The adjustment impacts the opening balance for restricted funds in the cash flow statement, reflecting the increased funds carried forward.

The trustees confirm that this adjustment has been made to ensure accurate reporting of restricted funds and alignment with income recognition standards, as per the Charities SORP (FRS 102). This adjustment corrects the prior understatement and does not impact current year operations.

Voices From Care Cymru

England & Wales - Charity number 1108430

Accounts

Charity registration number 1108430

Company registration number 3261608 (England and Wales)

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

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VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Co-Chairs Forward

The rights and wellbeing of the care experienced children and young people's community continues to be of critical importance to Voices From Care Cymru (VFCC). They need to be able to achieve their full potential and not just to survive!

Diversification of funding has enabled new and ongoing work to support a variety of projects and the influence of the organisation has continued to grow. The reach of VFCC has also continued to extend throughout Wales and the number of young people involved has increased and more younger children have been actively involved.

This couldn't have been achieved without the support given by staff to the numerous young people who have so generously given of their time and of themselves to make sure that their messages to policy makers are authentic. We are extremely grateful to our funders for their recognition of the importance of VFCC work in trying to improve the lives of care experienced children and young people in Wales. We have also worked with colleagues in the other nations across the UK and Ireland.

VFCC has always aimed to ensure that its priorities are based on the genuine lived experience of care experienced children and young people in Wales. To this end it has been an exciting and productive year in terms of ensuring that care experienced young people have had a platform for their voices to be heard by Welsh Government and other policy makers. We would like to thank the staff and young volunteers for their tireless work in ensuring that care experienced young people have had the opportunity to come together as 'young ambassadors' for VFCC so that they can pass on the messages from their peers to Welsh Government without them being filtered by professionals. VFCC staff and young volunteers have also succeeded in influencing Welsh Government to recognise the need to hear these messages directly from young people themselves. Of particular importance was their work in raising Welsh Government Ministers' awareness that issues affecting the care experienced community were within the responsibilities of a wide range of ministerial portfolios. We were therefore extremely pleased that funding was made available for a Summit between Welsh Government Ministers and the VFCC Young Ambassadors resulting in a joint declaration.

In line with the Articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, upon which the values of VFCC are based, the organisation has continued to support the active participation of care experienced children and young people throughout the organisation. This continues to include young Co-Chairs of the Trustee Board and F&HR Sub Committee as well as young trustees or committee members alongside professional colleagues. It also includes co-producing all aspects of VFCC's work with young people and an Advisory Committee of care experienced young people is a critical component of VFCC.

Co- chairs
Brittany Davies & Catriona Williams OBE

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Chief Executive comments

This year has been very exciting and busy. It has been a key priority for Voices from Care Cymru (VFCC) to review and revisit UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) and its approach as being at the heart and main driver for VFCC activities, thus ensuring the organisation sets out its ethics and values in supporting the national voice of care experienced children and young people across Wales. It was important at the beginning of this period for the organisation to recentre and refresh its implementation plan that imbeds a children's rights approach across all activities of VFCC to ensure that the organisation remains progressive and representative.

As the year progressed and through our previous work in Manifesto/Reversed Husting, we have created a significant historical journey that led to the first ever summit that shared a platform for care experienced children and young people to offer their own vison with Minsters of Welsh Government in supporting a truly authentic approach, and one that allows them to own and keep control of their narrative, ensuring that their recommendations are pivotal to the 'Radical Reform' of the care system in Wales'.

National Influencing

VFCC worked hard to enable care experienced young people to continue to work with Welsh Government on the delivery of several specific policy commitments, including developing the Corporate Parenting Charter and the pilot of the Basic Income for care leavers. We have enabled young people to lead a process exploring radical reform of services to the care experience community as promised in the Programme for Government. Following discussions between our Chair, (Voices from Care Cymru) Chief Executive and The Deputy Minister for Social Services, we were directly commissioned to organise a Summit meeting between care experienced children and young people and Welsh Ministers. We worked with 40 young people from across Wales to develop a draft Declaration, containing a Vision setting out what radically reformed services would look and feel like to care experienced children and young people and their families. As well as addressing the care system itself, the Vision addresses changes needed in wider public services including education and health.

The draft Declaration was discussed by care experienced young people - Young Ambassadors representing the care experienced community - and Welsh Ministers at the Summit in December 2022. The Summit was attended by the Minister for Education and the Welsh Language, the Minister for Social Justice, the Deputy Minister for Social Services, and the Deputy Minister for Mental Health. Ministers and Young Ambassadors agreed changes to the Declaration and presented their recommendations for the final Declaration to the First Minister in the afternoon session of the Summit. The First Minister responded positively, committing Welsh Government to delivering on the commitments set out. We expect the Declaration to be formally signed by the First Minister and representatives of the Young Ambassadors at a ceremony early in the next year.

https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-05/radical-reform-summit.pdf

We have continued to work with Senedd Members across parties to strengthen their understanding of issues faced by the care experience community and deepen their commitment to ensuring that these issues are addressed. We have provided the secretariat to the Cross-Party Group on Children in Our Care chaired by Jane Dodds MS. The Group has met termly, and has discussed a range of issues, including advocacy and unregistered placements. Along with other organisations working in the sector, we were approached by the Children, Young People and Education Committee at the Senedd for advice about which aspects of Welsh Government policy affecting the care experienced community it would be most useful for the Committee to scrutinise. They accepted our advice that they focus on radical reform, and they are currently undertaking a detailed Inquiry into all aspects of the care system and other public services as they affect care experienced children and young people. We have supported young people to give evidence, formally and informally, to the Committee, and we presented formal written and oral evidence to the Committee as an organisation. The committee are producing a report. We also supported young people in giving evidence to the Senedd Petitions Committee during their Inquiry into the experience of care experienced parents. Their Report (Supporting care experienced parents (Senedd. Wales) was published in March 2023, and we are looking forward to the Welsh Government's response.

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Next year we will continue to enable young people to support and challenge Welsh Government in their delivery of specific policies. We will continue to develop the Young Ambassadors team, supporting them in the follow up to the Summit, which will include a smaller scale Summit in the north in the autumn of 2023, and a Summit in the spring of 2024, where Ministers will discuss progress on delivering on the Declaration with Young Ambassadors. As always, our influencing work will be led by care experienced young people. We will ensure that authentic voices are heard by decision-makers at all levels.

This year has been an extremely effective year for our wellbeing project as it has become fully embedded into a one-stop-shop enabling care experienced children and young people to engage with a suite of services/projects. Significant to this work has been a bespoke project that enables the organisation to work with younger children to ensure they have full access to their rights and enabled them to integrate more effectively within their own communities.

VFCC has continued to develop the 5 Nations 1 Voice activities, supporting policy/projects areas that present common themes across the 5 nations of the U.K. We are currently developing a funding strategy that will support a stronger activity to support children and young people to share their voice and engage on a U.K. level along with our International and European partners.

In conclusion I would like to acknowledge and thank all our wonderful children and young people, our staff, and trustees and of course a big thankyou to our funders and our Patron Michael Sheen.

I look forward to working with you all in 2023/24.

...DAtyler...

Dated: 24/11/23...

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

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

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

Development Of Aims

Objectives

- Continue to monitor and identify policy and practice issues of common concern by gathering and distributing information to appropriate bodies and organisations throughout Wales.
- Represent the views of children and young people and to actively campaign to improve the conditions for children and young people.
- Act as an interface on behalf of children and young people to encourage relevant bodies and organisations to take appropriate action.
- Encourage and promote the participation of children and young people within Voices from Care's operational strategy and service provision.
- Assist in the development of participation frameworks within decision-making processes to further enable children and young people to have a voice.
- Promote training for service providers and to encourage the strategic development to include children and young people within its delivery.
- Act as a safeguard within current legislation i.e. The Children Act 1989, The Children and Adoption Act 2002, The Children Act 2004, The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and social care and well-being Act 2016.
- Provide an independent advice, support and wellbeing service on an on-going basis.
- Continue and build on the participation frameworks for degree in 'Social Work' with Cardiff Metropolitan and Cardiff University, as always.
- Continue and further develop the corporate parent frameworks with the Local Authorities in Wales.

How our services deliver public benefit

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Achievements and performance

This year has been a busy year with VFCC operations focusing on full return to face-to-face interventions for our care experienced children and young people. Alongside this we have continued using a technological blended approach where requested, thus enabling our young people to determine the approach to best suit their needs.

We have focused resources into the implementation of safe working practices, processes and introduced varied impact measurement tools into project reporting and monitoring. We have reviewed organisational system capabilities of data capture mechanisms which has identified the need for the introduction of a robust CRM system. The implementation of the forementioned will support the evidence gathering of VFCC's impact and performance and robustly highlight the difference we are making to the lives of our care experience community.

A knowledgeable and skilful workforce has been one of our key priorities throughout 2022 and 2023. Much training has been undertaken by staff, which was informed via a training needs analysis audit and Welsh government directives and guidance, Training has included but is not exhausted to: Risk management, crisis intervention, brief intervention, motivational interviewing, managing difficult conversations, CRM systems training and code of conduct, policies, and procedures. The continuous development of staff will continue to be at the forefront of delivery over the forthcoming year to ensure the excellence of service delivery by a knowledge and competent staff.

Additional to above we have further embedded our single front door approach through the introduction of screening tools. This has ensured children and young people access the right service at the right time as outlined in the children's commissioner for Wales "No wrong door report." This approach is underpinned by a rights approach on entry into VFCC services and projects. This approach is fostered, nurtured, and developed throughout the young person's time within the organisation, ensuring the exit of a young person who is knowledgeable of their rights and how to access them.

This year, in collaboration with young people, VFCC has strengthened the involvement of young people in organisational planning, delivery, and governance. We have implemented a new structure within our advisory group model which emanates our board of trustee's structure. This new structure and model of delivery provides induction, training and opportunities for our young people to be at the forefront in driving our work forward whilst leading on the planning the delivery of events and activities and allowing them to be experts by experience within our influencing work.

We have received additional funding from British foreign schools to implement a homework club to support and raise the educational aspirations of our care experience children and young people through alternative learning activities. This project is delivered in an outreach model of delivery and supported by experienced care university students. The project was designed in collaboration with young people and is delivered across Southeast Wales.

In 2022- 23 VFCC competed in the "When I am ready" project funded under Esme Fairburn. The success of this project saw foster carers across Wales trained in when I am ready arrangements. The project developed resources to support both professional and young people and in collaboration with Cascade completed research on the success and implementation of the when I am ready scheme, inclusive of a comparison to "Staying put in England. The findings from this research will be presented to the Welsh Government in October 2023 with a call for an independent review.

All services performance data

Service type	Number of attendances	Number of sessions	Number of people
Well-being group work	76	20	26
Well-being Structured support	348	338	38
participation	159	36	49
Influencing	136	17	34
Hardship	40	37	17
Brief intervention	188	186	48
All young people and delivery sessions	1,599	1,271	133

Wellbeing
In the last reporting year, we have engaged with a total of one 139 young people through the delivery of wellbeing activities across Wales.

In this time the project supported a total of 46 young people on a 1-2-1 basis; with a total of 28 referrals referrals made for young people seeking structured support (a total 23 young people engaging and a further 23 accessing aftercare support. In addition, a further 5 young people have accessed counselling support funded by the wellbeing service.

Of those accessing 1-2-1 support a total of 91% of sessions offered to young people were attended; with 193 sessions offered. In addition, 37 sessions of advocacy were provided on behalf of 15 young people and a further 23 multi-agency meetings attended on behalf of 10 young people. 11 of the new referrals who engaged in 1-2-1 support were referred to wider VFCC projects reaching a referral rate of 47.82% - meeting the agreed (40%) target set within the project KPIs.

Five (5) consultations sessions took place with 57 young people, focussing on; the development of self-help workshops, the completion of the Voices from Care Bibliotherapy and social media content to promote wellbeing support for the wider care community (see below).

Bibliotherapy introduction;
https://www.facebook.com/VoicesFromCareCymru/videos/1280435279202870/

Through the delivery of outcome recording tools, we have been able to understand the effectiveness of the holistic support provided to the young people. The information below demonstrates the trajectory of change experienced by young people accessing 1-2-1 support; the intervention provided by the Wellbeing Officer (tools to promote self-care, increased resilience and addressing issues impacting on their wellbeing i.e., relationships) has produced the following outcomes:

- 50% felt happier
- 25% felt better about themselves
- 50% felt more able to look after themselves
- 25% felt that they had healthier relationships
- 25% felt better able to make decisions for themselves
- 75% felt more in control of the challenges they have faced
- 50% felt their voice had been heard by those around them
- 100 % felt fulfilment in their life to date
- 75% felt a greater sense of belonging
- 50% felt safer

Overall, the wellbeing service supported young people to address issues more effectively by supporting their ability to practice self-care and implement tools required to feel in control and happier with their circumstance. Whilst no young people reported an increased ability to achieve their longer-term goals; this was indicative of those young people focussing on the present issues or having already achieved their goals (having been supported in the previous reporting year i.e., accessing after care support). With this said feedback from people who completed exit evaluations evidenced that 100% felt that they "strongly agreed" that support from the service helped them to "achieve their overall goals".

Skys the Limit (8 -13yr olds)
This year has seen the first full year of delivery for the Skys the Limit project, funded by Children in Need. This project is aimed at eradicating wellbeing and mental health needs by focusing on positive and healthy relationships with people outside the care system whilst exploring hobbies and interests by way of diversionary activities.

The project is currently engaging with 36 Children, all currently receiving one-to-one meeting with the project development worker to build positive relationships, understand needs and provide confidence to engage in identified activities

Out of the 36 Children, 20 are Males with the remaining 16 Female.

4 have been identified as being children with additional needs. 2 have hearing impairment with diagnosed Autistic Spectrum Disorder and world global delay and 2 with Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)

Out of the 36 Children there are 21 who are currently receiving 1:1 support as well as taking part in Sky's The Limit groups and activities.

1-2-1 support focuses on positive relationships, confidence, low level wellbeing needs and being a cheerleader for the children themselves.

The remaining 15 Children are engaging with Sky's the Limit groups and activities, building peer networks outside the system to which they belong.

The project has successfully delivered a range of positives, from a care experienced choir, drama, art workshops, sports activities, gardening, and environmental projects, to the creation of digital resources and creative use of social media. Through these connections the Project has been designed to support self-help strategies and provide a positive ecosystem around the children, and to ensure that their voice is heard locally and nationally in the development of a mental health strategy for children.

The following feedback has been captured from some of our sessions/activities thus far:

1. 'I have met 6 new friends today'
2. 'It's too good, you can't make it better'
3. 'Amazing'
4. 'Make new friends'
5. 'Food was nice' 'Liked the doughnuts'
6. 'I enjoyed the drawing and all about yourself'
7. 'Enjoyed free time'
8. 'Kind people'
9. 'It's cool'
10. 'Would come back 10/10'

What could be better?

11. 'The positive things are boring'

The Getting Ready project

We are in the 4th year of the delivery of this project delivered by VFCC in partnership with Children in Wales, supported by funding through the Welsh Government 'Sustainable Provision and Support Innovation Fund – Homelessness Prevention Grant'. The aim of the fund and therefore the project is to reduce the risk of homelessness for our care community whilst aiming to increase the housing support available to vulnerable young people who are transitioning from local authority care.

The Getting Ready project complements the current Welsh Government, When I am Ready scheme, providing a more intensive intervention which seeks to echo the support and guidance that non-looked after young people receive within a family setting. This seeks to address some of the inequalities faced by the care- experienced population when transitioning from care.

The Getting Ready project is delivered across Wales to young people in and leaving care and preparing of independent living and therefore complements the recommendations of preventative interventions to equip, educate, support, and build community networks for care experienced young people.

In 2022-23 the Getting Ready project supported 45 young people through one-to-one structured support, financial workshops, information, advice, financial and resource assistance, through independent funding, resulting in 470 structured support sessions.

