

FOUNDATION YEARS INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1158170

Details

Other names	FYIR
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2014-08-07
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address 35 Ulleswater Road
London
N14 7BL

Phone 07823337137

Email office@fyir.org.uk

Website www.fyir.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1) TO ADVANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE SUBSTANTIAL BODY OF SCIENTIFIC WORK ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE EARLIEST RELATIONSHIPS PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN SHAPING A BABY'S BRAIN AND IN INFLUENCING THEIR FUTURE MENTAL HEALTH AND PHYSICAL HEALTH2) TO PROMOTE RESEARCH AND STUDY INTO ALL ASPECTS OF THE FOREGOING, INCLUDING IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE OF NEUROSCIENCE AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESSES AND TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE USEFUL RESULTS

Activities: Foundation Years Information and Research works to promote the vital importance of the earliest years to children's development and well-being. The group advances public education and understanding of the substantial body of scientific work on the extent to which the earliest relationships play a major role in shaping a baby's brain and influencing their future mental and physical health.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-05		£0	£0	-
2024-04-05		£0	£0	-
2023-04-05		£0	£0	-
2022-04-05		£0	£150	-
2021-04-05		£300	£0	-

Trustees

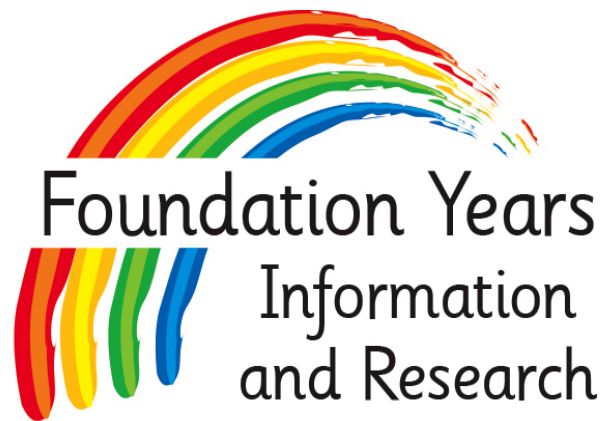
Name	Role	Appointed
Dr AMANDA JONES		2014-05-08
Dr CARINE MINNE		2014-05-08
Dr MATTHIAS VON DER TANN		2014-05-08
Dr Sunil Singh Bhopal		2020-07-27
EMERITUS PROFESSOR DAME SARAH COWLEY		2014-05-08
Marcus Codrington Fernandez		2016-01-14
Maya Ellis MP		2025-03-03
Merle Davies		2021-09-13
NICK PEACEY		2014-08-07
Professor Eva Lloyd OBE		2022-01-10
Professor Gabriella Conti		2015-12-18
Professor Richard Michael Pasco Fearon		2015-12-18
ROB HALE		2014-08-07
ROBIN BALBERNIE		2020-01-24

FOUNDATION YEARS INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1158170

Accounts

**Foundation Years
Information and Research**



Annual report and unaudited financial statements

6th April 2024 - 5th April 2025

Reference and administration details

Charity registration number	1158170
Charity name	Foundation Years Information and Research
Registered address	35 Ulleswater Road London N14 7BL
Telephone number	020 8372 1516
Email address	fyiroffice@gmail.com
Website	www.fyir.org.uk

Trustees

- Maya Ellis, MP, Chair (appointed 2025)
- Dr Rob Hale, Vice Chair (appointed 2014)
- Dr Amanda Jones, Vice Chair (appointed 2014)
- Nick Peacey, MBE, Secretary (appointed 2014)
- Robin Balbernie (appointed 2020)
- Dr Sunil Bhopal (appointed 2020)
- Marcus Codrington-Fernandez (appointed 2016)
- Professor Gabriella Conti (appointed 2016)
- Professor Dame Sarah Cowley (appointed 2014)
- Merle Davies (appointed 2021)
- Professor Pasco Fearon (appointed 2015)
- Professor Eva Lloyd, OBE (appointed 2022)
- Dr Carine Minne (appointed 2014)
- Dr Matthias von der Tann (appointed 2014)

Bank	National Westminster Bank, 250 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4AA
-------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------

The Trustees present their reports and financial statements for the period 6th April 2024-5th April 2025

Structure, governance and management

Foundation Years Information and Research is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and was established with the approval of the Charity Commission on 7th August 2014. The CIO is governed by a constitution.

