

**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**

## **CONTENTS**

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	<b>Page</b>
Chairman's statement	1 - 2
Trustees report	3 - 14
Statement of trustees responsibilities	15
Independent auditor's report	16 - 19
Statement of financial activities	20
Balance sheet	21
Statement of cash flows	22
Notes to the financial statements	23 - 37

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# **VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU**

## **CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021***

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### **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**

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### **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**

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**Dated: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021**



# **VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU**

## **TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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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.

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### **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.

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### 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

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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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.

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### 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.



# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### 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 and 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.

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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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, 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
- Covid recovery for the care experienced community
- Raise awareness of detail poverty within the care 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 our 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.

## **VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU**

### **TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

#### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021***

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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,



# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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### 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, Esmée 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.

# **VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU**

## **TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021***

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### **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.

# **VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU**

## **TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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### **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.

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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### 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

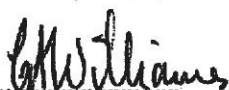
**Chief Executive**  
D A Jones

**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.

.....  


Ms C Williams

Dated: 10th December 2021

# **VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU**

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021***

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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

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#### 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.

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

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#### **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.



# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

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#### **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 FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services**

*Sarah Case*  
20/12/2021

**Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

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



## **VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU**

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

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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

		Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
	Notes						
<b><u>Income and endowments from:</u></b>							
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
<b>Total income</b>		<b>170,082</b>	<b>654,077</b>	<b>824,159</b>	<b>91,299</b>	<b>568,106</b>	<b>659,405</b>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>							
Charitable activities	7	73,310	617,035	690,345	70,530	556,204	626,734
<b>Net incoming resources before transfers</b>		<b>96,772</b>	<b>37,042</b>	<b>133,814</b>	<b>20,769</b>	<b>11,902</b>	<b>32,671</b>
Gross transfers between funds		(4,833)	4,833	-	(23,471)	23,471	-
<b>Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		<b>91,939</b>	<b>41,875</b>	<b>133,814</b>	<b>(2,702)</b>	<b>35,373</b>	<b>32,671</b>
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		191,044	58,222	249,266	193,746	22,849	216,595
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2021</b>		<b>282,983</b>	<b>100,097</b>	<b>383,080</b>	<b>191,044</b>	<b>58,222</b>	<b>249,266</b>

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 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		7,255		8,001
<b>Current assets</b>					
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	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	(79,075)		(24,887)	
Net current assets			375,825		241,265
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			383,080		249,266
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	17		100,097		58,222
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
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 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	23		194,944		(12,371)
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,239)		(4,137)	
Investment income received		30		135	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(2,209)		(4,002)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>			192,735		(16,373)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			216,195		232,568
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			408,930		216,195

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### 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.

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 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.

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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#### 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.

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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### **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**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations and gifts	17,063	3,005
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>



# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 4 Charitable activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Advice, Support, Participation & Collaboration	48,900	36,279
Awareness & Training	-	686
Grants	756,896	616,428
	<u>805,796</u>	<u>653,393</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	151,719	85,287
Restricted funds	654,077	568,106
	<u>805,796</u>	<u>653,393</u>
<b>Grants</b>		
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	
	<u>756,896</u>	<u>616,428</u>

### 5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021 £	2020 £
Interest receivable	30	135
	<u>30</u>	<u>135</u>

## VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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**6 Other income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other Income	1,270	2,872
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 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
	<u>143,942</u>	<u>54,871</u>	<u>281,383</u>	<u>36,180</u>	<u>516,376</u>	<u>485,524</u>
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
	<u>195,009</u>	<u>76,163</u>	<u>368,954</u>	<u>50,219</u>	<u>690,345</u>	<u>626,734</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>						
Unrestricted funds	73,310	-	-	-	73,310	70,530
Restricted funds	121,699	76,163	368,954	50,219	617,035	556,204
	<u>195,009</u>	<u>76,163</u>	<u>368,954</u>	<u>50,219</u>	<u>690,345</u>	<u>626,734</u>

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 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
<b>Analysis by fund</b>					
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

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 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
	<u>169,355</u>	<u>4,614</u>	<u>173,969</u>	<u>136,410</u>	<u>4,800</u>	<u>141,210</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>169,355</u>	<u>4,614</u>	<u>173,969</u>	<u>136,410</u>	<u>4,800</u>	<u>141,210</u>

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	<u>2,985</u>	<u>3,675</u>

### 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	2020
	Number	Number
Direct Charitable expenditure	15	10
Management and administration	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>18</u>	<u>13</u>
Employment costs	2021	2020
	£	£

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 11 Employees

(Continued)

Wages and salaries	426,672	337,735
Social security costs	33,475	28,299
Other pension costs	20,967	13,976
	<u>481,114</u>	<u>380,010</u>

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 £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2020	16,370	60,833	77,203
Additions	-	2,239	2,239
At 31 March 2021	<u>16,370</u>	<u>63,072</u>	<u>79,442</u>
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>			
At 1 April 2020	14,692	54,510	69,202
Depreciation charged in the year	393	2,592	2,985
At 31 March 2021	<u>15,085</u>	<u>57,102</u>	<u>72,187</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 March 2021	<u>1,285</u>	<u>5,970</u>	<u>7,255</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>1,678</u>	<u>6,323</u>	<u>8,001</u>

#### 13 Stocks

	2021 £	2020 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>1,020</u>	<u>1,841</u>

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 14 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	6,500	8,000
Other debtors	30,343	17
Prepayments and accrued income	8,107	40,099
	<u>44,950</u>	<u>48,116</u>

### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	18,651	19,615
Accruals and deferred income	60,424	5,272
	<u>79,075</u>	<u>24,887</u>

### 16 Deferred income

	2021 £	2020 £
Arising from grants	<u>55,924</u>	<u>28,837</u>

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	<u>55,924</u>	<u>28,837</u>

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 17 Restricted funds

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

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Movement in funds			Transfers £	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Movement in funds			Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
		Incoming resources £	Resources expended £				Incoming resources £	Resources expended £			
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 Esmée 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		



# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 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 Esmée 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.

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 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

# VOICES FROM CARE CYMRU

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 20 Operating lease commitments

(Continued)

64,846	87,830
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### 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
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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)
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### 24 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.