The following table provides a data summary of the project in the year 2022-23

The table below provides information regarding the number of resources disseminated through workshops and accessed through the financial padlet site:

Dissemination of resources

- Resources available at the end of the quarter 4 PDF resources - **140**
- Resources distributed through workshops Jan- March 2023 - **9**
- Resources distributed through network meetings Oct 2022 - **25**

Padlet resources stats

Month	Individual visitors	Total views (will include one person viewing a padlet more than once)
January	422	1,280
February	204	527
March	175	410
	TOTAL VIEWS	**2,217**

Performance Indicators

	Year to Date
Starts	45
Positive Feedback (beneficiaries) (anecdotal)	20
Positive Feedback (professional) (anecdotal)	20
Sessions delivered (beneficiary/partner)	470
Resource packs provided	2,278
Beneficiaries reporting improved housing circumstances	10
Beneficiaries reporting improved wellbeing	30
Beneficiaries reporting improved independence	25
Partners reporting positive responses from project	13

Participation and influencing

We have continued to provide a platform by which our young people can influence change within the care system in Wales. Additional to the national Summit, below highlights some of the key workstreams VFCC have supported young people to be experts by experience, ensuring their lived experience is heard, listened to, and acted on to influence change.

- Care experienced parents – Cardiff University
- Mental health, support for children in education who are Care Experience - Exchange research (17 young people engaged)
- Experienced of Care experience parents through the Child Protection process – Care inspectorate Wales (5 young care experienced parents)
- Tackling poverty - Wales strategy implementation - Welsh government consultation (24 young people engaged)
- Children and young people's education committee - oral evidence provided by both young people and professionals (young people and 2 VFCC senior management)
- Senedd Children, Young People and Education Committee consultation on exploring radical reform (11 care experienced young people)
- Secretariat to Cross Party Group on Children in our Care chaired by Jane Dodds MS
- WCVA - Third sector representative group
- Engagement and participation reference group - Public Health Wales
- Social care Wales residential reference group
- Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales – Welsh Government (30 care experienced young people from across Wales)
- Basic income polit focus group.
- Corporate parenting charter – Widening corporate parenting duties across Wales for care experienced children and young people.
- Representation on the governmental transformation board.

Our young people continue to play a vital role in ensuring their manifesto for change is progressed and achieved over the 4 years of the current government term. To support this progress our young people have met with members of the Senedd to ensure they deliver on their commitment, to listen to thousands of voices from our care community. Within this work the young people continue to discuss their vison for young people in care which is embedded within our manifesto. It is from the lived experience of our members from which the key aims derived and are as follows:

- To be enabled every child to thrive, feel secure and belong
- To manage the stigma and trauma of not living with a birth parent
- To have stability, support, and love, recognising the impact of the past on their mental health
- Standards for corporate parenting by the state to be enshrined in legislation.
- The importance of family and not being separated from siblings, to hold onto their identity.
- Not to feel like "currency in a care sector".

Participation

Events & Activities
167 children and young people have engaged in VFCC events and activities in 2022-23.

We have seen 9 new members to the VFCC Advisory group with additional recruitment of 40 young ambassadors to support the governmental radical reform and national summit workstreams.

We have delivered 36 events and activities inclusive of: wellbeing walks, Proud to me event, Christmas dinner, pampering days, beach visits, and a national running rings around you event which brought care experienced young people form 6 local authorities and 14 partners together to take part in a care experienced sports day at Builth Wells show ground.

Summit – 40 young people attended our national 4 of which chaired the day. All had been involved in workshops, in North Wales, Southeast and Southwest Wales, prior to the event. Participants chose which area of work they would like to be involved in: Health & Social Care, Social Justice, Mental Health, and Education.
At the Summit, the young people met Ministers for each area to provide information regarding the declaration as part of the Radical Reform of Care. Participants felt involved and were able to give their feedback.

Care leavers in Parc Prison were also able to be involved through the submission of poetry, which was exhibited on the day, along with a photo exhibition member had been involved in creating. Looking at how they feel and their vision of what the care system should look like.

Care Day – The run up to Care Day involved us bringing young people together in diverse ways: our Advisory Group met to discuss Children's Rights, a group of young people met with the Education Committee to give their views, Merthyr Local Group met along with Sing Proud Cymru. 66 Tweets were published, creating 1,605 engagements, 558 likes and 195 retweets. Our reach on Facebook and Instagram were 357 and 183, respectively.

Young people, staff and professionals were asked to choose one of the UNCRC rights and state why they had chosen it and how they would apply in practise.

Proud to be Me – 86 People attended proud, 61 young people and 25 professionals and carers. Working with other agencies we offered stalls with Cascade Voices, Fostering Network, Foster Wales, NYAS, Welsh Government and Adoption UK. Workshops were held by Voices staff on the Vision of Wales and Wellbeing Journal. Foster Wales and Smashlife UK also provided sessions. In the afternoon it was time to relax and have some fun. Opportunities involved a cricket session, drumming session, rapping/storytelling, disco and karaoke and an art session.

We asked stallholders and those running workshops to provide feedback, two comments were:

'I loved the event - I think it was really tailored to the YP - I particularly loved the energy from the adults - I go to so many events where the adults / professionals do not engage, and it is disappointing - I always say the energy comes from us. Smashlife UK.

'Thank you for the email and thank you kindly for having us at the event. I felt like it was a positive day for the participants, and we gained a lot from talking and inviting participants to take part in the activities on our stall. It was certainly worth our while and exquisitely organised.' Senedd staff

A survey was sent to participants after the event asking about the day and what improvements could be made. One participant emailed after the event:

'Thank you for encouraging me and x to attend today. We picked up some useful info from the stands. The care experience young people were amazing and so positive about trying to improve things for others. The whole event was really welcoming. Thank you and well done.'

Peer support groups:
Student Peer Support Group – In October, the launch of Care Leaver Activities and Student Support Wales (CLASS CYMRU) launched the website that the group had been involved in the consulting and design stage. This is a great tool for care leavers and professionals to access information for their journey to university. Links to the site will be hosted on VFCC website and resources will be accessible via the Growing up in Care Padlets.
Mental health and wellbeing - The group have been meeting and supporting the content and development of the wellbeing Bibliotherapy Journal. The journal was launched online in May 2023 and a face-to-face book launch will take place in Cardiff and Conwy where children and young people can obtain a physical copy.

https://www.facebook.com/VoicesFromCareCymru/videos/1280435279202870/

Parent group – This group has been using their time to build positive relationships with their peers and to continue to work with Dr Louise Roberts on the next steps of the parenting Charter. Two of the care experienced young people are now Volunteering within Voices and supporting the facilitation of the group. The group has also welcomed the Minsters from the complaints committee and Vaugh Gethin MS and Jack Sargent MS.

Criminal Justice peer support – The work around his group has grown significantly over the past 12 months. The group has now grown to 3 groups in Berwyn Prison and one group within Cardiff prison. It has been noted through feedback, the Men currently detained gain a lot from the group by way of support, and understanding their rights and entitlements, as well as playing a role in informed the radical reform. In March 2023 VFCC facilitated a visit to Parc Prison for the Deputy Minister of Social Services and the Minster for Social Justice. The Minsters listened and observed a play written by the men which told their journey of being Care experienced and entry into the criminal justice system.

Care leavers group – This group has been pivotal in directing the delivery and content of our young advisory group and submit work. They have engaged in numerous consultations regarding youth homelessness and supported the evaluation processes around the basic income pilot and corporate partner charter.

Local groups
During the last fiscal year, the delivery of 24 local group sessions took place across the three contracted local authority areas, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Carmarthenshire, and Merthyr Tydfil. Work within these areas saw the following number of young people engaged to provide the following main outcomes.

1. Eradicating the stigma of the care experienced community
2. Mental health and wellbeing
3. Safeguarding consultation
4. What does love in the care system look like
5. Meeting with Local minsters to influence radical reform
6. Shelter Cymru/Llamau and mental health and wellbeing research

Sing Proud Choir – our care experienced choir has continued in partnership with the Wales Millennium Center. On the lifting of restrictions our members welcomed the return to face-to-face rehearsals. We have welcomed new members and, in partnership with Foster Wales, we have created and produced a video promoting the choir, the benefits our young people receive from attending, and the importance of positive relationships and connections out the system to which they belong. The members of the Choir continually report that connection played a significant role in reducing loneliness, isolation and supporting emotional wellbeing by ensuring social connections with their peers, and young people living alone. The Voices from Care Cymru Choir branded 'Sing Proud Cymru' is open to any care experienced young people and those who support them. This could be children looked after, care leavers, foster cares, residential home staff, social workers, or advocates. Since the lifting of restrictions, the Choir has performed at one event and is currently rehearsing for the Christmas performance.

Overall, it has been a busy and positive year at Voices from Care Cymru, and we look forward to continuing to build new partnerships in the year ahead whilst championing the rights of our care experienced children and young people in Wales.

Voices has supported and developed a national young ambassdors approach.

Financial review

An increase of unrestricted reserves has been achieved.

The total income for the year was £1,001,830 (2022: £905,060 re-stated). Direct charitable expenditure including support costs amounted to £795,332 (2022: £704,125) and governance costs totalled £7,570 (2022: £5,480). This resulted in net incoming resources of £198,928 (2022: £195,455 re-stated), of which was an unrestricted surplus of £59,394 and a restricted surplus of £139,534 before transfers between funds.

As disclosed in the accounts, the Welsh Government was the principal funder, with Comic Relief, NYAS, Esmee Fairbairn, Paul Hamlyn, Henry Smith Foundation, Lloyds Foundation, WCVA, National Lottery and Carmarthenshire Council providing additional funding.

Reserves Policy

GENERAL RESERVES
Trustees monitor progress towards achieving the Strategic Plan and have reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with guidance from the Charity Commission.

Trustees have considered the reserves required by the charity in the event of a funding crisis and have set a target equal to four months' running costs. Reserves can be used to sustain essential operations in periods of financial difficulty, and in exceptional circumstances, for other purposes agreed by the Trustees. The organisation raises funds by various means and continues on a path of diversifying its income streams.

The Trustees maintain free reserves (i.e. reserves drawn from funds which have no restrictions on their use within VFCC) at a level that is at least equivalent to four months' running costs. At the time of writing running costs are approximately £60,000/month, setting the desired reserve level at £220,000. This is in addition to any designated funds.

The trustees feel it prudent that the charity set up designated funds, which fall under the general reserves.

DESIGNATED FUNDS:

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUND
The business development expenditure reserve is established because it is important that the charity maximises its income and reduces overall expenditure when possible. Therefore, developing new income streams, strengthening existing ones and improving efficiency are a priority. The required level of £50,000 is set aside.

PROJECT CLOSURE
Growth of activity and hence income streams in particular from projects give cause for the trustees to consider the costs associated with project closure and redundancy costs. This designated reserve has been established to ensure sufficient funds are available when projects come to an end; and if the organisation needs to relocate, and/or develop new offices. The trustees feels that a desired level of £90,000 is required.

PROPERTY FUND
To cover the costs of either (i) investment in a property of our own or/provision in respect of future rental costs/ office development and (ii) provision in respect of dilapidation (repairs required during or the end of the tenancy).

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

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

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

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

Appraisal of activities and future developments

Summary
This year saw VFCC expanding the reach of our wellbeing provision, providing vital support to some of the young people in the care experienced community in Wales who need it most.

We have worked with partners to deepen the evidence base about the experiences of young people in the care community, strengthening the case for change. We have deepened our partnerships and grown their reach.

We have seen some of our Manifesto asks from the May 2021 Senedd election included in Party manifestos and then incorporated into the Programme of Government. We have brought care experienced young people together with influencers and decision makers, both to steer the delivery of specific policy commitments and to influence the wider policy agenda.

Future plans

Next year we will further strengthen our wellbeing provision, enabling us to support more care experienced children and young people. We will develop a new project working with younger children aged 8 to 14, aiming to support them in the present and help them build positive futures. We will support the expansion of our peer support cafes, bringing more groups of care experienced young people with common interests and experience together to support each other.

We will continue to enable care experienced young people to work with Welsh Government to support the effective delivery of specific policy commitments, and we will continue to press for the voices of care experienced children and young people to be at the heart of the delivery of the wider commitment to explore radical reform of services to the care experienced community.

We will review our own constitution and ways of working to ensure that we continue to be truly young person led and young person inspired.

We will refresh our Five Nations Partnership, ensuing that the work of the five organisations supporting the care experienced community across the nations and jurisdictions of Great Britain and Ireland, continues to cross fertilize to strengthen the ability of all five organisations to make a positive difference for our care experienced communities.

Structure, governance and management

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

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

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

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

Directors and trustees
The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. As set out in the Articles of Association dated, 15 May 2010, the members of the company at the annual general meeting nominate six trustees from among the members and six trustees from professionals. The Members Committee also elects a Chair and 6 member trustees to the Management Committee. The Chair of the Members Committee is also Chair of the Board of Trustees in conjunction with the Professional Chair nominated by Trustees from the Professional Trustees elected. The trustees further nominate a Treasurer from among the professional trustees.

The Trustees serve for a period of three years with one third retiring at each annual general meeting. The trustees have the power to co-opt members to fill casual vacancies in their number.

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

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Reference and administrative details

Company Registration Number:
3261608

Charity Number:
1108430

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

Catriona Williams - Co Chair
Brittany Davies - Co Chair
Roger Bishop
Jeffery Champney-Smith
Sarah Crombie
Jo Anne Griffith
Ian Harvey
Sophie Landers
Craig Mead
Louise Roberts
Graham Roddis
Rhian Thomas

Company Secretary
D A Jones

Chief Executive
D A Jones

Registered Office
45 The Parade, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3AB

Auditors
Azets Audit Services.Ty Derw , Lime Tree Court, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff, CF23 8AB

Bankers
Barclays Bank PLC, 28 Queen St, St Davids Centre, Cardiff CF10 2BY

CCLA Investment Management Limited, COIF Charities Deposit Fund: One Angel Lane, London, EC4R 3AB

CAF Account: 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mr G Roddis

Dated: 2-11-23

Ms C Williams

Dated: 24/11/23

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Voices From Care Cymru (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 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 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the 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

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 charity'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 auditor's 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 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 in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE TRUSTEES OF VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

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 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud
Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we 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. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

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 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.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE TRUSTEES OF VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

Azets Audit Services

Azets Audit Services

8th December 2023

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Ty Derw, Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
United Kingdom
CF23 8AB

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	As restated Restricted funds 2022 £	As restated Total 2022 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	11,755	-	11,755	3,000	-	3,000
Charitable activities	4	54,773	934,866	989,639	86,400	815,426	901,826
Investments	5	436	-	436	26	-	26
Other income	6	-	-	-	208	-	208
Total income		66,964	934,866	1,001,830	89,634	815,426	905,060
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	7,570	795,332	802,902	3,838	705,767	709,605
Net incoming resources before transfers		59,394	139,534	198,928	85,796	109,659	195,455
Gross transfers between funds		7,600	(7,600)	-	(3,732)	3,732	-
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		66,994	131,934	198,928	82,064	113,391	195,455
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		365,047	213,488	578,535	282,983	100,097	383,080
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		432,033	345,422	777,455	365,047	213,488	578,535

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 As restated £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		25,947		5,408
Current assets					
Debtors	13	152,489		150,283	
Cash at bank and in hand		665,568		595,192	
		818,057		745,475	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(66,549)		(172,348)	
Net current assets			751,508		573,127
Total assets less current liabilities			777,455		578,535
Income funds					
Restricted funds	16		345,422		213,488
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	17	210,000		160,000	
General unrestricted funds		222,033		205,047	
			432,033		365,047
			777,455		578,535

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 2023, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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 30-11-23

Ms C Williams

Mr G Roddis

Company registration number 3261608

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	22		93,601		187,694
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(23,661)		(1,458)	
Investment income received		436		26	
Net cash used in investing activities			(23,225)		(1,432)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			70,376		186,262
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			595,192		408,930
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			665,568		595,192

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Voices From Care Cymru is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 45 The Parade, Roath, Cardiff, Glamorgan, CF24 3AD.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (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.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

1.4 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 from grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income from services is recognised in the period to which the service is provided.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

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

Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

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

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

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost category on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

Expenditure is reported gross due to the charity not being VAT registered.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

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

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

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

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

Derecognition of financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

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.