The first Trustee appointments were made in August 2014 for a three-year term. The Trustees meet three times annually and hold an Annual General Meeting.

New trustees are briefed on relevant trust matters by the Secretary.

Officers

The first Chair of FYIR was Lord Field of Birkenhead. Lord Field resigned as Chair in September 2015. He was succeeded by Karen Buck MP and from 2017 to July 2024, Karen Buck MP and Catherine West MP were Co-Chairs. Karen Buck did not stand for Parliament in the July 2024 General Election. On becoming a Minister, Catherine West resigned as Chair. From December 2025, we welcomed Maya Ellis MP as our new Chair.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the CIO are:

- To advance public education and understanding of the substantial body of scientific work on the extent to which the earliest relationships play a major role in shaping a baby's brain and in influencing their future mental and physical health
- To promote research and study into all aspects of the foregoing, including improved knowledge of neuroscience and developmental processes and to make available the useful results

Report

Change of Chair

We were very sad to lose our Chair, Catherine West, who has done so much to support FYIR's activities over recent years, when she resigned after appointment as a Minister in the incoming Government in July 2024. But we consider ourselves exceptionally fortunate that Maya Ellis, MP for Ribble Valley, agreed to take over the post from Catherine. Maya's commitment to the cause of 0-3 year olds is now well known. She is also Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Babies and looks forward to leading initiatives that can be taken forward from her work with both organisations.

The FYIR New Government, New Thinking seminars

We set up these seminars as signposts to the possibilities of improvement in the lives of 0-3 year olds and their carers after the General Election and were delighted by the level of contributions. Recordings of most seminars can be found on the FYIR Youtube site.

New Government, New Thinking 23rd April 2024

Michelle Morris, MBE, Pathway Lead, Greater Manchester Early Years Language and Communication (L&C) Policy

Current concerns about L&C for the 0-3s

Michelle explained the lessons learned from the development and successful practice of the Greater Manchester Language and Communication Pathway, an effective whole-system approach to providing Language and Communication provision right across Greater Manchester.

Autism in the Early Years

Dr Sarah White, Group Leader, Developmental Diversity Group, Institute of Neuroscience, UCL

Sarah discussed the relationship of the recently widened definition of autism to increased diagnoses of the condition, and noted that the increases have largely taken place in age groups other than early years. Study of the reliability of autism diagnosis (best between 5-9 years of age, and certainly not reliable before 3) suggests that an emphasis on early intervention support for parents and carers offers promising ways ahead.

Progressive universalism now and hopes for the future

Alison Morton, Chief Executive, Institute of Health Visiting

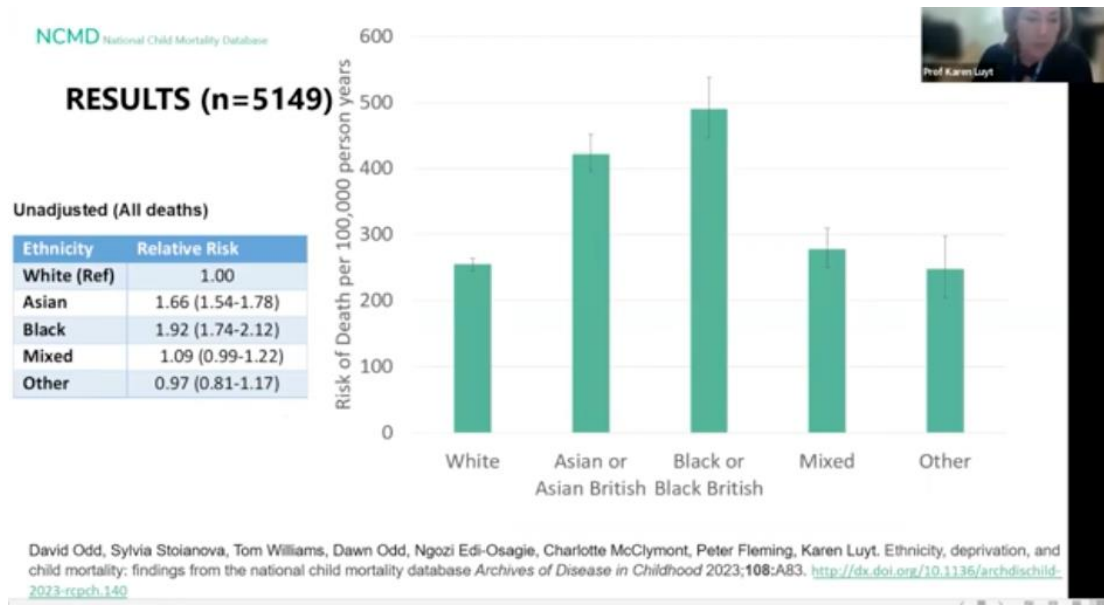
Alison stressed a commitment to progressive universalism is essential if we are to address the rising levels of need faced by many young children and their parents in our society. Within this commitment the health visitor has a vital role across every clinical pathway and future investment should recognise this.