1.9 Taxation

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

1.10 Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

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.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations and gifts	11,755	3,000

4 Charitable activities

		As restated
	2023	2022
	£	£
Advice, Support, Participation & Collaboration	53,000	86,400
Grants	934,866	815,426
Other income	1,773	-
	989,639	901,826
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	54,773	86,400
Restricted funds	934,866	815,426
	989,639	901,826
Grants		
S.S.S.G. (Welsh Government)	363,962	265,000
The Henry Smith Charity	49,650	28,300
Lloyds Bank Foundation	26,370	24,120
Erasmus+ (Citizenship)	18,796	11,278
Homelessness Prevention (Welsh Government)	180,079	186,334
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	6,687
The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	13,350	37,500
National Lottery Community Fund	161,084	174,568
WCVA	31,005	60,839
National Lottery Community Fund - Comic Relief	-	20,800
British & Foreign School Society (BFSS)	14,570	-
BBC Children in Need	76,000	
	934,866	815,426

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Interest receivable	436	26

6 Other income

	Total Unrestricted funds	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Other Income	-	208

7 Charitable activities

	Generated Income	Comic Relief	S.S.S.G.	The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	Total 2023	Total 2022
	2023	2023	2023	2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	104,800	43,696	179,711	28,812	357,019	327,377
Depreciation and impairment	916	382	1,572	252	3,122	3,306
Travel	3,569	1,488	6,120	981	12,158	5,468
Volunteer expenses	2,848	1,187	4,884	783	9,702	2,648
Consultancy	7,081	2,952	12,143	1,947	24,123	44,626
Payroll and pension preparation	131	55	225	36	447	439
Occupancy	6,132	2,557	10,515	1,686	20,890	20,865
HR, legal and professional	2,144	894	3,676	589	7,303	3,520
Office running costs	3,367	1,404	5,774	926	11,471	10,449
Communications and facilitation	8,778	3,660	15,053	2,413	29,904	30,053
Bank charges	148	62	254	41	505	481
Grant reimbursement	-	-	57,034	-	57,034	52,483
Training and meeting costs	24,449	10,194	41,926	6,722	83,291	39,728
	164,363	68,531	338,887	45,188	616,969	541,443
Share of support costs (see note 8)	52,357	21,831	89,782	14,393	178,363	162,682
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	2,222	927	3,810	611	7,570	5,480
	218,942	91,289	432,479	60,192	802,902	709,605
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	2,222	927	3,810	611	7,570	3,838
Restricted funds	216,720	90,362	428,669	59,581	795,332	705,767
	218,942	91,289	432,479	60,192	802,902	709,605

7 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Generated Income	Comic Relief	S.S.S.G.	The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	96,099	40,068	164,790	26,420	327,377
Depreciation and impairment	970	405	1,664	267	3,306
Travel	1,606	669	2,752	441	5,468
Volunteer expenses	776	324	1,334	214	2,648
Consultancy	13,101	5,462	22,462	3,601	44,626
Payroll and pension preparation	129	54	221	35	439
Occupancy	6,125	2,554	10,502	1,684	20,865
HR, legal and professional	1,036	423	1,776	285	3,520
Office running costs	3,067	1,279	5,260	843	10,449
Communications and facilitation	8,822	3,678	15,128	2,425	30,053
Bank charges	141	59	242	39	481
Grant reimbursement	-	-	52,483	-	52,483
Training and meeting costs	11,662	4,863	19,997	3,206	39,728
	143,534	59,838	298,611	39,460	541,443
Share of support costs (see note 8)	47,754	19,911	81,888	13,129	162,682
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,609	671	2,758	442	5,480
	192,897	80,420	383,257	53,031	709,605
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	(33)	671	2,758	442	3,838
Restricted funds	192,930	79,749	380,499	52,589	705,767
	192,897	80,420	383,257	53,031	709,605

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	Support costs	Governance costs	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	153,008	-	153,008	140,304	-	140,304
Occupancy costs	12,803	-	12,803	12,788	-	12,788
HR costs	4,476	-	4,476	2,164	-	2,164
Office running costs	7,031	-	7,031	6,404	-	6,404
Payroll	1,045	-	1,045	1,022	-	1,022
Audit fees	-	7,570	7,570	-	5,480	5,480
	178,363	7,570	185,933	162,682	5,480	168,162
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	178,363	7,570	185,933	162,682	5,480	168,162

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £6,820 (2022: £4,730) for audit fees and £750 (2022: £750) for accountancy fees.

9 Trustees

No trustees claimed expenses in the current or prior year.

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

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Direct charitable expenditure	15	15
Management and administration	3	3
Total	18	18

Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	453,373	421,458
Social security costs	38,501	33,365
Other pension costs	18,153	12,858
	510,027	467,681

10 Employees (Continued)

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,000 - £69,999	1	1

Key management personnel
The gross benefits received by key management personnel totalled £241,221 (2022: £199,585).

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings	Computer equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	16,370	64,531	80,901
Additions	-	23,661	23,661
At 31 March 2023	16,370	88,192	104,562
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2022	15,406	60,087	75,493
Depreciation charged in the year	964	2,158	3,122
At 31 March 2023	16,370	62,245	78,615
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2023	-	25,947	25,947
At 31 March 2022	964	4,444	5,408

13 Debtors

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	12,313	13,500
Prepayments and accrued income	140,176	136,783
	152,489	150,283

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2023 £	As restated 2022 £
Government grants	15	-	120,654
Trade creditors		45,244	46,694
Other creditors		13,805	-
Accruals		7,500	5,000
		66,549	172,348

15 Government grants

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2023 £	As restated 2022 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	-	120,654
Movements in the year:		
Brought forward	120,654	55,924
Income received	179,581	355,052
Income released	(300,235)	(290,322)
Carried forward	-	120,654

16 Restricted funds

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

	Movement in funds					Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2021	As Restated Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	As Restated Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Lloyds Bank Foundation	-	24,120	(24,120)	-	-	26,370	(26,370)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund - Comic Relief	(5,351)	20,800	(18,533)	3,084	-	-	-	-	-
S.S.S.G (Welsh Government)	1,565	265,000	(267,213)	648	-	363,962	(353,738)	(7,600)	2,624
Erasmus+ (Citizenship)	-	11,278	(4,901)	-	6,377	18,796	(5,163)	-	20,010
Comic Relief	21,097	-	-	-	21,097	-	-	-	21,097
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	3,192	6,687	(6,687)	-	3,192	-	-	-	3,192
The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	42,877	37,500	(28,979)	-	51,398	13,350	(10,386)	-	54,362
Homelessness Prevention (Welsh Government)	13,550	186,334	(169,211)	-	30,673	180,079	(156,344)	-	54,408
The Henry Smith Charity	5,489	28,300	(16,912)	-	16,877	49,650	(34,790)	-	31,737
WCVA	6,147	5,619	(9,875)	-	1,891	-	-	-	1,891
National Lottery Community Fund	11,531	174,568	(117,296)	-	68,803	161,084	(114,816)	-	115,071
WCVA (RFW)	-	55,220	(42,040)	-	13,180	-	-	-	13,180
WCVA (TSRF)	-	-	-	-	-	31,005	(9,994)	-	21,011
British & Foreign School Society (BFSS)	-	-	-	-	-	14,570	(9,327)	-	5,243
BBC Children in Need	-	-	-	-	-	76,000	(74,404)	-	1,596
	100,097	815,426	(705,767)	3,732	213,488	934,866	(795,332)	(7,600)	345,422

16 **Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

Lloyds Bank Foundation: grant is to fund rental costs.

National Lottery Community Fund - Big Lottery: a project providing integrated wellbeing activities and flexible counselling services to care experienced people across Wales.

S.S.S.G (Welsh Government): Sustainable Social Services Grant.

Erasmus+ (Citizenship): is funding provided for the project Strengthening Our Voice under the Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 3: Structured Dialogue, meeting between young people and decision makers in the field of youth.

Comic Relief : grant is to support staff costs.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation: grant is to support staff costs.

The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation: grant was awarded to fund the salary of a co-ordinator, evaluation and other project costs to increase young people's access to a service that enables them to stay with foster carers longer.

Homelessness Prevention (Welsh Government): supports young people six months prior to leaving care. This funding will provide a three tiered support model for those young people transitioning from care, individual support, peer support, community support.

The Henry Smith charity: grant is to support running costs of a project providing advocacy and advice for care-experienced children and young people across Wales.

WCVA: grant was to create a volunteer model to be embedded within the organisation.

National Lottery Community Fund: to create a national mental health and well-being service for care experienced young people.

WCVA (RFW): The project will support volunteers from the care experienced community.

WCVA (TSRF): The project will provide volunteers to support the wellbeing of future generations.

British & Foreign School Society (BFSS): to support young carers.

BBC Children in Need: to support work to create national conversation on the needs of care experienced children and young people (CYP) and in particular those in the 8-13 age group.

17 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:

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2022	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Business development fund	30,000	20,000	50,000	20,000	70,000
Project closure	50,000	20,000	70,000	20,000	90,000
Building	-	40,000	40,000	10,000	50,000
	80,000	80,000	160,000	50,000	210,000

Business developement fund

The business development expenditure reserve is established because it is important that the charity maximises its income and reduces overall expenditure when possible. Therefore, developing new income streams, strengthening existing ones and improving efficiency are a priority. The required level of £50,000 is set aside.

Project closure

Growth of activity and hence income streams in particular from projects give cause for the trustees to consider the costs associated with project closure and redundancy costs. This designated reserve has been established to ensure sufficient funds are available when projects come to an end; and if the organisation needs to relocate, and/or develop new offices. The trustees feels that a desired level of £90,000 is required.

Property fund

To cover the costs of either (i) investment in a property of our own or/provision in respect of future rental costs/ office development and (ii) provision in respect of dilapidation (repairs required during or the end of the tenancy).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2023 £	Designated 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	As restated Unrestricted 2022 £	Designated 2022 £	As restated Restricted 2022 £	As restated Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:								
Tangible assets	25,947	-	-	25,947	5,408	-	-	5,408
Current assets/(liabilities)	196,086	210,000	345,422	751,508	199,639	160,000	213,488	573,127
	222,033	210,000	345,422	777,455	205,047	160,000	213,488	578,535

19 Operating lease commitments

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	30,732	33,112
Between two and five years	96,665	118,166
In over five years	-	7,236
	127,397	158,514

20 Liability of members and reserves

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

21 Related party transactions

The charity and Children In Wales - Plant Yng Nghymru have common trustees.

During the year the charity paid £57,114 (2022: £52,483) to Children In Wales - Plant Yng Nghymru relating to membership, training and reimbursement for the 'Getting Ready Project'. £14,344 was outstanding at the year end (2022: £10,308).

There were no other related party transactions to disclose.

22 Cash generated from operations

	2023	As restated 2022
	£	£
Surplus for the year	198,928	195,455
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(436)	(26)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	3,122	3,306
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	-	1,020
(Increase) in debtors	(2,206)	(105,333)
Increase in creditors	14,848	28,542
(Decrease)/increase in deferred income	(120,654)	64,730
Cash generated from operations	93,601	187,694

23 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.

24 Prior period adjustment

In the 2022 financial statements deferred income was overstated by £39,133 as well as restricted income being understated by the same amount. This is due to incorrect treatment of grant income received in the period that should have been released during the year and carried forward in restricted funds.

As such the 2022 figures presented as comparatives in the 2023 financial statements have been restated.

The restatement affects the following:

Statement of Financial Activities
Balance sheet
Charitable activities income note
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year note
Government grants note
Restricted funds note
Analysis of net assets between funds note
Cash generated from operations note

The following corrections were made:
DR Deferred Income: £39,133
CR Restricted funds - grants: £39,133

This adjustment has impacted the results previously reported for the prior year by increasing the surplus reported by £39,133, and the restricted reserves at the prior year end by £39,133.

25 Prior period adjustment

Changes to the balance sheet

	At 31 March 2022		
	As previously reported	Adjustment	As restated
	£	£	£
Creditors due within one year			
Deferred income	(159,787)	39,133	(120,654)
Income funds			
Restricted funds	174,355	39,133	213,488
Unrestricted funds	365,047	-	365,047
Total funds	539,402	39,133	578,535

Changes to the profit and loss account

	Period ended 31 March 2022		
	As previously reported	Adjustment	As restated
	£	£	£
Income from:			
Charitable activities	862,693	39,133	901,826
Net movement in funds	156,322	39,133	195,455

Voices From Care Cymru

England & Wales - Charity number 1108430

Accounts

Charity registration number 1108430

Company registration number 3261608 (England and Wales)

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

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VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Co-Chair's forward

As an organisation, Voices From Care Cymru (VFCC) continues to be committed to its core values of being led by those with lived experience. To this end we have continued to support the active participation of care experienced children and young people throughout the organisation. This continues to include young Co-Chairs of the Trustee Board and F&HR Sub Committee as well as young trustees or committee members alongside professional colleagues. It also includes co-producing all aspects of VFCC's work with young people.

Understanding the lived experience of care experienced children and young people has never been more important. The priorities during the year were determined entirely by them and we are pleased to have again increased VFCC's reach across Wales. Increasing numbers of care experienced children and young people, combined with increasing challenges for them individually as matters such as the rise in the cost of living and increased mental health issues post Pandemic, required VFCC to take as much action as possible. This we did by seeking and securing funding to establish several new areas of work to address these needs. One such example is the new mental health and well-being service which is a welcome addition to the crisis intervention service.
An important aspect of the year's work was delivering on our aim of creating a 'community' or 'family' of care experienced children and young people across Wales, as well as supporting connections through the Five Nations collaboration (Wales, Scotland England, N Ireland and Ireland). VFCC hosted the successful 5th National Care Day, as part of this work to raise awareness and celebrate the care experienced community.

Influencing Government policy continued to be a priority and young people, through VFCC, were able to give their views on a wide range of subjects. Of note was the work we did on the Welsh Government's Basic Income Pilot.

We would like to thank staff, volunteers and funders who together have contributed to trying to improve the lives of care experienced children and young people. Finally, we particularly want to thank the numerous young people who have so generously given of their time and of themselves to make sure that they have a voice in influencing both public and political opinion to ensure that care experienced children and young people can not only survive but achieve their full potential.

Co-Chairs



Brittany Davies & Catriona Williams OBE

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Chief Executive comments
This year has been significant for Voices from Care Cymru (VFCC) by way of its unique delivery of services that has related to the 2020/21 pandemic. The organisation has also been successful in achieving its strategic growth and its national reach.

During this period, VFCC has fully adapted all services to address the experiences and accounts that care experienced children and young people have directly informed us about. Key to this has been the development of a blended approach using social media platforms along with direct face to face work. This has been very exciting as it has allowed the organisation to increase our reach across Wales, allowing a greater number of our care experienced community to access and further engage with our services.

A highlight and example of this work was hosting the 5th National 'Care Day'; an annual event which celebrates the successes of care experienced children and young people across Wales.

During this year, VFCC has continued to listen to the important topics raised by care experienced children and young people, describing the national impacts from the Pandemic. These discussions are key in highlighting the additional challenges many care experienced children and young people are currently facing. Our care community has described examples that included a lack or no contact with key services, placement interruption, increased mental/wellbeing concerns, homelessness, increased poverty and a lack of access to information on their rights and entitlements.

Voices From Care Cymru recognised the additional challenges and has successfully adapted our services to provide a 'single front door' approach which offers care experienced children and young people a seamless, blended approach that includes bespoke projects, virtual peer to peer cafes, national activities/events, wellbeing, participation, influencing policy and contributing to key political objectives.