New Government, New Thinking 5th May 2024

Infant Mortality: Closing the Inequality Gap Shown by Recent Evidence

Professor Karen Luyt, Director of the National Child Mortality Database, University of Bristol

Karen Luyt used NCM database findings to demonstrate how inequalities in our society play out in the position of the UK in the infant mortality league tables: the likelihood of infant death among the poor communities from Black and Asian backgrounds in the UK is as high as that of far poorer nations.



The UK is 30th of 49 rich nations in ranking for infant mortality. What's going on? What can be done about it?

Dr Camilla Kingdon, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

Camilla Kingdon, under the banner of Don Berwick's 'It is not a smart investment to keep running health care as a repair shop without moving upstream to real generators of illness, injury, injustice and disability' stressed the universal support of the medical profession for a shift to early preventive provision and its benefits across the life course and set out a three strand solution that we know from the evidence can make a difference.

New Government, New Thinking 14th May 2024

Fair Shares and 0-3s?

Professor Eva Lloyd, University of East London

Eva explored the UK situation for 0-3s (invisibility in society?, gaps between principle and practice in health, financial and family support) in the context of international initiatives such as the WHO Nurturing Care Framework and the UNCRC objectives on a child's rights in early childhood. She noted the recent shift to an emphasis on ECEC provision in Europe and expressed concern about the equity of the major UK policy change in that direction in 2023/4: 'a regressive policy, restricted to working families' (National Audit Office).

Christine Farquharson, Associate Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies

While expressing concern about the distributional outcomes of the new UK entitlements to ECEC, Christine Farquharson wondered if the policy would meet its stated aims around labour supply and saw potential danger in its effects on wider early years provision. She emphasised the importance of being guided by the strongest evidence of successful programmes for the youngest children, such as Sure Start.

New Government, New Thinking 20th May 2024

John Bowlby, Attachment Theory and the Foundation Years

Professor Jeremy Holmes, University of Exeter

Jeremy Holmes gave us a succinct tour of the life of John Bowlby and his role in developing attachment theory and its significance for understanding patterns of behaviour right through to adulthood. He explained the principles of attachment and the research and activities, like the collaboration with the filmmaker

Robertson, that built the case and led to Bowlby's rejection by the psychoanalytic community. He stressed the significance of Bowlby's 'intellectual marriage' with the (often neglected) Mary Ainsworth who with her successors was responsible for taking forward thinking on attachment in the United States. The persistence of attachment patterns through life offers Government, policymakers and all of us principles on which to base the building of healthy societies.

The Politics of Attachment

Dr Sebastian Kraemer, Whittington Hospital

Sebastian Kraemer argued that many of our senior politicians had started boarding school at 7 or 8 years and so been plunged into premature self-reliance in an environment that downgraded 'looking after'. This can leave them at risk in the pressured and often dangerous political environment, as well as creating an unwillingness to engage with aspects of policy or approaches to policy-making that take them to thinking about attachment. Sebastian suggested that politicians, forever involved in 'groupwork without a consultant', should take note of all the evidence on the essential importance of strong relationships between those who care for us, whether during our infancy or during such exercises as inter-disciplinary planning to improve the treatment of long Covid.

Continuity of care and GP practice

Dr Helen Salisbury, GP/University of Oxford

Dr Salisbury explained how previous contributions supported the case for continuity of care in GP practice. The evidence is strong: for example, a large population Norwegian study, published in 2022, demonstrated significant positive outcomes in terms of patients' health and happiness, as well as reduced costs for the health services, for those who had been cared for by the same GP for fifteen years. Dr Salisbury argued that at minimum every GP practice should measure its own rates of continuity of care.

New Government, New Thinking 8th June 2024

Assessing the success of Germany's early years provision

Dr Nadine Wieduwilt, Director of Quality Assurance for provision for children in the Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, Berlin

Dr Wieduwilt gave a clear, concise account of driving forward the German strategic partnership for the under 5s between government and the Lander (state) and how its progress is monitored.

Health and Social Care Select Committee Inquiry: The First 1000 days : a renewed focus

FYIR responded to the March 2025 call for evidence from the Health and Social Care Select Committee. Our response pointed to: the weakness/unavailability of many sources of data, despite their centrality to policy making; workforce issues, particularly maintenance of effective integrated services against a background of burgeoning childcare provision and major gaps in health visitor and other community support; the importance of supervision and other forms of support for leaders of provision in difficult times. We also argued for initiatives linked to Chairs of FYIR: Frank Field's advocacy of a cabinet-level post for early years to integrate working across ministries; the extension of Catherine West's innovative development of the Fairness Commission as a model to promote community action on local inequalities.

Financial review

There are no funds materially in deficit.

The principal sources of funding in the period to 5th April 2025 were:

Funds carried forward from the previous year's operations: £1419.

FYIR's expenditure supports the key objectives of the charity through the continuation of the organisation's seminar programme, meetings and collaborations alongside development of the website and Youtube channel to broaden the scope of information and evidence we make available relevant to the organisation's aims.

Reserves Policy

The aim of the trustees is to hold at least 6 months overhead expenses in reserve. The fund at 5th April 2025 meets this test.

Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account for period 6th April 2024 to 5th April 2025

	2024/2025 Restricted Funds £	2024/2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2023/2024 Total £
Incoming resources			
Incoming resources - grants	0	0	0
Donations	0	0	0
Resources expended - charitable			
Administration/staff development	0	0	0
Design	0	0	0
Phone	0	0	0
Refreshments/sustenance	0	0	0
Speakers honoraria/hospitality	0	0	0
VAT	0	0	0
Accommodation		0	0
Total expenditure	0	0	0
Surplus/deficit for the period	0	0	0
Brought forward from previous financial Year	0	1419	1419
Carried forward	0	1419	1419

Balance sheet

As at 5th April 2025

Balance sheet

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2024/5 All funds £
Fixed assets	0	1419	1419
Current assets:			
Debtors	0	0	0
Cash	0	1419	1419

Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

b) Income

Grants are credited to income when receivable.

c) Expenses

Expenses are recognised in the period when they are incurred.

d) Restricted funds

These are grants received for specific purposes. Expenses incurred for these purposes are charged to the restricted fund.

2. Staff costs

The charity has no employees.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

Chair 

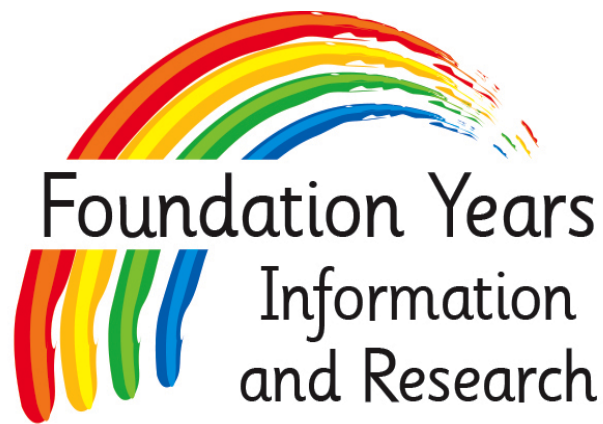
Date: 20.1.26

FOUNDATION YEARS INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1158170

Accounts

Foundation Years Information and Research



**Annual report and unaudited
financial statements**

6th April 2023 - 5th April 2024

Charity no. 1158170

Reference and administration details

Charity registration number 1158170

Charity name Foundation Years Information and Research

Registered address 35 Ulleswater Road London N14 7BL

Telephone number 020 8372 1516

Email address fyiroffice@gmail.com

Website www.fyir.org.uk

Trustees

- Dr Rob Hale, Acting Chair (appointed 2014)
- Dr Amanda Jones, Vice Chair (appointed 2014)
- Nick Peacey, MBE, Secretary (appointed 2014)
- Robin Balbernie (appointed 2020)
- Dr Sunil Bhopal (appointed 2020)
- Marcus Codrington-Fernandez (appointed 2016)
- Professor Gabriella Conti (appointed 2016)
- Professor Dame Sarah Cowley (appointed 2014)
- Merle Davies (appointed 2021)
- Professor Pasco Fearon (appointed 2015)
- Professor Eva Lloyd, OBE (appointed 2022)
- Dr Carine Minne (appointed 2014)
- Dr Matthias von der Tann (appointed 2014)

Bank National Westminster Bank, 250 Bishopsgate,
London, EC2M 4AA

The Trustees present their reports and financial statements for the period 6th April 2023-5th April 2024

Structure, governance and management

Foundation Years Information and Research is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and was established with the approval of the Charity Commission on 7th August 2014. The CIO is governed by a constitution.