The VFCC manifesto that was launched in April 2021 has driven forward our commitments to strengthen our relationships and to working in partnership with Welsh Government Ministers in delivering their commitments to the care experienced community as set out in the 'Programme for Government.' We will continue in the following year to build stronger relationships with Welsh Government Ministers to ensure the voices of care experienced children are at the heart of Welsh Government's commitment to radical reform.

We are currently very excited to support the delivery of the 'Basic Income Pilot' being introduced to Wales. VFCC would like to thank the First Minister, Mark Drakeford for prioritising care leavers as the cohort who will benefit from the ongoing Pilot.

We look forward to working with Welsh Minsters next year as the process for radical reform continues.

In conclusion I would like on behalf of VFCC, to thank all of our kind funders for supporting the organisation through the pandemic. With your additional support, the organisation was able to be central in responding to crises and continue the necessary intervention our services are able to provide.

To continue with fantastic news, it is a huge privilege to announce Michael Sheen as our new patron. I would like to thank Michael for accepting this position and I look forward to working with him in the future.

Lastly, VFCC's vision to represent and campaign in order to the improve the outcomes for care experienced children and young people would not have been achieved without the authentic voices of care experienced children and young people being central to the organisation. I would like to acknowledge their hard work and thank them for their support.

I equally acknowledge and thank the staff and Board of trustees for their dedication and commitment to work of VFCC.

Thank you/Diolch Yn Fawr

Deborah Jones
CEO

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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Dated: 30/11/22

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The objects of the charity are to advance the spiritual, educational and physical welfare of young people in Wales who are or have been looked after by a local authority / third sector and private organisations by any charitable means, involving young people in the decision-making process and improving the effectiveness of services to young people in Wales. To achieve this Voices From Care Cymru (VFCC) will:

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

Development Of Aims

Objectives

- Continue to monitor and identify policy and practice issues of common concern by gathering and distributing information to appropriate bodies and organisations throughout Wales.
- Represent the views of children and young people and to actively campaign to improve the conditions for children and young people.
- Act as an interface on behalf of children and young people to encourage relevant bodies and organisations to take appropriate action.
- Encourage and promote the participation of children and young people within VFCC's operational strategy and service provision.
- Assist in the development of participation frameworks within decision-making processes to further enable children and young people to have a voice.
- Promote training for the service providers and to encourage the strategic development to include children and young people within its delivery.
- Act as a safeguard within current legislation i.e. The Children Act 1989, The Children and Adoption Act 2002, The Children Act 2004, The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2016.
- Provide an independent advice, support and wellbeing service on an on-going basis.
- Continue and build on the participation frameworks for degree in 'Social Work' with Cardiff Metropolitan and Cardiff University, as always.
- Continue and further develop the corporate parent frameworks with the Local Authorities in Wales.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Achievements and performance

In 2021-2022 voices From Care Cymru (VFCC), saw the gradual lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. As a learning organisation we took lessons learnt from our virtual delivery within 2020-21 and applied a blended approach to all projects, using varied forms of technological mechanisms and face to face interventions thus allowing our young people to take control of their services and their preferred form of interactions with us. To enable us to support the diverse needs of our workforce we introduced a hybrid model of delivery, thus allowing working from home to continue with expectation placed for at least one day office working per week.

This year we have received continuation of funding for our 'Getting Ready' project and additional funding from WCVA Strive Programme to enhance our internal CRM systems. New Children In Need funding has enabled us to widen our capacities in working with younger care experienced children 8-13, to eradicate the need for mental health interventions. British Foreign Schools have also invested in the organisation for a 3 year funding period in order for us to deliver a bespoke homework club to raise the educational attainment of our care experienced community. Finally, additional funding from Henry Smith has been received to support the implementation of peer support groups.

Performance:
Since April 21 172 care experienced children and young people have engaged with Voices from Care Cymru's 'Our Offer' services, an increase of 24% to the previous year.

133 of these young people received wellbeing support, for crisis support, advice, information, or advocacy and 103 young people entered long term structured 1-1 wellbeing support, which saw the delivery of 942 bespoke 1 -1 sessions delivered.

72 young people participated in our care community, social action and influencing work.

116 participation and activity events have been delivered inclusive of, themed workshops, Halloween event, Chriseaster Event, Summer of Smiles in conjunction with Cardiff LA. Social action workshops, local care experienced forums and activities, peer support cafes and Cascade Voices. All events and local groups activity and sessions were planned and delivered in conjunction with VFCC young people events planning committee.

Wellbeing
2021 -2022 saw the first year of a 3-year implementation of our mental health and wellbeing service funded by the National Lottery; a new service designed and co-produced by care experienced young people, to plug the gap identified for our care experienced community. This service addresses the need of wellbeing intervention at a time when it is needed. It does not hold a waiting list and provides 1-1 structured support, group sessions, professional training, and a bespoke counselling service. The project was funded by the National lottery which complements our already funded Crisis Intervention project funded by Henry Smith, therefore allowing Voices from Care Cymru to offer an holistic, expert led wellbeing service to meet the needs of our care community.

Through the forementioned mental health and wellbeing services, Voices From Care Cymru has supported a total of 103 young people through the delivery of wellbeing activities on a national level.

A total of 73 care experienced young people engaged in group work sessions. These sessions focused on different methods of self-care including affirmations, positive messages, art therapy, overcoming stigma and self-care practices, reducing anxiety, and managing wellbeing.

Through our crisis intervention service, we have received a total of 81 referrals, 76 young people engaged in 1-2-1 support. A total of 388 1-2-1 sessions attended.

All those engaging in 1-2-1 support were of care-leaving age (15 years and ¾).

The majority of those identified as female members, making up to 69% of those accessing support.

This is followed by 30% of those being male and one percent (1%) identifying as transgender.

Additionally, we have provided advice and guidance to a total of 35 young people seeking support from enquiries for one off/drop-in support

Through our delivery, Voices From Care Cymru see the direct impact of the lived experience on our young people, which is fed through data analysis to our influencing and policy team to drive our influencing priorities. This also allows us to share good practice and shape the agenda for change for care experienced children and young people in Wales, via the varied and high-level strategic groups and governmental boards with whom we work.

The following table highlights the main theme and issues presented this year:

Main issue heading	Underpinning issues presented, relating to main heading
Healthy Relationships	• Understanding definitions and expectations of different types of relationships • Understanding healthy and unhealthy relationships • Emotional support and intervention with domestic abuse • Improving communication • Sexual health • County lines
Emotional Wellbeing	• Anxiety • Depression • Self-esteem • Self-care • Understanding and managing emotions • Emotional support relating to trauma • Isolation/loneliness • Suicidal ideation • Bereavement • Crisis support (financial, safeguarding, funding, (emotional)
Physical Wellbeing	• Self-harm • Substance use • Sleep hygiene • Identity and Belonging • Values (Self)
Housing/Independent Living Skills	• Accessing resources • Breakdown of foster placement • Employment/Education • Accessing social services records (subject access requests). • Advocacy • Signposting.

For our workforce to be equipped to deliver and support our care experienced children and young people, a robust workforce development plan has been implemented. This year all our staff have engaged in the following training and development.

- Trauma informed practitioners training
- Assist training
- Motivational interviewing
- Advocacy training
- Quality case note recording
- Risk management

Additional to this, Voices from Care Cymru has introduced processes to ensure continued good practice, robust processes and quality assurance interventions, such as, observed practice, peer to peer support, case file audits and quality case note guidance and recording systems and peer led serious case reviews.

The Getting Ready Project
We are in the third (3rd) year of the delivery of this project delivered by VFCC in partnership with Children in Wales, supported by funding through the Welsh Government 'Suitable Provision and Support Innovation Fund – Homelessness Prevention Grant'. The aim of the fund, and therefore the project, is to reduce the risk of homelessness for our care community whilst aiming to increase the housing support available to vulnerable young people who are transitioning from local authority care.

The Getting Ready project complements the current Welsh Government, When I am Ready scheme, providing a more intensive intervention which seeks to echo the support and guidance that non-looked after young people receive within a family setting. This seeks to address some of the inequalities faced by the care-experienced population when transitioning from care.

Our overall aims of the project are:

- To provide support for young people to safely transition from care (including considerations around delaying leaving care and reducing the risk of homelessness and housing instability)
- To facilitate wraparound community support, which is more sustainable in the long-term and does not rely on future funding to deliver positive results
- To empower young people by enhancing their knowledge and understanding of their rights and entitlements when planning to leave care
- To build the capacity of young people to advocate for change
- To build resilience and mechanisms which keep young people safe from homelessness and related risk, enhancing their overall wellbeing
- To contribute to the fund's aim of preventing homelessness and achieving housing stability amongst care leavers
- To involve young people in the planning, delivery, and evaluation of the project

The Getting Ready project is delivered across Wales to young people in and leaving care and preparing for independent living and therefore complements the recommendations of preventative interventions in order to equip, educate, support and build community networks for care experienced young people

In 2021-2022 the getting ready project supported 65 young people through one-to-one structured support, financial workshops, information, advice, financial and resource assistance, through independent funding. Resulting in five hindered and 572 structured support sessions.

The following table provides a data summary of the project in the year 2021-2022

Starts	65
Positive Feedback (beneficiaries) (anecdotal)	24
Positive Feedback (professional) (anecdotal)	19
Sessions delivered (beneficiary/partner)	572
Resource packs provided	514
Beneficiaries reporting improved housing circumstances	24
Beneficiaries reporting improved wellbeing	42
Beneficiaries reporting improved independence	46
Partners reporting positive responses from project	16

Our 54 bespoke financial padlets developed and co-produced by young people, provide financially accessible information and budgeting tools on topics such as budgeting, best price utilities, mobile phone contracts, tenancy agreements, my rights, funding, managing finance, savings etc. These information Padlets have been recently praised by Welsh Government officials as a supportive tool and resource for professionals when preparing young people who are opting on the basic income pilot, recently launched for care leavers in Wales.
Padlet resource stats - year to date 54 padlet devised

Date range	Individual visitors	Total views (will include one person viewing padlet more than once)
1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022	504	688

Much development has been undertaken this year within the project to address gaps for those young people leaving "When I am ready" arrangements. The scope of the project has been widened by agreement of funders to support the cliff edge these young people may experience whilst preparing for independence. Additionally, to this the getting ready financial development worker has devised bespoke foster carer training to equip foster carers with the skills and knowledge of preparing young people for financial independence and worked alongside local authorities to provide bespoke training workshops for young people. These workshops resulted in the co-production of "The ladder of independence", a framework which allows young people to gain accreditation for attendance at workshops which evidentiality provides a portfolio of capabilities to support them in applying and moving onto independent living, and provides a positive platform on which to build their CV for employment, training or education.

Overall, the project provides a three-tiered support model for those young people transitioning from care, individual support, peer support, community support. This includes:

- Facilitating wrap-around community support
- Enhancing young people's knowledge on their rights and entitlements when planning to leave care, including enhancing their financial capabilities
- Providing support and training to enable them to live independently
- Establish employment and education circumstances and collaboratively develop a plan to ensure work, training and/or education is not disrupted by their transition from care.

Participation and influencing
We have continued to provide a voice to care for experienced young people throughout this past year. Some of the key pieces of work we have supported young people to be involved in include:

Development and launch of Voices from Care Cymru four-year manifesto: the next four years the influencing team, along with our young people, have committed to driving forward 5 keys aims through all strands of our work. Our manifesto also brings a work plan to support its implementation to ensure its intention and delivery manifests the impact we are seeking.

It is from the lived experience of our members from which the key aims derived and are as follows:

- To be enabled to thrive, feel secure and belong
- To manage the stigma and trauma of not living with a birth parent
- To have stability, support and love, recognising the impact of the past on their mental health
- Standards for corporate parenting by the state to be enshrined in legislation
- The importance of family and not being separated from siblings, to hold onto their identity
- Not to feel like "currency in a care sector".

Much progress has already been made regarding the manifesto work, which has resulted in our CEO taking a seat on the Welsh Government strategic group "Eliminating profit from care", also taking a seat on the "Work Plan for Government group" alongside statutory and Welsh government partners.

Our initial work on the Manifesto has brought forward opportunities for one-to-one meetings with care experienced young people and their local MS, to highlight their lived experience to bring forth change.

It has driven the organisation to scaffold the structure of an all-Wales corporate parenting charter, and the growth of our wellbeing service through additional funding to set up themed peer support groups and crisis interventions.

The manifesto focus has also brought collaborative Voices working with 5 nations' partners and 3rd sector advocacy providers to agree a joint approaches to eradicate stigma from the care system.

Additional to the manifesto, the influencing team and our young people have been involved in the following to shape the agenda and improve outcomes for our care experienced community.

Creation of digital content and the presentation to the Social Care Wales residential conference where 90 delegates were able to listen to the voice of care experienced young people to seek to improve the lived experience and share good practice.

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) 2-day professional conference – In March 22, VFCC supported young people to be part of a panel of experts who presented to the conference. The young people presented their views on priority areas they believe inspections should deep dive or explore when carrying out their work within local authorities across Wales. The young people highlighted the importance of mental health support, and the cliff edge care leavers often face when leaving care. Young people suggested CIW scrutinize the long-term support provided to care experienced young people particularly those referred to mental health services and those who were transitioning to adult services. Feedback from the conference lead, highlighted the impact the young people had on the conference and areas of work they will now develop as part of the inspection process.

Development and implementation for the care experience Parent charter in partnership with CASCADE and Dr Louise Roberts. The charter has seen 7 local authorities sign and commit by way of improving the journey of our care experienced parents in order to focus on providing support and not removal of their children. Therefore, attempting to break the cycle of the care system in Wales.

Young people receiving support from our "Getting ready project" funded by Welsh Government innovation and housing fund supported the research undertaken by Llamau, by sharing their lived experience of leaving care, housing options and support they felt was required to enable them to successfully maintain a tenancy and be skilled to live independently. Report, findings, and recommendations can be found here. Don_t_Let_Me_Fall_Through_The_Cracks_-_Summary_Paper_-_End_Youth_Homelessness_Cymru_-_09-2020.pdf (childreninwales.org.uk) • Welsh government corporate parenting implementation group are coproducing the content, delivery and national conversation surrounding this.

Basic income pilot (BIP): Since September 2021 Voices from Care Cymru (VFCC) has sat on the Technical Advisory Group for the Basic Income Pilot for care leavers in Wales. Through our connection with care experienced young people, VFCC were asked to engage with the cohort to explore support needs and design of the delivery of the BIP model.

From February 2022 to April 2022 VFCC was able to consult with 17 young people who provided advice and information on the holistic needs of young people who would opt into the pilot. The young people were able to meet with the Social Justice Minster, Jane Hutt. Discussion took place around the intentions of the pilot and its implementation. This work has been a foundation for the next stage of the Basic Income Pilot, by which VFCC will work with young people to co-produce workshops, information resources and provide support over the next 3 years to both the Welsh Government and young people opting into the pilot.

Children in Wales awareness webinar - In Jan 22 VFCC Operations Manager in partnership with Children in Wales presented a 2-hour webinar to 71 professionals across Wales on the topics of financial independence for care experienced young people. The session highlighted the need for early intervention and support to eradicate the risk of homelessness within the care community, as well as the promotion of the 56 national financial information padlets co-produced by young people. The Webinar was received well, and feedback suggested much knowledge was gained by attendees which will inform practice within their delivery when working with care experienced young people.

CASCADE's award-winning care experienced young people's research advisory group CASCADE Voices, run in partnership with Voices from Care Cymru has been hard at work virtually and, over the last few months, the group has returned to face-to-face meetings and has a full agenda ahead of them. CASCADE Voices infographic 20_21.pdf. Over the last year we have been able to provide two peer researcher opportunities, for members of our CASCADE Voices group. The first for a project lead by DECIPHer and The Fostering Network funded by the TRIUMPH network. The second has just been recruited to work on Dr Cindy Corliss's 'Selfies, snapchat and keeping safe' HCRW funded project.