The first Trustee appointments were made in August 2014 for a three-year term. The Trustees meet three times annually and hold an Annual General Meeting.

New trustees are briefed on relevant trust matters by the Secretary.

Officers

The first Chair of FYIR was Lord Field of Birkenhead. Lord Field resigned as Chair in September 2015. He was succeeded by Karen Buck MP and from 2017 to July 2024, Karen Buck MP and Catherine West MP were Co-Chairs.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the CIO are:

- To advance public education and understanding of the substantial body of scientific work on the extent to which the earliest relationships play a major role in shaping a baby's brain and in influencing their future mental and physical health
- To promote research and study into all aspects of the foregoing, including improved knowledge of neuroscience and developmental processes and to make available the useful results

Report

The FYIR Youtube channel

Our continuing series of Zoom meetings now offers presentations by fourteen speakers on the FYIR Youtube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSAP17LTNQc8RcAGrguDH1A>

Finland's celebrated ECEC provision: 8th November 2023

Tarja Kahiluoto, senior ministerial adviser to the Finnish Government, gave a memorable explanation of how her country's under 5s system of integrated education and care (ECEC) has come to be celebrated around the world.

The package was developed over 20 years and serves many policy goals, including implementing all children's right to a quality early education within a flexible framework that includes a comprehensive and flexible set of measures and provision. For example, parents and carers can choose from a range of settings, all carefully regulated, moderately priced and offering a curriculum framed at national level, modified to suit the local context. All children have an individual plan; there are no 'learning standards.' Services are multi-professional with good training of training for all and a pedagogy which starts from the child's perspective. An appropriately low child-adult ratio within all sorts of settings is strictly maintained. Some jealousy was expressed in the discussion!

The FYIR New Government, New Thinking Seminar Series Session 1

It's about time young people learned some brain science:

25th March 2024

Felicity Gillespie, Chief Executive, Kindred Squared

Felicity Gillespie of Kindred Squared opened our **New Government, New Thinking** series of six seminars with an examination of the implementation of their SEEN programme for education, a module to be used within the science curriculum for early secondary/late primary pupils on early neuro-development.

It was an appropriate topic for FYIR. Frank Field always emphasised that wherever he had spoken to school students, he had found them to have great interest in parenthood and the growth of the baby's brain.

The SEEN programme has been widely piloted and evaluated in partnership with the University of Oxford. Results show that it is highly successful in recalibrating young people's knowledge and attitudes to early child development. Felicity concluded: 'Scientists know that the first few years of a child's life are critically important for human development with impacts on long-term health, wellbeing, learning and earning potential. And yet, we don't include any of this on the school science curriculum.'

Since SEEN was initiated in 2021, the lessons have been accessed by over 20,000 students at KS2 and KS3. <https://www.psych.ox.ac.uk/research/seen>

Preoccupations, contradictions, opportunities in early child development: a budget briefing March 2023

This FYIR briefing provided up-to-date evidence as context for the Chancellor's decisions about 0-3 years in the 2023 budget.

Budget briefing.**Financial review**

There are no funds materially in deficit.

The principal sources of funding in the period to 5th April 2024 were:

Funds carried forward from the previous year's operations: £1419.

FYIR's expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity through the continuation of the organisation's seminar programme, meetings and collaborations alongside development of the website and Youtube channel to broaden the scope of information and evidence we make available relevant to the organisation's aims.

Reserves Policy

The aim of the trustees is to hold at least 6 months overhead expenses in reserve. The fund at 5th April 2024 meets this test.

**Statement of financial activities incorporating income
and expenditure account for period 6th April 2023 to 5th April 2024**

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2023/2024 Total £
Incoming resources			
Incoming resources - grants	0	0	0
Donations	0	0	0
Resources expended - charitable			
Administration/staff development	0	0	0
Design	0	0	0
Phone	0	0	0
Refreshments/sustenance	0	0	0
Speakers honoraria/hospitality	0	0	0
VAT	0	0	0
Accommodation		0	0
Total expenditure	0	0	0
Surplus/deficit for the period	0	0	0
Brought forward from previous financial Year (Note 1)		1419	1419
Carried forward	0	1419	1419

Balance sheet

As at 5th April 2024

Balance sheet

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2023/4 All funds £
Fixed assets	0	1419	1419
Current assets:			
Debtors	0	0	0
Cash	0	1419	1419

Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

b) Income

Grants are credited to income when receivable.

c) Expenses

Expenses are recognised in the period when they are incurred.

d) Restricted funds

These are grants received for specific purposes. Expenses incurred for these purposes are charged to the restricted fund.

2. Staff costs

The charity has no employees.

Notes to accounts (1)

This line shows the corrected c/f for FY2022/2023

Details provided in line with recommendations in para. 3.36, correction of a prior period error according to the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities

	Total incoming resources	Total expenditure	Surplus/deficit for the period	c/f 2022/2023
Correction in Annual Report 2023-2024	0	0	0	1419
Misstatement In Annual Report 2022-23	0	950	(950)	2219

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

Rob Hale Chair

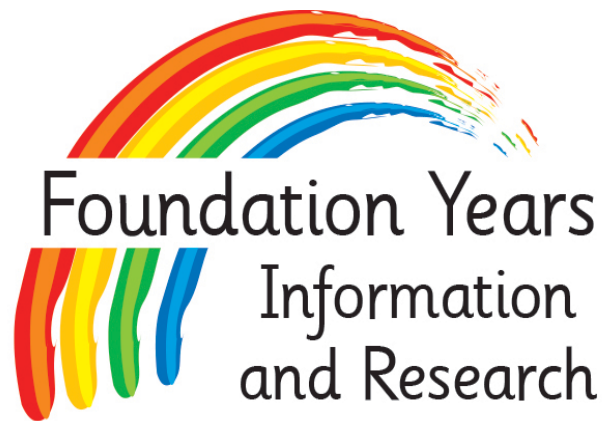
Date: 27.1.24

FOUNDATION YEARS INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1158170

Accounts

Foundation Years Information and Research



**Annual report and unaudited
financial statements**

6th April 2022 – 5th April 2023

Charity no. 1158170

Reference and administration details

Charity registration number	1158170
Charity name	Foundation Years Information and Research
Registered address	35 Ulleswater Road London N14 7BL
Telephone number	020 8372 1516
Email address	office@fyir.org.uk
Website	www.fyir.org.uk
President	Lord Field of Birkenhead CH
Co-Chairs	Karen Buck MP, Catherine West MP
Trustees	Karen Buck MP (appointed 2016) Robin Balbernie (appointed 2020) Dr Sunil Singh Bhopal (appointed 2020) Marcus Codrington-Fernandez (appointed 2016) Professor Gabriella Conti (appointed 2016) Professor Dame Sarah Cowley (appointed 2014) Merle Davies (appointed 2021) Professor Pasco Fearon (appointed 2015) Lord Field of Birkenhead CH (appointed 2014) Dr Rob Hale (Vice Chair) (appointed 2014) Dr Amanda Jones (Vice Chair) (appointed 2014) Professor Eva Lloyd (appointed 2022) Dr Carine Minne (appointed 2014) Nick Peacey (Secretary) (appointed 2014) Dr Matthias von der Tann (appointed 2014) Catherine West MP (appointed 2018)
Bank	National Westminster Bank Muswell Hill Branch, 190 Muswell Hill Broadway, London N10 3TF

The Trustees present their reports and financial statements for the period 6th April 2022-5th April 2023.

Structure, governance and management

Foundation Years Information and Research is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and was established with the approval of the Charity Commission on 7th August 2014. The CIO is governed by a constitution.

The first Trustee appointments were made in August 2014 for a three-year term. The Trustees meet three times annually and hold an Annual General Meeting.

New trustees are briefed on relevant trust matters by the Secretary.

Officers

Karen Buck MP and Catherine West MP are Co-Chairs.