Care day 22 was a huge success in Wales this year. Care day, a concept of VFCC CEO Deb Jones, brings together sister organisations across the 5 nations to celebrate care experienced young people and call for action and support. This year saw VFCC most successful social media interaction with support being shown from as far away as Africa, Netherlands, Italy and Spain. Care experienced young people co-produced all content of care day and decided on the theme "it takes a village to raise a child", which highlighted the role of corporate parents as parents and how relationships outside the care system were pivotal for care experienced young people to thrive. Weeklong events took place where key ask were presented by young people to decision makers. The care experienced knott, a symbol designed by VFCC young people was sent to all minsters with a letter asking they wear the pin badge to show their commitment to care experienced children and young people. See below care day schedule and social media interactions.

9:00am	Happy International Care Day from VFCC Post (Staff Pictures)
10:00am	"I Would Thrive if.." / "I Have Accomplished Despite."
11:00am	Jen's letter to VFCC
12:00pm	Cassy Video "I should thrive not just survive"
13:00pm	Taylar Video "What Community means to me"
14:00pm	5NLV podcast post??
15:00pm	Deb's Care Knott announcement – The importance of a safe stigma free community for care experienced people
16:00pm	Local Groups Promo – Be a part of our community
16:00pm	Choir Promo
17:00pm	Volunteer Promo – Importance of Community integration and acceptance of care experienced young people in the wider community and how our volunteer project is going to help raise awareness.
18:00pm	What Progress we'd like to see in the community by next Care Day? (Breaking the Stigma Artwork)

Social media interactions
Tweets 78 3,800.0% Tweet impressions 35K 718.0% Profile visits 11.5K 410.7% Mentions 156 680.0% Followers 3,358 98.

In November VFCC was successful in our application to become a partner organisation to support the Youth Parliament. This resulted in VFCC supporting a care experienced young person to be the representative voice of the wider community, to ensure the experiences of young people in care are considered and remain a focus on the agenda in Wales and the work of the youth parliament.

Creation of Peer-to-Peer Advice: "A Guide to Growing Up In Care..." padlets are now accessible to care experienced young people, professionals, and partners. Whilst we recognise this information resource as a tool to understand care experienced children and young people's journeys and to provide information on where to seek help, education, parenting, money, mental health, and wellbeing etc, it is important to highlight that this tool will require continued development and updates. Therefore, within the 22-25 workplan for VFCC under the Welsh Government grant, we have committed to building on this resource and exploring the content to be developed and transferred to a downloadable app.

In February 2022, 3 young people presented to the Social Care Wales Residential Care Conference. The young people shared their lived experienced and made recommendations to the professionals on how the transition from foster care to residential should be supported, what their lived experience was and how listening, involving and empowering children and young people in decision making allows for more control over choices leading to a sustained, secure placement. VFCC continues to sit on the residential care operational group to support development of practice and their implementation from a lived experienced perspective.

Financial Information for Care Experienced Leavers: The Padlet now includes accessible bespoke Financial Information for Care Experienced Leavers developed with Children in Wales and co-produced with care experienced editors and young people. The 56 information padlets provide information ranging from, grants, loads, dept, "how to guides" to access the best utility providers, open bank accounts and budgeting, to name but a few. The guides will continually be updated in line with the changing landscape. The guides have recently been promoted as a support resource for those young people opting into the basic income pilot and shared as supportive resources for practitioners working within leaving care teams and services. Currently, the focus of the guides is wellbeing and self-care downloadable resources and referral networks.

In collaboration with the VFCC advisory group, we have built on the success of the peer support café model. The advisory group supported staff in exploring 5 additional key groups which have been highlighted as areas where young people have experienced barriers, knowledge, skills, and lack of support whilst being in care. These peer support cafés will bring together the lived experience, provide understanding of the barriers relating to the lived experienced of the theme, provide peer to peer support and become an expert group within the named area. The peer support cafés have welcomed wider partner connections to consult and influence systemic change to support governmental workstreams. Entwined within the model will be learning and accreditations for young people, such as volunteering, co facilitation and peer researchers. Participants will also act as expert groups who will inform the content of the care guides and future development of the care App. The groups participants being members of the care community have widened the reach of VFCC on a national level.

Themed groups are as follows:

- Criminal Justice
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Parents
- Care leavers
- LGBTQI+
- Students.

Additional to the above, Voices From Care Cymru has supported and attended wider partnerships meetings and tasks groups to ensure the lived experienced of our care experienced children and young people influences and impacts on shaping the agenda at all levels of interventions, policy, and research. This year VFCC staff have attended and contributed to the work of:

- All Wales Leaving Care Forum,
- Cardiff University CHIMES Project
- TGP Cymru - mental health research for care of experienced children and young people
- NIHR - Systematic Review of Mental Health Interventions for Care-Experienced Children and Young People".

- Cardiff University Keeping safe online research
- Care Inspectorate Wales conference
- Welsh Governments Basic Income Operational
- End Youth Homelessness project board and expert care experienced group
- IMPACT: Social Services and Well-being Act evaluation
- Preparing for independent living – Cardiff local authority
- CWYS regional groups
- Social Care Wales residential care childcare expert group
- Welsh Government, Corporate parenting implementation group
- Supporting the attendance of young people at cooperate parenting boards RCT and Merthyr
- NHS care leaver apprenticeship program
- Children in Wales webinar delivery and resources
- Participation and voice engagement group – social care Wales
- Llamau – state of play report and consultations
- Shelter Cymru

Participation
72 care experienced young people have been involved in VFCC Care community initiatives.

116 sessions have been delivered in the past year. This includes events, activities, and workshops, inclusive of Halloween event, Christ-Easter event, Christmas events. Social action workshops, local care experienced forums and activities, peer support cafes, activities, and cascade voices. All events and local groups activity and sessions were planned and delivered in conjunction with VFCC young people events planning committee.

Our experienced advisory group - VFCC advisory group, have been at the centre of much work in this reporting period. VFCC has supported attendance of 45 young people at 3 residential weekends. Although the themes of the residentials are parallel with the influencing work associated within our strategic aims, the young people themselves lay great importance on the part they play in advising, planning, and delivering all aspects of VFCC work. They also benefit from this time away from placements, to gain peer support, connect with peers and their community whilst having fun in a safe way.

Local groups
During the last financial year, the delivery of 26 local group sessions took place across the three contracted local authority areas, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Carmarthenshire, and Merthyr Tydfil. Work within these areas saw the following number of young people engage to provide the following main outcomes:

- Eradicating the stigma of the care experienced community
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Safeguarding
- Discussion on way forward of the groups
- Meeting with Local minsters to influence radical reform
- Shelter Cymru/Llamau and mental health and wellbeing research

Sing Proud Choir - our care experienced choir has continued in partnership with the Wales Millennium Center. On the lifting of restrictions our members welcomed the return to face-to-face rehearsals. We have welcomed new members and, in partnership with Foster Wales, we have created and produced a video promoting the choir, the benefits our young people receive from attending and the importance of positive relationships and connections out the system to which they belong. The members of the Choir continually report that connection played a significant role in reducing loneliness, isolation and supporting emotional wellbeing by ensuring social connections with their peers, young people living alone. The Voices from Care Cymru Choir branded 'Sing Proud Cymru' is open to any care experienced young people and those who support them. This could be children looked after, care leavers, foster cares, residential home staff, social workers, or advocates. Since the lifting of restrictions, the Choir has performed at one event and is currently rehearsing for the Christmas performance.

Christ-Easter event – Christmas this year brought the new omicron version of COVID, therefore regrettably we had to cancel our planned Christmas meal. However, we were able to combine our Christmas and Easter event "Christ-Easter" to bring together all our members. Although this year's event looked very different with Christmas trees decorated with Easter chicks, staff dressed as Santa and Easter bunnies, fun was had by all and the event itself was attend by 32 members and 9 external partners.

Overall it has been a busy and positive year at Voices from Care Cymru and we look forward to continuing to building new partnerships in the year ahead whilst championing the rights of our care experienced children and young people in Wales.

Financial review

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

The total income for the year was £865,927 (2021: £824,159). Direct charitable expenditure including support costs amounted to £704,125 (2021: £685,731) and governance costs totalled £5,480 (2021: £4,614). This resulted in net incoming resources of £156,322 (2021: £133,814), of which was an unrestricted surplus of £85,796 and a restricted surplus of £70,526 before transfers between funds.

As disclosed in the accounts, the Welsh Government was the principal funder, with Comic Relief, NYAS, Esmee Fairbairn, Paul Hamlyn, Henry Smith Foundation, Lloyds Foundation, WCVA, National Lottery and Carmarthenshire Council providing additional funding.

Reserves Policy

GENERAL RESERVES

Trustees monitor progress towards achieving the Strategic Plan and have reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with guidance from the Charity Commission.

Trustees have considered the reserves required by the charity in the event of a funding crisis and have set a target equal to four months' running costs. Reserves can be used to sustain essential operations in periods of financial difficulty, and in exceptional circumstances, for other purposes agreed by the Trustees. The organisation raises funds by various means and continues on a path of diversifying its income streams.

The Trustees maintain free reserves (i.e. reserves drawn from funds which have no restrictions on their use within VFCC) at a level that is at least equivalent to four months' running costs. At the time of writing running costs are approximately £60,000/month, setting the desired reserve level at £220,000. This is in addition to any designated funds.

The trustees feel it prudent that the charity set up designated funds, which fall under the general reserves.

DESIGNATED FUNDS:

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUND

The business development expenditure reserve is established because it is important that the charity maximises its income and reduces overall expenditure when possible. Therefore, developing new income streams, strengthening existing ones and improving efficiency are a priority. The required level of £50,000 is set aside.

PROJECT CLOSURE

Growth of activity and hence income streams in particular from projects give cause for the trustees to consider the costs associated with project closure and redundancy costs. This designated reserve has been established to ensure sufficient funds are available when projects come to an end; and if the organisation needs to relocate, and/ or develop new offices. The trustees feels that a desired level of £70,000 is required.

PROPERTY FUND

To cover the costs of either (i) investment in a property of our own or/provision in respect of future rental costs/ office development and (ii) provision in respect of dilapidation (repairs required during or the end of the tenancy).

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

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

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

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

Appraisal of activities and future developments

Summary
This year saw VFCC expanding the reach of our wellbeing provision, providing vital support to some of the young people in the care experienced community in Wales who need it most.

We have worked with partners to deepen the evidence base about the experiences of young people in the care community, strengthening the case for change. We have deepened our partnerships and grown their reach.

We have seen some of our Manifesto asks from the May 2021 Senedd election included in Party manifestos and then incorporated into the Programme of Government. We have brought care experienced young people together with influencers and decision makers, both to steer the delivery of specific policy commitments and to influence the wider policy agenda.

Future plans

Next year we will further strengthen our wellbeing provision, enabling us to support more care experienced children and young people. We will develop a new project working with younger children aged 8 to 14, aiming to support them in the present and help them build positive futures. We will support the expansion of our peer support cafes, bringing more groups of care experienced young people with common interests and experience together to support each other.

We will continue to enable care experienced young people to work with Welsh Government to support the effective delivery of specific policy commitments, and we will continue to press for the voices of care experienced children and young people to be at the heart of the delivery of the wider commitment to explore radical reform of services to the care experienced community.

We will review our own constitution and ways of working to ensure that we continue to be truly young person led and young person inspired.

We will refresh our Five Nations Partnership, ensuing that the work of the five organisations supporting the care experienced community across the nations and jurisdictions of Great Britain and Ireland, continues to cross fertilize to strengthen the ability of all five organisations to make a positive difference for our care experienced communities.

Structure, governance and management

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

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

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

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

Directors and trustees
The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. As set out in the Articles of Association dated, 15 May 2010, the members of the company at the annual general meeting nominate six trustees from among the members and six trustees from professionals. The Members Committee also elects a Chair and 6 member trustees to the Management Committee. The Chair of the Members Committee is also Chair of the Board of Trustees in conjunction with the Professional Chair nominated by Trustees from the Professional Trustees elected. The trustees further nominate a Treasurer from among the professional trustees.

The Trustees serve for a period of three years with one third retiring at each annual general meeting. The trustees have the power to co-opt members to fill casual vacancies in their number.

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

Reference and administrative details

Company Registration Number:
3261608

Charity Number:
1108430

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

Catriona Williams - Co Chair
Graham Roddis
Craig Mead
Roger Bishop
Louise Roberts
Jeffery Champney-Smith
Brittany Paige Davies
Ian Harvey
Joshua Escott - resigned 23/8/2021
Sarah Cromble
Jo Anne Griffith
Ben Landers - resigned 23/8/2021
Sophie Landers
Rhian Thomas

Company Secretary
D A Jones

Chief Executive
D A Jones

Registered Office
45 The Parade, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3AB

Auditors
Azets Audit Services.Ty Derw , Lime Tree Court, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff, CF23 8AB

Bankers
Barclays Bank PLC, 121 Queens Street, Cardiff, CF1 1SG
CCLA Investment Management Limited, COIF Charities Deposit Fund
CAF Account: Kings Hill Ave, Kings Hill, London

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Azets Audit Services be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

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Ms C Williams – TRUSTEE

Dated: 30/11/22

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Voices From Care Cymru (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 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 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the 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

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 charity'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 auditor's 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 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 in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the statement of trustees responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud
Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we 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. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

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 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE TRUSTEES OF VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Azets Audit Services

13-12-2022

Azets Audit Services

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
United Kingdom
CF23 8AB

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	3,000	-	3,000	17,063	-	17,063
Charitable activities	4	86,400	776,293	862,693	151,719	654,077	805,796
Investments	5	26	-	26	30	-	30
Other income	6	208	-	208	1,270	-	1,270
Total income		89,634	776,293	865,927	170,082	654,077	824,159
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	3,838	705,767	709,605	73,310	617,035	690,345
Net incoming resources before transfers		85,796	70,526	156,322	96,772	37,042	133,814
Gross transfers between funds		(3,732)	3,732	-	(4,833)	4,833	-
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		82,064	74,258	156,322	91,939	41,875	133,814
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		282,983	100,097	383,080	191,044	58,222	249,266
Fund balances at 31 March 2022		365,047	174,355	539,402	282,983	100,097	383,080

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		5,408		7,255
Current assets					
Stocks	13	-		1,020	
Debtors	14	150,283		44,950	
Cash at bank and in hand		595,192		408,930	
		745,475		454,900	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(211,481)		(79,075)	
Net current assets			533,994		375,825
Total assets less current liabilities			539,402		383,080
Income funds					
Restricted funds	17		174,355		100,097
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	18	160,000		80,000	
General unrestricted funds		205,047		202,983	
			365,047		282,983
			539,402		383,080

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 2022, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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 30-11-2022

Mr G Roddis
Trustee

Ms C Williams
Trustee

Company registration number 3261608

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	23		187,694		194,944
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,458)		(2,239)	
Investment income received		26		30	
Net cash used in investing activities			(1,432)		(2,209)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			186,262		192,735
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			408,930		216,195
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			595,192		408,930

1 Accounting policies

Charity Information

Voices From Care Cymru is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 45 The Parade, Roath, Cardiff, Glamorgan, CF24 3AD.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (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, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

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

1.2 Going concern

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.

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.

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

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

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

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

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

Governance

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

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Stocks

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

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.9 Financial instruments

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

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

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

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

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

Derecognition of financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.10 Taxation

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

1.11 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.