The first Chair of FYIR was Lord Field of Birkenhead. Lord Field resigned as Chair in September 2015 and has now become president of FYIR.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the CIO are:

- To advance public education and understanding of the substantial body of scientific work on the extent to which the earliest relationships play a major role in shaping a baby's brain and in influencing their future mental and physical health
- To promote research and study into all aspects of the foregoing, including improved knowledge of neuroscience and developmental processes and to make available the useful results

Report

The FYIR Youtube channel

Our continuing series of Zoom meetings currently now allows us to show presentations by fourteen speakers on the FYIR Youtube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSAP17ITNQc8RcAGrguDH1A>

Early Childhood Inequalities: the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) Deaton Review, 14th December 2022

Sarah Cattan and Christine Farquharson of IFS discussed the Deaton Review's recent findings on inequality in the earliest years.

'In the most ambitious study of its kind yet attempted, we will aim to understand inequality not just of income, but of health, wealth, political participation, and opportunity; and not just between rich and poor but by gender, ethnicity, geography, age and education.'

Professor Sir Angus Deaton, Nobel Laureate, Chair of the Review.



Sir Angus Deaton

Sarah Cattan, drawing directly on the Review's conclusions, stressed the importance of targeting a range of aspects of the child's environment, giving due emphasis to the emotional and educational, as well as the material aspects, when addressing gaps in development, as measured by outcomes at age 3.

The Review notes an increase in early inequality over the second decade of the century: the authors relate this to policy changes, including the national focus on 'working families' and the closure of Sure Start centres. Their policy proposals include a change of emphasis to balance funding environments outside the home with approaches that can directly influence the home environment.

Christine Farquharson discussed the Review from a broader context, using findings from a major IFS study on public spending and policy. Spending on the early years (3 and 4 year olds) has quadrupled over the last 20 years, largely through increases to the free entitlement to childcare. This level of expenditure can be contrasted to the more or less flat trajectory of

spending in the primary and secondary phases of education. But childcare providers have seen costs greatly increase over this time, and when inflation is taken into account, the purchasing power overall of the free entitlement funding on offer has significantly declined in real terms. Other specific funding streams available to families present a mixed picture in terms of their generosity.

The outstanding change, relative to the Dayton Review findings, is that of spending through the benefits system: as the Government has spent ever more on the free entitlements system, so it has spent less on the benefits system. Even before COVID, spending on childcare through the benefits system in 2020 was half that a decade earlier.

The other major change has been the policy emphasis on working families: the poorest families, previously targeted by 45% of the benefits spend, are now only receiving 20% of the (reduced) benefits available. Huge variations in childcare costs by age of the child are also a powerful factor. Surprisingly, only a fifth of families say that it's difficult to meet childcare costs; but many do not take up all the hours available. The 15 hours free entitlement can be seen as a successful - on the other hand only 4 in 10 of eligible parents and carers have heard of tax-free childcare.

Helen Hayes MP, Shadow Minister for Children and Families, thanked the speakers for their contributions. She felt that our current childcare system was in need of substantial reform: the Shadow team were working to create something better. She also welcomed the speakers' emphasis on aspects of policy outside her brief, such as housing and promised to come back to the group when she had more to tell us.

Pre-budget research briefing

Following the discussion after last year's AGM, FYIR agreed to put together a pre-budget evidence-based briefing on the environment for under 3s. Trustees worked on a series of drafts and the final version was disseminated to a wide group, including Ministers, Shadows, journalists and others.



Preoccupations, contradictions, opportunities in early child development
A budget briefing: March 2023

We in Foundation Years Information and Research (FYIR) collect the evidence on the earliest months of life, particularly the first 1000 days, to inform policy-making and debate.

We acknowledge the many valid concerns about finance, education and childcare at present. But other organisations and sources of support of vital importance to mothers, fathers, families and society risk being sidelined in the current debate.

Don't take our word for it. Follow the links to the evidence below. You'll find many of the authors on our Youtube site: <https://www.youtube.com/@fyirfoundationyearsinforma3020/videos>

1. Experiences during pregnancy and up to between ages two and three, the period of greatest neuroplasticity, affect the lifetime brain architecture of the developing child in a positive or negative way. For many in disadvantaged and stressful circumstances the basis of self-control and coherent thought may be severely compromised with lifelong negative consequences. Centre on the Developing Child, Harvard University.
<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/wp3/>
<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/the-timing-and-quality-of-early-experiences-combine-to-shape-brain-architecture>

2. The most important aspect of an infant's environment is the quality of the relationship between the child, parents or other prime caregivers. Early relational health builds the strongest foundation for future social emotional and cognitive development. If this is compromised it may have long-term and costly consequences to society and the individual. Disadvantage can be mitigated by 'nurturing care' and high quality services from the start. World Health Organisation <https://www.who.int/teams/maternal-newborn-child-adolescent-health-and-ageing/child-health/nurturing-care>

Financial review

There are no funds materially in deficit.