1.12 Retirement benefits

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
Donations and gifts	3,000	17,063

4 Charitable activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Advice, Support, Participation & Collaboration	86,400	48,900
Grants	776,293	756,896
	862,693	805,796
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	86,400	151,719
Restricted funds	776,293	654,077
	862,693	805,796
Grants		
S.S.S.G. (Welsh Government)	265,000	265,000
Henry Smith	28,300	28,300
Lloyds Foundation	24,120	24,120
Comic Relief	-	18,200
Erasmus+ (Citizenship)	11,278	-
Homelessness Prevention (Welsh Government)	186,334	176,960
Paul Hamlyn Fund	6,687	40,063
Carmarthenshire Council	-	16,000
The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	37,500	76,500
CHK Foundation	-	20,000
NLCF Big Lottery	135,435	27,087
WCVA	60,839	28,096
Community Foundation Wales	-	14,320
NLCF - Comic Relief	20,800	16,250
Other	-	6,000
	776,293	756,896

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
Interest receivable	26	30

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
Other Income	208	1,270

7 **Charitable activities**

	Generated Income	Comic Relief	S.S.S.G.	The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	Total 2022	Total 2021
	2022	2022	2022	2022		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	96,099	40,068	164,790	26,420	327,377	336,780
Depreciation and impairment	970	405	1,664	267	3,306	2,985
Travel	1,606	669	2,752	441	5,468	1,122
Volunteer expenses	776	324	1,334	214	2,648	50
Consultancy	13,101	5,462	22,462	3,601	44,626	32,565
Payroll/Pension preparation	129	54	221	35	439	432
Occupancy	6,125	2,554	10,502	1,684	20,865	20,697
HR, legal & professional	1,036	423	1,776	285	3,520	3,012
Office running costs	3,067	1,279	5,260	843	10,449	15,472
Communications / Facilitation	8,822	3,678	15,128	2,425	30,053	18,489
Bank Charges	141	59	242	39	481	315
Grant reimbursement	-	-	52,483	-	52,483	68,057
Training & meeting costs	11,662	4,863	19,997	3,206	39,728	16,400
	143,534	59,838	298,611	39,460	541,443	516,376
Share of support costs (see note 8)	47,754	19,911	81,888	13,129	162,682	169,355
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,609	671	2,758	442	5,480	4,614
	192,897	80,420	383,257	53,031	709,605	690,345
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	(33)	671	2,758	442	3,838	73,310
Restricted funds	192,930	79,749	380,499	52,589	705,767	617,035
	192,897	80,420	383,257	53,031	709,605	690,345

7 **Charitable activities** (Continued)

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Generated Income	Comic Relief	S.S.S.G.	The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	98,859	41,219	169,523	27,179	336,780
Depreciation and impairment	876	365	1,503	241	2,985
Travel	329	137	565	91	1,122
Volunteer expenses	15	6	25	4	50
Consultancy	9,559	3,986	16,392	2,628	32,565
Payroll/Pension preparation	127	53	217	35	432
Occupancy	6,076	2,533	10,418	1,670	20,697
HR, legal & professional	884	369	1,516	243	3,012
Office running costs	4,541	1,894	7,788	1,249	15,472
Communications / Facilitation	5,427	2,263	9,307	1,492	18,489
Bank Charges	92	39	159	25	315
Grant reimbursement	12,342	-	55,715	-	68,057
Training & meeting costs	4,815	2,007	8,255	1,323	16,400
	143,942	54,871	281,383	36,180	516,376
Share of support costs (see note 8)	49,713	20,727	85,248	13,667	169,355
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,354	565	2,323	372	4,614
	195,009	76,163	368,954	50,219	690,345
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	73,310	-	-	-	73,310
Restricted funds	121,699	76,163	368,954	50,219	617,035
	195,009	76,163	368,954	50,219	690,345

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	Support costs	Governance costs	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	140,304	-	140,304	144,334	-	144,334
Occupancy costs	12,788	-	12,788	12,685	-	12,685
HR costs	2,164	-	2,164	1,846	-	1,846
Office running costs	6,404	-	6,404	9,482	-	9,482
Payroll	1,022	-	1,022	1,008	-	1,008
Audit fees	-	5,480	5,480	-	4,614	4,614
	162,682	5,480	168,162	169,355	4,614	173,969
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	162,682	5,480	168,162	169,355	4,614	173,969

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £5,480 (2021- £4,614) for audit fees.

9 Net movement in funds

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's financial statements	5,480	4,614
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	3,306	2,985

10 Trustees

No trustees claimed expense in the current year (2021: 5 trustees received expenses totalling £122 in relation to travel and training expenses).

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

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022	2021
	Number	Number
Direct Charitable expenditure	15	15
Management and administration	3	3
Total	18	18

11 Employees (Continued)

Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	421,458	426,672
Social security costs	33,365	33,475
Other pension costs	12,858	20,967
	467,681	481,114

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
£60,000 - £69,999	1	1

Key management personnel
The gross benefits received by key management personnel totalled £199,585 (2021: 221,941).

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2021	16,370	63,073	79,443
Additions	-	1,458	1,458
At 31 March 2022	16,370	64,531	80,901
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2021	15,085	57,102	72,187
Depreciation charged in the year	321	2,985	3,306
At 31 March 2022	15,406	60,087	75,493
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2022	964	4,444	5,408
At 31 March 2021	1,285	5,970	7,255

13 Stocks

	2022 £	2021 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	-	1,020

14 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	13,500	6,500
Other debtors	127,640	30,343
Prepayments and accrued income	9,143	8,107
	150,283	44,950

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Government grants	16	159,787	55,924
Trade creditors		46,694	18,651
Accruals and deferred income		5,000	4,500
		211,481	79,075

16 Government grants

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	159,787	55,924
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 April 2021	55,924	-
Released from previous periods	(251,189)	(616,428)
Resources deferred in the year	355,052	672,352
Deferred income at 31 March 2022	159,787	55,924

17 Restricted funds

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

	Movement in funds					Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Lloyds Foundation	-	24,120	(24,120)	-	-	24,120	(24,120)	-	-
NLCF - Comic Relief	-	16,250	(21,601)	-	(5,351)	20,800	(18,533)	3,084	-
Sustainable Social Services Grant	-	265,000	(263,435)	-	1,565	265,000	(267,213)	648	-
European Fund (Erasmus+)	7,509	-	(12,342)	4,833	-	11,278	(4,901)	-	6,377
Comic Relief	18,791	18,200	(15,894)	-	21,097	-	-	-	21,097
Paul Hamlyn	3,192	20,063	(20,063)	-	3,192	6,687	(6,687)	-	3,192
The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	24,455	50,000	(31,578)	-	42,877	37,500	(28,979)	-	51,398
Homelessness Prevention Grant	127	176,960	(163,537)	-	13,550	186,334	(169,211)	-	30,673
Henry Smith	4,148	28,300	(26,959)	-	5,489	28,300	(16,912)	-	16,877
WCVA	-	28,097	(21,950)	-	6,147	5,619	(9,875)	-	1,891
NLCF - Big Lottery	-	27,087	(15,556)	-	11,531	135,435	(117,296)	-	29,670
WCVA (RFW)	-	-	-	-	-	55,220	(42,040)	-	13,180
	58,222	654,077	(617,035)	4,833	100,097	776,293	(705,767)	3,732	174,355

17 **Restricted funds** **(Continued)**

Lloyds Foundation grant is to fund rental costs.

NLCF - Big Lottery - A project providing integrated wellbeing activities and flexible counselling services to care experienced people across Wales.

Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant has replaced the Welsh Government core grant. The overspend in the 19/20 financial year will be mitigated in the 20/21 financial year.

Erasmus+ is funding provided for the project Strengthening Our Voice under the Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 3: Structured Dialogue, meeting between young people and decision makers in the field of youth.

Comic Relief grant is to support staff costs.

Paul Hamlyn grant is to support staff costs.

The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation grant was awarded to fund the salary of a co-ordinator, evaluation and other project costs to increase young people's access to a service that enables them to stay with foster carers longer.

The Homelessness Prevention grant supports young people six months prior to leaving care. This funding will provide a three tiered support model for those young people transitioning from care, individual support, peer support, community support.

Henry Smith grant is to support running costs of a project providing advocacy and advice for care-experienced children and young people across Wales.

WCVA grant was to create a volunteer model to be embedded within the organisation.

Big Lottery, to create a national mental health and well-being service for care experienced young people.

WCVA (RFW) - The project will support volunteers from the care experienced community.

18 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:

	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2021	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Business Development Fund	30,000	30,000	20,000	50,000
Project Closure	50,000	50,000	20,000	70,000
Building	-	-	40,000	40,000
	80,000	80,000	80,000	160,000

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUND

The business development expenditure reserve is established because it is important that the charity maximises its income and reduces overall expenditure when possible. Therefore, developing new income streams, strengthening existing ones and improving efficiency are a priority. The required level of £50,000 is set aside.

PROJECT CLOSURE

Growth of activity and hence income streams in particular from projects give cause for the trustees to consider the costs associated with project closure and redundancy costs. This designated reserve has been established to ensure sufficient funds are available when projects come to an end; and if the organisation needs to relocate, and/or develop new offices. The trustees feels that a desired level of £70,000 is required.

PROPERTY FUND

To cover the costs of either (i) investment in a property of our own or/provision in respect of future rental costs/ office development and (ii) provision in respect of dilapidation (repairs required during or the end of the tenancy).

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2022	Restricted 2022	Total 2022	Unrestricted 2021	Restricted 2021	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	5,408	-	5,408	7,255	-	7,255
Current assets/(liabilities)	359,641	174,353	533,994	275,728	100,097	375,825
	365,049	174,353	539,402	282,983	100,097	383,080

20 Operating lease commitments

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

	2022	2021
	£	£

20 Operating lease commitments **(Continued)**

Within one year	33,112	31,714
Between two and five years	118,166	33,132
In over five years	7,236	-
	158,514	64,846

21 Liability of members and reserves

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

22 Related party transactions

The charity and Children In Wales - Plant Yng Nghymru have common trustees.

During the year the charity paid £52,483 (2021: £55,715) to Children In Wales - Plant Yng Nghymru relating to membership, training and reimbursement for the 'Getting Ready Project'. £10,308 was outstanding at the year end (2021: £14,474).

There were no other related party transactions to disclose.

23 Cash generated from operations	**2022**	**2021**
	£	**£**
Surplus for the year	156,322	133,814
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(26)	(30)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	3,306	2,985
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in stocks	1,020	821
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(105,333)	3,166
Increase in creditors	132,405	54,188
Cash generated from operations	187,694	194,944

24 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.

Voices From Care Cymru

England & Wales - Charity number 1108430

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1108430

Company Registration No. 3261608 (England and Wales)

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

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VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Co-Chair's forward

As for so many organisations, the past year has been exceptionally challenging because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. For care experienced children and young people in Wales, lockdowns and periods of self-isolation have been incredibly difficult over and above the challenges they were already facing. Loneliness and isolation have never been more acute and many had difficulties relating to food and finance. We are pleased to say that our staff were not furloughed and responded quickly and appropriately to the needs of young people, especially those living alone. This resulted in the development of a much needed 'wellbeing' service.

The importance of keeping the care experienced community connected with each other during the past year resulted in many new initiatives which included social and fun activities as well as dealing with the basics of health and wellbeing. As a consequence of the tireless work of staff and young volunteers, this activity has resulted in an extension of the reach of the organisation to many young people who might otherwise not have come into contact with VFCC. As Co-chairs, we wish to thank all of the staff and young volunteers for your tremendous commitment and hard work.

Organisationally, VFCC continues to be committed to its core values of being led by those with lived experience. To this end we have continued to support the active participation of care experienced children and young people throughout the organisation, including Co-Chairs of the Trustee Board and F&HR Sub Committee, as well as Trustee and Committee membership of both alongside professional colleagues and the strategic direction has been inspired and influenced by the young people who have lived experience.

However, the challenges are huge and we have continued to advocate for *'Corporate Parenting'* to be taken seriously by public bodies and this theme remains central to our work. The rapidly increasing numbers of care experienced children and young people, and the issues that care leavers have faced during the year, particularly in relation to their emotional wellbeing, continues to be a major cause for concern and we have listened not only to their issues but also to the ideas they have for improvements which may be based on good care experiences they have had. We have endeavoured to be as influential as possible with politicians and other policy makers and with the media. Our thanks go to everyone involved, including our funders and supporters as we cannot carry out this important work without you.

Co-Chairs
Brittany Davies & Catriona Williams OBE

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Director's forward

Chief Executive comments

The impact of Covid-19 and lockdown had a huge impact on the organisation of which changed the organisation almost overnight.

Voices From Care Cymru became digitalised and established a National Offer that allowed us to support the wellbeing needs of our care experienced community in Wales throughout the Covid-19 crises.

The journey for Voices from Care Cymru along with our community, established a platform of social media activities/events that assisted in supporting care experienced children and young people through very challenging times. The National Offer supported our care experienced community by offering a wraparound service that provided crisis support, wellbeing checks, social/community engagement, crisis intervention/ prevention.

We co-produced briefings during this period that enabled regular briefing for the Deputy Minister Julie Morgan and the Children's Commissioner for Wales on the effect of Covid-19 on care experienced children and young people.

Our approach enabled us to develop a wellbeing community-based approach that included partnerships with foodbanks, local community shops, peer to peer cafes to enable our community to stay connected and safe.

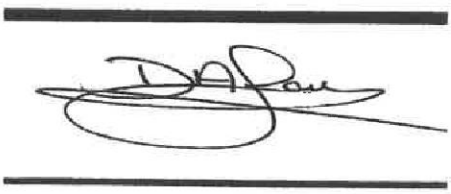
Funders strengthened and supported this work by affording the organisation crisis funding which allowed us to extend our national reach and support very critical issues that our community faced.

These have been challenging times for the organisation and our care experienced children and young people who have faced deep rooted social and financial hardships and the deep implications for their Mental Health, along with the widening inequalities. As a national organisation based in Wales, we were able to have real community impact that involved working in collaboration with a wide spectrum of agencies and organisations and this enabled us to offer a lifeline that was critical to supporting the needs of our community.

I am so very proud of our entire staff team and owe them all a huge thank you for sticking with our community and showing real commitment and absolute dedication. I would equally like to thank all our funders for their dedicated support and empathy 'We couldn't have achieved this without your support'.

I would like to end this report by thanking our Board of Trustees for their collective kindness and support during this crisis.

CEO
Deborah Jones



Dated: 8th December2021

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

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

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

Development Of Aims

Objectives

- Continue to monitor and identify policy and practice issues of common concern by gathering and distributing information to appropriate bodies and organisations throughout Wales.
- Represent the views of children and young people and to actively campaign to improve the conditions for children and young people.
- Act as an interface on behalf of children and young people to encourage relevant bodies and organisations to take appropriate action.
- Encourage and promote the participation of children and young people within Voices from Care's operational strategy and service provision.
- Assist in the development of participation frameworks within decision-making processes to further enable children and young people to have a voice.
- Promote training for the service provider and to encourage the strategic development to include children and young people within its delivery.
- Act as a safeguard within current legislation i.e. The Children's Act 1989, The Children and Adoption Act 2002, The Children's Act 2004, The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and social care and well-being Act 2016.
- Provide an independent advice, support and wellbeing service on an on-going basis.
- Continue and build on the participation frameworks for degree in 'Social Work' with Cardiff Metropolitan and Cardiff University, as always.
- Continue and further develop the corporate parent frameworks with the Local Authorities in Wales.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Achievements and performance

In 2019-2020 VFCC, with agreement with funders, redirected all their services and projects to virtual delivery using varied forms of technological mechanisms. The organisations' priorities were redirected to safeguard and ensure the wellbeing of children and young people was constantly supported through the crisis.

Performance:
Since April, **147 care experienced children and young people** have engaged with Voices From Care Cymru's 'Our Offer' service. With **117 of these young people receiving wellbeing support** and **102 young people participating with our care community and influencing work.**

During this time, 85 young people were referred to our 'check-in' service during the year. From April to July; coinciding with Covid lockdown restrictions, we saw a significant demand in referrals for this new service from Local Authorities, Self-referrals and 3rd sector agencies. These check-ins ranged from daily, weekly to fortnightly for the duration of the initial Covid lockdown, with many of these check-in's continuing to date. The check-in's provided young people with the opportunity to have social connections, wellbeing support and relationship building during a time when young people were reporting feeling isolated, lonely and uncared for. Many of these relationships continue throughout the lockdown and remaining year

From the 85 young people who connected with the check-in services, 60% of the young people have gone on to engage with our wider care community and social action projects.

Wellbeing
From the 147 young people who connected with 'Our Offer', 117 young people (80%) connected with the Wellbeing service, 52% (78 young people) have received structured wellbeing support.

Our wellbeing team have delivered 992 wellbeing sessions during the year supporting young people on a range of topics from poor mental health, accommodation support, county lines, personal development to financial and practical support as a direct result of the Covid pandemic.

Moreover, our wellbeing team have delivered 111 group wellbeing sessions to care experienced young people from across Wales including a series of sessions focusing on healthy relationships, managing anxiety and mindfulness.

61 young people who connect with our Wellbeing services also became involved in our participation, When I Am Ready, Social Action & Getting Ready projects.

April - September
The shift in this projects funding from Voice and influencing work towards Covid response has enabled us to create a plethora of processes and resources to support the temporary expansion of our wellbeing services, enabling us to support young people efficiently and effectively. Resources include referral forms, caseload tracking, assessment forms, forms to track personal development and goals, session plan sheets with space to write goals for next or future sessions, and forms to track overall wellbeing. We have had to redesign our monitoring system to enable us to track the outcomes and monitor the issues we are supporting young people with.

During the lockdown period we became a food bank voucher provider in all 22 Local Authorities and are in regular contact with food banks across Wales on how we can best support our young people. We are also a partner agency for the Welsh Governments Discretionary Assistance Fund', enabling us to support young people in assessing a grant to help pay for essential costs, such as food, gas, electricity or clothing during the Covid lockdown.

October - March
In the latter 6 months we have and continue to deliver, one to one structured support sessions for care experienced young people through our wellbeing projects. Issues of isolation, emotional wellbeing, family contact and connectivity with services have been the main issues presented requiring support. Our projects have responded by the delivery of weekly check-in support, wellbeing, and self-care sessions, connecting to services, access to food banks and digital access, etc. Above all else Voices from Care Cymru has acted as a consistent support mechanism for care experienced young people in the most challenging of times. Our work extended to building local community partnerships with local and national business to connect with young people to support access to items such as food, fuel, digital resources, white and brown goods.

During the last year we have predominately supported young people with the following issues:

- Self-confidence and self-esteem (including work around identity)
- Mental health issues (including anxiety, poor sleep, self-harm)
- Crisis Support
- Substance Misuse
- Healthy Relationships including Domestic Abuse, connection with biological family members.
- Sexual Health
- Physical Health
- Housing
- Bereavement
- Education and/or professional development
- Access to appropriate resources
- Access to files
- Rights and entitlements
- Access to benefits

During this time Voices From Care Cymru have delivered 1,124 digital or virtual sessions for Care Experienced young people; these include Group, Social Action and one to one sessions. We have delivered 182 sessions that aim to reduce isolation and build a strong care experienced community. 30% was delivered in partnership with young people. 147 young people engaged with sessions online.

April – September
During the peak of lockdown in May and June we were frequently delivering 3 engagement sessions per day to ensure young people were staying connected and supported. These have ranged of delivering daily social 'chatterbox' sessions on Facebook, Messenger and Zoom, a series of UNCRC 'know your rights' workshops, a book club, VFCC (virtual) Choir, and VFCC game night series. We have worked with external agencies such as Write for Word, Literature Wales and CASCADE who have developed a series of interactive sessions on wellbeing, the arts and research all intended to upskill and inspire our young people. In Q1 the majority of our sessions were an intimate response to Covid, however, toward the end of Q1 and into Q2 many more of our sessions were co-delivered with young people. In Q2 we created an events committee of young people whose task is to co-design and deliver our virtual community event.

October - March
Although our 'chatterbox' sessions ended in September as young people began returning to school and college, we continued with our virtual events planned and delivered by care experienced young people. Such events included our virtual sleepover, Halloween event, 12 days of Christmas and Easter event. The aim of these was to bring together care experienced young people from across Wales to connect with their peers whilst taking part in fun structured activities.

Sing Proud Cymru our care experienced choir, delivered in conjunction with Cardiff Millennium Centre, moved from monthly sessions to weekly virtual sessions. The choir has also performed at our planned events, and we have seen some new members join the group during the pandemic. Young people have told us how they value the increase in sessions as for some it is the only outlet and social connection they have.

In addition, to this we provided a number of wellbeing workshop sessions focusing on the following areas.

- Healthy Relationships (including consent and the law, contraception, sexual health and internet safety)
- Self-Care (including Yoga, Creative Writing and Sleep Management)
- Our work with parents has continued and our parent group has met virtually on a weekly basis. This group has been pivotal to our care experienced young parents where lack of family support and Covid restrictions limited their access to their normal support networks. Session themes have focused on reducing feelings of isolation, rights and entitlements, benefits and access to resources during lockdown. Furthermore, the Parent support group has undertaken training to become young researchers and worked with Dr Louise Roberts from Cardiff University in driving forward a charter for care experienced parents in Wales.

Information and advice through Covid
47 young people have received advice and guidance on Covid-19, its restrictions and/or the support that is available to support them during this time.

April - September
Misinformation, providing inaccurate and/or harmful messages was a key concern in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic. During our daily chatterbox sessions, we provided young people with the opportunity to ask questions or raise concerns they had about the virus and lockdown restrictions. Working with Welsh Government colleagues, VFCC updated our online community on the latest Covid and social distancing. VFCC also contributed to the Children's Commissioner for Wales Covid information hub.

We have continued to provide information and advice on care experienced young people's rights, support available to them through our Wellbeing Wednesday social media posts. During the summer we created weekly activity planners on the activities and services we were offering that week which was promoted on our social media channels and to partner agencies.

October - March
When the October fire-break and December lockdowns were instigated, we updated our Social Media community on the latest guidance. During wellbeing and check-in sessions our team would advise young people on the latest guidance and, in many cases, connect young people with Covid secure support services where needed.

In general terms, we have continued to work with Corporate Parents across Wales updating them on the impact Covid has had on care experienced young people. These include the First Minister, Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, Welsh Governments education and improving outcome teams, Senedd Cymru Children's and education committee, Senedd Cymru's Cross Party Group on looked after children, All Wales leaving Care forum, senior leaders within 5 local authorities and other non-statutory agencies who support. In the early stages of the pandemic VFCC facilitated a virtual 'best practice workshop' with members of the leaving care forum, designed to provide local authorities with the opportunity to learn how others supported young people during the Covid lockdown, challenges they faced and share innovative solutions.

The Getting Ready Project
We are in the second year of the delivery of this project delivered by VFCC with Children in Wales, supported by funding through the Welsh Government 'Suitable Provision and Support Innovation Fund – Homelessness Prevention Grant'. One of the funds aims is to increase the housing support available to vulnerable young people who are transitioning from local authority care.

The Getting Ready project complements the current Welsh Government, When I am Ready scheme, providing a more intensive intervention which seeks to echo the support and guidance that non-looked after young people receive within a family setting. This seeks to address some of the inequalities faced by the care-experienced population when transitioning from care.

Our overall aims of the project are:

- To provide support for young people to safely transition from care (including considerations around delaying leaving care and reducing the risk of homelessness and housing instability)
- To facilitate wraparound community support, which is more sustainable in the long-term and does not rely on future funding to deliver positive results
- To empower young people by enhancing their knowledge and understanding of their rights and entitlements when planning to leave care
- To build the capacity of young people to advocate for change
- To build resilience and mechanisms which keep young people safe from homelessness and related risk, enhancing their overall wellbeing
- To contribute to the fund's aim of preventing homelessness and achieving housing stability amongst care leavers
- To involve young people in the planning, delivery and evaluation of the project

The Getting Ready project is delivered in 3 local authority areas in Wales - Anglesey, Carmarthenshire and RCT to young people leaving care. In the year 2020/21 the getting ready project supported 53 individual young people through one-to-one structured support, workshops, events and online sessions, totalling 1,854 delivered sessions. From the 53 young people, 19 reported improved housing circumstances with 80% of all young people reporting an increased confidence to live independently.

The project provides a three-tiered support model for those young people transitioning from care, individual support, peer support, community support. This includes:

- Facilitating wrap-around community support
- Enhancing young people's knowledge on their rights and entitlements when planning to leave care, including enhancing their financial capabilities
- Providing support and training to enable them to live independently
- Establish employment and education circumstances and collaboratively develop a plan to ensure work, training and/or education is not disrupted by their transition from care.

Participation and influencing
We have continued to provide a voice to care experienced young people throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Some of the key pieces of work we have supported young people to be involved in includes:

A round table workshop with the Senedd's Children, Young People and Education Committee focusing on the Welsh Government's Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill.

Providing Written and Verbal evidence for the Children, Young People an Education Committee's review on the impact of Covid-19 on Children and young people.

Attended and provide a verbal presentation to RCT Corporate Parenting Board on the impact of COVID 19 and the support they would like to see.

Re-established VFCC's Policy Group to develop our Manifesto for the 2021 Senedd Cymru Elections. This includes representatives from 3rd sector, Childrens Commissioner for Wales, Local Authority reps, academia and care experienced young people.

Instigated a research project with CASCADE providing valuable insights into young people's experiences during this time, as well as professional efforts to provide support. At a time of renewed restrictions across Wales, the findings highlight important learning for policy makers, social care managers and front-line practitioners who work with care experienced young people and other vulnerable groups.

Link to Full Report: https://vfcc.org.uk/care-leavers-and-covid-research/

Link to Blog: https://www.exchangewales.org/the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-young-people-leaving-care-and-practitioners-share-their-experiences-and-lessons-for-the-future/

Link to Video Explainer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-kP1C7omw8

Two focus groups with IFF Research, who were commissioned by the Welsh Government to conduct independent research into improving educational outcomes for looked after children, building on the scoping work undertaken by Sir Alasdair Macdonald.

Facilitating an interview with a care experienced young person at Residential Children's Care Conference March 2021 hosted by Social Care Wales. Over a series of 5 preparation sessions their views and experiences of transitional support for young people leaving residential care. Residential Children's Care Conference March 2021.

We facilitated an opportunity for a young person to submit a digital message for the Future Generations XChange hosted by Welsh Government. The young person's message summarised their experienced of the Covid-19 lockdown and their hope for the care experienced community post-lockdown.

Additional, non-governmental projects that Voices From Care Cymru and our young people have advised and contributed to include:

Cardiff University 'Innovative project to improve mental health provision for care experienced children and young people'. The project aims to identify the gaps in the provision for wellbeing and mental health support that care experienced children and young people currently receive. Link to more information: https://vimeo.com/476885163

Alongside CASCADE, our Peers Support young parent café has been developing a 'good practice charter' for corporate parents on supporting care experienced parents. The work is following on from Dr Lousie Roberts research.

Providing advice in the early stages of a research project examining how children are targeted, recruited and involved in county lines in Wales and what services need, to effectively identify, engage and safeguard these children. The project will culminate with the design of a toolkit co-produced with young people, parents and practitioners from across Wales.

CASCADE Voices has been developing resources for Dr Sophie Hallett 'Keeping safe' project on the outcomes for children and young people assessed as being 'at risk' of sexual exploitation.

The Leaving Care Forum.

Participating in CHIMES- Mental Health steering group, an NIHR funded project undertaking a 'Systematic Review of Mental Health Interventions for Care-Experienced Children and Young People'.

End Youth Homelessness project board

IMPACT: Social Services and Well-being Act evaluation. Our CEO is a expert panel member.

Local groups
During the last financial year, the delivery of 15 local group sessions took place across the three contracted local authority areas, Rhonndda Cynon Taff, Carmarthenshire, and Merthyr Tydfil. Work within these areas saw the following number of young people engage to provide the following main outcomes.

- Eradicating the stigma of the care experienced community
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Covid recovery for the care experienced community
- Raise awareness of detail poverty within the car experienced community

Sing Proud Choir - our care experienced choir continued over the pandemic with 100% online delivery. Young people reported this weekly connection played a significant role in reducing loneliness, isolation and supporting emotional wellbeing by ensuring social connections with their peers, young people living alone. The Voices from Care Cymru Choir, which has now been branded 'Sing Proud Cymru' is open to any care experienced young people and those who support them. This could be children looked after, care leavers, foster cares, residential home staff, social workers, or Advocates. Due to the pandemic no face-to-face performance took place, however, the choir supported the wider online events and activities planned during the year with varied performances.

Easter Event – an online virtual event delivered to VFCC local groups members. This event comprised of fun and wellbeing activities, engaging young people with peers to reduce social isolation and celebrate their contribution the young people make to wider VFCC workstreams.

12 days of Christmas - this online event delivered virtually on a national basis saw 12 days of activities, centred around key themes VFCC had drawn for the experiences of out care community throughout Covid. The themes included, wellbeing, budgeting, tasty Tuesday (cooking on a budget), healthy relationships, keeping safe and reducing isolation. The 12 days ended with a full Christmas event where children of our parents connected with Father Christmas for a Storytime session, wellbeing sessions, Christmas quizzes all ending in a Christmas film.

External Influencing

When I'm Ready
The Welsh Government have a scheme in place called When I'm Ready. This allows young people to stay with their foster parents after turning 18 years of age but under a different arrangement. VFCC launched a project in 2018 and since then we have been engaging with young people and professional practitioners in Wales to better understand the When I'm Ready scheme, its successes, and its challenges. VFCC has facilitated consultations with young people so we can understand their When I'm Ready experience, gauge their views and hear their voices.

We also organise and chair quarterly professional forums in both the North and South of Wales to understand and recognise how When I'm Ready is imbedded within existing leaving care services, to share successes and overcome challenges.

By consulting with both young people and professionals we hope to encourage consistent delivery models and influence positive change within the scheme.

The young people who have engaged in this project have worked with a media partner and created a number of bilingual resources to promote the understanding for professionals and young people on When I Am Ready arrangements.

VFCC have engaged with Cardiff University as a research partner to undertake a national state of play on the when I'm ready implementation, this research will be completed by March 2022 and presented to Welsh Government with clear recommendations needed for the future delivery of when I am ready arrangements across Wales,

Financial review

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

The total income for the year was £824,159 (2020: £659,405). Direct charitable expenditure including support costs amounted to £685,731 (2020: £4621,934) and governance costs totalled £4,614 (2020: £4,800). This resulted in net incoming resources of £133,814 (2020: £32,671), of which was an unrestricted surplus of £96,772 and a restricted surplus of £37,042 before transfers between funds.

As disclosed in the accounts, the Welsh Government was the principal funder, with Comic Relief, NYAS, Esmee Fairbairn, Paul Hamlyn, Henry Smith Foundation, Lloyds Foundation, WCVA, National Lottery and Carmarthenshire Council providing additional funding.

Reserves Policy

GENERAL RESERVES

Trustees monitor progress towards achieving the Strategic Plan and have reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with guidance from the Charity Commission.

Trustees have considered the reserves required by the charity in the event of a funding crisis and have set a target equal to four months' running costs. Reserves can be used to sustain essential operations in periods of financial difficulty, and in exceptional circumstances, for other purposes agreed by the Trustees. The organisation raises funds by various means and continues on a path of diversifying its income streams.

The Trustees maintain free reserves (i.e. reserves drawn from funds which have no restrictions on their use within VFCC) at a level that is at least equivalent to four months' running costs. At the time of writing running costs are approximately £60,000/month, setting the desired reserve level at £220,000. This is in addition to any designated funds.

The trustees feel it prudent that the charity set up two designated funds, which fall under the general reserves.

DESIGNATED BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE: The business development expenditure reserve is established because it is important that the charity maximises its income and reduces overall expenditure when possible. Therefore, developing new income streams, strengthening existing ones and improving efficiency are a priority. The required level of £30,000 is set aside.

PROJECT CLOSURE/REDUNDANCY COSTS/RELOCATION COSTS: Growth of activity and hence income streams in particular from projects give cause for the trustees to consider the costs associated with project closure and redundancy costs. This designated reserve has been established to ensure sufficient funds are available when projects come to an end; and if the organisation needs to relocate, and/or develop new offices. The trustees feels that a desired level of £50,000 is required.

The balance of unrestricted funds at 31/3/21 was £282,983. Therefore, taking into account fixed assets of £7,255 and after setting aside £80,000 into the designated funds, the balance is £195,728 against a general target of £220,000.

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

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

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

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

Appraisal of activities and future developments

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

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

Future plans

VFCC continues to grow steadily, expanding the breadth of services it delivers and reaching more and more young people. Our priority over the coming year is to extend the wellbeing service, widen the peer café model and strengthen trusted partnerships with those working within the care experienced sector. The care community is telling us that there is a need for this expansion and, as we are a service-user led organisation, we will do all we can to provide it.

The Senedd elections are taking place in May 2021 and VFCC will ensure that the voices of care experienced children and young people are reflected in the manifestos of the political parties. Therefore, throughout 2021/22 we will campaign and engaging with the parties so that the voice of our community is heard.

Structure, governance and management

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

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

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

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

Directors and trustees
The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. As set out in the Articles of Association dated, 15 May 2010, the members of the company at the annual general meeting nominate six trustees from among the members and six trustees from professionals. The Members Committee also elects a Chair and 6 member trustees to the Management Committee. The Chair of the Members Committee is also Chair of the Board of Trustees in conjunction with the Professional Chair nominated by Trustees from the Professional Trustees elected. The trustees further nominate a Treasurer from among the professional trustees.

The Trustees serve for a period of three years with one third retiring at each annual general meeting. The trustees have the power to co-opt members to fill casual vacancies in their number.

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

Reference and administrative details

Company Registration Number:
3261608

Charity Number:
1108430

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

Catriona Williams - Co Chair
Daniel Pitt - Co Chair - resigned 9/12/2020
Neil Edge - resigned 9/12/2020
Graham Roddis
Craig Mead
Roger Bishop
Louise Roberts
Jeffery Champney-Smith
Brittany Paige Davies
Ian Harvey
Tia Coombs - resigned 26/6/2020
Joshua Escott
Jamie Andrew Jeynes - resigned 26/6/2020
Sarah Crombie - appointed 9/12/2020
Jo Anne Griffith - appointed 9/12/2020
Ben Landers - appointed 9/12/2020
Sophie Landers - appointed 9/12/2020
Rhian Thomas - appointed 9/12/2020

Company Secretary
D A Jones

Chief Executive
D A Jones

Registered Office
45 The Parade, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3AB

Auditors
Azets Audit Services.Ty Derw , Lime Tree Court, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff, CF23 8AB

Bankers
Barclays Bank PLC, 121 Queens Street, Cardiff, CF1 1SG
CCLA Investment Management Limited, COIF Charities Deposit Fund
CAF Account: Kings Hill Ave, Kings Hill, London

The trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

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Ms C Williams

Dated: 10th December 2021

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Voices From Care Cymru (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.

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

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 charity'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 auditor's 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 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE TRUSTEES OF VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE TRUSTEES OF VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud
Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we 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. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

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 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.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Sarah Case 20/12/2021

Sarah Case FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
United Kingdom
CF23 8AB

Azets Audit Services 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.

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	17,063	-	17,063	3,005	-	3,005
Charitable activities	4	151,719	654,077	805,796	85,287	568,106	653,393
Investments	5	30	-	30	135	-	135
Other income	6	1,270	-	1,270	2,872	-	2,872
Total income		170,082	654,077	824,159	91,299	568,106	659,405
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	73,310	617,035	690,345	70,530	556,204	626,734
Net incoming resources before transfers		96,772	37,042	133,814	20,769	11,902	32,671
Gross transfers between funds		(4,833)	4,833	-	(23,471)	23,471	-
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		91,939	41,875	133,814	(2,702)	35,373	32,671
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		191,044	58,222	249,266	193,746	22,849	216,595
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		282,983	100,097	383,080	191,044	58,222	249,266

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		7,255		8,001
Current assets					
Stocks	13	1,020		1,841	
Debtors	14	44,950		48,116	
Cash at bank and in hand		408,930		216,195	
		454,900		266,152	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(79,075)		(24,887)	
Net current assets			375,825		241,265
Total assets less current liabilities			383,080		249,266
Income funds					
Restricted funds	17		100,097		58,222
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	18	80,000			
General unrestricted funds		202,983		191,044	
			282,983		191,044
			383,080		249,266

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 directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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 10th December 2021

Mr G Roddis
Trustee

Ms C Williams
Trustee

Company Registration No. 3261608

VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	23		194,944		(12,371)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,239)		(4,137)	
Investment income received		30		135	
Net cash used in investing activities			(2,209)		(4,002)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			192,735		(16,373)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			216,195		232,568
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			408,930		216,195

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Voices From Care Cymru is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 45 The Parade, Roath, Cardiff, Glamorgan, CF24 3AD.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (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, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

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

1.2 Going concern

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.

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.

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

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

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

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

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

Governance

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

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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

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

1.7 Stocks

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

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.9 Financial instruments

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

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

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

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

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

Derecognition of financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.10 Taxation

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

1.11 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.

1.12 Retirement benefits

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

1.13 Change of name

The charity changed their name from 'Voices From Care' to 'Voices From Care Cymru', this was registered at Companies House on 5th May 2020.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Donations and gifts	17,063	3,005

4 Charitable activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Advice, Support, Participation & Collaboration	48,900	36,279
Awareness & Training	-	686
Grants	756,896	616,428
	805,796	653,393
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	151,719	85,287
Restricted funds	654,077	568,106
	805,796	653,393
Grants		
S.S.S.G. (Welsh Government)	265,000	265,767
Henry Smith	28,300	14,150
Lloyds Foundation	24,120	24,120
Comic Relief	18,200	61,750
Erasmus+ (Citizenship)	-	28,837
Homelessness Prevention (Welsh Government)	176,960	93,732
NYAS	-	22,322
Paul Hamlyn Fund	40,063	26,750
Camarthenshire Council	16,000	16,000
The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	76,500	53,000
CHK Foundation	20,000	10,000
NLCF Big Lottery	27,087	
WCVA	28,096	
Community Foundation Wales	14,320	
NLCF - Comic Relief	16,250	
Other	6,000	
	756,896	616,428

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £
Interest receivable	30	135

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Other Income	1,270	2,872

7 Charitable activities

	Generated Income	Comic Relief	S.S.S.G.	The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	Total 2021	Total 2020
	2021	2021	2021	2021		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	98,859	41,219	169,523	27,179	336,780	266,007
Depreciation and impairment	876	365	1,503	241	2,985	3,675
Travel	329	137	565	91	1,122	15,842
Volunteer expenses	15	6	25	4	50	4,905
NYAS re-imbursement	-	-	-	-	-	48,920
Consultancy	9,559	3,986	16,392	2,628	32,565	10,179
Payroll/Pension preparation	127	53	217	35	432	422
Occupancy	6,076	2,533	10,418	1,670	20,697	21,388
HR, legal & professional	884	369	1,516	243	3,012	3,281
Office running costs	4,541	1,894	7,788	1,249	15,472	10,287
Communications / Facilitation	5,427	2,263	9,307	1,492	18,489	14,519
Bank Charges	92	39	159	25	315	466
Grant reimbursement	12,342	-	55,715	-	68,057	27,863
Training & meeting costs	4,815	2,007	8,255	1,323	16,400	57,770
	143,942	54,871	281,383	36,180	516,376	485,524
Share of support costs (see note 8)	49,713	20,727	85,248	13,667	169,355	136,410
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,354	565	2,323	372	4,614	4,800
	195,009	76,163	368,954	50,219	690,345	626,734
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	73,310	-	-	-	73,310	70,530
Restricted funds	121,699	76,163	368,954	50,219	617,035	556,204
	195,009	76,163	368,954	50,219	690,345	626,734

7 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

For the year ended 31 March 2020

	Generated Income	Comic Relief	S.S.S.G.	The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	78,085	32,556	133,899	21,467	266,007
Depreciation and impairment	1,078	450	1,851	296	3,675
Travel	4,651	1,939	7,973	1,279	15,842
Volunteer expenses	1,440	600	2,469	396	4,905
NYAS re-imbursement	-	-	48,920	-	48,920
Consultancy	2,988	1,246	5,124	821	10,179
Payroll/Pension preparation	124	52	212	34	422
Occupancy	6,278	2,618	10,766	1,726	21,388
HR, legal & professional	963	402	1,651	265	3,281
Office running costs	3,020	1,259	5,178	830	10,287
Communications / Facilitation	4,262	1,777	7,308	1,172	14,519
Bank Charges	137	57	235	37	466
Grant reimbursement	-	-	27,863	-	27,863
Training & meeting costs	16,958	7,070	29,079	4,663	57,770
	119,984	50,026	282,528	32,986	485,524
Share of support costs (see note 8)	40,042	16,696	68,664	11,008	136,410
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,409	587	2,416	388	4,800
	161,435	67,309	353,608	44,382	626,734
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	70,530	-	-	-	70,530
Restricted funds	90,905	67,309	353,608	44,382	556,204
	161,435	67,309	353,608	44,382	626,734

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2021	Support costs	Governance costs	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	144,334	-	144,334	114,003	-	114,003
Occupancy costs	12,685	-	12,685	13,109	-	13,109
HR costs	1,846	-	1,846	2,011	-	2,011
Office running costs	9,482	-	9,482	6,305	-	6,305
Payroll	1,008	-	1,008	982	-	982
Audit fees	-	4,614	4,614	-	4,800	4,800
	169,355	4,614	173,969	136,410	4,800	141,210
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	169,355	4,614	173,969	136,410	4,800	141,210

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £4,614 (2020- £4,800) for audit fees.

9 Net movement in funds

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's financial statements	4,614	4,800
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	2,985	3,675

10 Trustees

5 trustees (2020: 3) received £122 (2020: £212) in relation to travel and training expenses during the year.

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

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Direct Charitable expenditure	15	10
Management and administration	3	3
Total	18	13

Employment costs	2021	2020
	£	£

11 Employees (Continued)

Wages and salaries	426,672	337,735
Social security costs	33,475	28,299
Other pension costs	20,967	13,976
	481,114	380,010

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
£60,000 - £69,999	1	-
£70,000 - £79,999	-	1

Key management personnel
The gross benefits received by key management personnel totalled £221,941(2020: £160,822).

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings	Computers equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2020	16,370	60,833	77,203
Additions	-	2,239	2,239
At 31 March 2021	16,370	63,072	79,442
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2020	14,692	54,510	69,202
Depreciation charged in the year	393	2,592	2,985
At 31 March 2021	15,085	57,102	72,187
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2021	1,285	5,970	7,255
At 31 March 2020	1,678	6,323	8,001

13 Stocks

	2021	2020
	£	£
Finished goods and goods for resale	1,020	1,841

14 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	6,500	8,000
Other debtors	30,343	17
Prepayments and accrued income	8,107	40,099
	44,950	48,116

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	18,651	19,615
Accruals and deferred income	60,424	5,272
	79,075	24,887

16 Deferred income

	2021 £	2020 £
Arising from grants	55,924	28,837

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Balance brought forward	28,837	-
Income received	643,515	474,138
Income released	(616,428)	(445,301)
Balance carried forward	55,924	28,837

17 Restricted funds

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

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2019	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
BBC Children In Need	2,149	-	-	(2,149)	-	-	-	-	-
Lloyds Foundation	3,333	24,120	(24,120)	(3,333)	-	24,120	(24,120)	-	-
NLCF - Comic Relief	-	-	-	-	-	16,250	(21,601)	-	(5,351)
Sustainable Social Services Grant	153	265,767	(294,873)	28,953	-	265,000	(263,435)	-	1,565
European Fund (Erasmus+)	2,877	28,837	(24,205)	-	7,509	-	(12,342)	4,833	-
Comic Relief	2,629	61,750	(45,588)	-	18,791	18,200	(15,894)	-	21,097
Paul Hamlyn	5,182	26,750	(28,740)	-	3,192	20,063	(20,063)	-	3,192
The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	6,526	53,000	(35,071)	-	24,455	50,000	(31,578)	-	42,877
Homelessness Prevention Grant	-	93,732	(93,605)	-	127	176,960	(163,537)	-	13,550
Henry Smith	-	14,150	(10,002)	-	4,148	28,300	(26,959)	-	5,489
WCVA	-	-	-	-	-	28,097	(21,950)	-	6,147
NLCF - Big Lottery	-	-	-	-	-	27,087	(15,556)	-	11,531
	22,849	568,106	(556,204)	23,471	58,222	654,077	(617,035)	4,833	100,097

17 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

BBC Children in Need grant relates to advice and support for children and young people. The remainder of the grant will be expended in the 2020/21 financial year.

Lloyds Foundation grant is to fund rental costs.

Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant has replaced the Welsh Government core grant. The overspend in the 19/20 financial year will be mitigated in the 20/21 financial year.

Erasmus+ is funding provided for the project Strengthening Our Voice under the Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 3: Structured Dialogue, meeting between young people and decision makers in the field of youth.

Comic Relief grant is to support staff costs.

Paul Hamlyn grant is to support staff costs.

The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation grant was awarded to fund the salary of a co-ordinator, evaluation and other project costs to increase young people's access to a service that enables them to stay with foster carers longer.

The Homelessness Prevention grant supports young people six months prior to leaving care. This funding will provide a three tiered support model for those young people transitioning from care, individual support, peer support, community support.

Henry Smith grant is to support running costs of a project providing advocacy and advice for care-experienced children and young people across Wales.

WCVA grant was to create a volunteer model to be embedded within the organisation .

Big Lottery, to create a national mental health and well-being service for care experienced young people.

18 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			
	Incoming resources	Balance at 1 April 2020	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£
Business Development Fund	-	-	30,000	30,000
Project Closure/Redundance/Relocation Fund	-	-	50,000	50,000
	-	-	80,000	80,000

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUND

The business development expenditure reserve is established because it is important that the charity maximises its income and reduces overall expenditure when possible. Therefore, developing new income streams, strengthening existing ones and improving efficiency are a priority. The required level of £30,000 is set aside.

PROJECT CLOSURE/REDUNDANCY COSTS/RELOCATION FUND:

Growth of activity and hence income streams in particular from projects give cause for the trustees to consider the costs associated with project closure and redundancy costs. This designated reserve has been established to ensure sufficient funds are available when projects come to an end; and if the organisation needs to relocate, and/or develop new offices. The trustees feels that a desired level of £50,000 is required.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2021	Restricted 2021	Total 2021	Unrestricted 2020	Restricted 2020	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	7,255	-	7,255	8,001	-	8,001
Current assets/ (liabilities)	275,728	100,097	375,825	183,043	58,222	241,265
	282,983	100,097	383,080	191,044	58,222	249,266

20 Operating lease commitments

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

	2021	2020
	£	£
Within one year	31,714	29,942
Between two and five years	33,132	57,888

20 Operating lease commitments **(Continued)**

	64,846	87,830

21 Liability of members and reserves

Every member of the Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company in the event of it being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year afterwards, such amount as may be required not exceeding £1. The Company has no issued share capital as at 31 March 2019, the Company being limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.

22 Related party transactions

The charity and Children In Wales - Plant Yng Nghymru have common trustees.

During the year the charity paid £55,715 (2020: £30,068) to Children In Wales - Plant Yng Nghymru relating to membership, training and reimbursement for the 'Getting Ready Project'. £14,474 was outstanding at the year end (2020: £15,295).

There were no other related party transactions to disclose.

23 Cash generated from operations	**2021**	**2020**
	£	**£**
Surplus for the year	133,814	32,671
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(30)	(135)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	2,985	3,675
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	821	(923)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	3,166	(31,049)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	54,188	(16,610)
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	194,944	(12,371)

24 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.