The principal sources of funding in the period to 5th April 2023 were:

-Funds carried forward from the previous year's operations: £2369

FYIR's expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity through the continuation of the organisation's seminar programme, meetings and collaborations alongside development of the website and Youtube channel to broaden the scope of information and evidence we make available relevant to the organisation's aims.

Reserves Policy

The aim of the trustees is to hold at least 6 months overhead expenses in reserve. The fund at 5th April 2023 meets this test.

**Statement of financial activities incorporating income
and expenditure account for period 6th April 2022 to 5th April 2023**

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2021/2022 Total £
Incoming resources			
Incoming resources - grants	0	0	0
Donations	0	0	0
Resources expended - charitable			
Administration/staff development	0	0	150
Design	0	0	0
Phone	0	0	0
Refreshments/sustenance	0	0	0
Speakers honoraria/hospitality	0	0	0
VAT	0	0	0
Accommodation		0	0
Total expenditure	0	0	150
Surplus/deficit for the period	0	0	(150)
Brought forward from previous financial year		2219	2369
Carried forward	0	2219	2219

Balance sheet

As at 5th April 2023

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total £
Fixed assets	0	0	0
Current assets	0	2219	2219
Net assets		2219	2219

Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

b) Income

Grants are credited to income when receivable.

c) Expenses

Expenses are recognised in the period when they are incurred.

d) Restricted funds

These are grants received for specific purposes. Expenses incurred for these purposes are charged to the restricted fund.

2. Staff costs

The charity has no employees.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf



Catherine West MP,

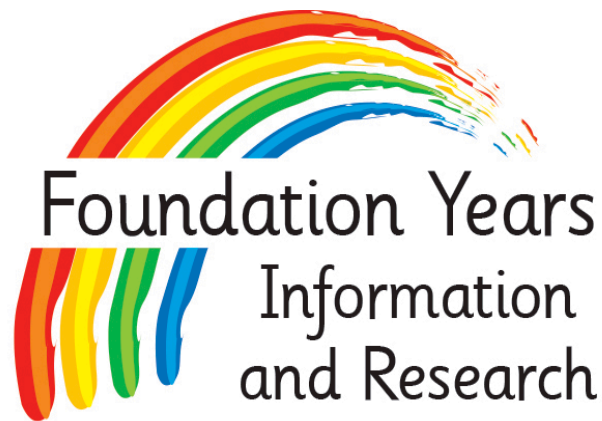
Chair Date: 22.1.24

FOUNDATION YEARS INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1158170

Accounts

Foundation Years Information and Research



**Annual report and unaudited
financial statements**

6th April 2021– 5th April 2022

Charity no. 1158170

Reference and administration details

Charity registration number	1158170
Charity name	Foundation Years Information and Research
Registered address	35 Ulleswater Road London N14 7BL
Telephone number	020 8372 1516
Email address	office@fyir.org.uk
Website	www.fyir.org.uk
President	Lord Field of Birkenhead CH
Co-Chairs	Karen Buck MP, Catherine West MP
Trustees	Karen Buck MP (appointed 2016) Robin Balbernie (appointed 2020) Dr Sunil Singh Bhopal (appointed 2020) Marcus Codrington-Fernandez (appointed 2016) Professor Gabriella Conti (appointed 2016) Professor Dame Sarah Cowley (appointed 2014) Merle Davies (appointed 2021) Professor Pasco Fearon (appointed 2016) Lord Field of Birkenhead CH (appointed 2014) Dr Rob Hale (Vice Chair) (appointed 2014) Professor Jane Hurry (appointed 2018) Dr Amanda Jones (Vice Chair) (appointed 2014) Professor Eva Lloyd (appointed 2021) Dr Carine Minne (appointed 2014) Ron Orders (appointed 2014) Jane O'Rourke (appointed 2017) Nick Peacey (Secretary) (appointed 2014) Andrew Pitt (Treasurer) (appointed 2014) Dr Matthias von der Tann (appointed 2014) Catherine West MP (appointed 2018)

Bank National Westminster Bank
Muswell Hill Branch, 190 Muswell Hill Broadway, London N10 3TF

The trustees present their reports and financial statements for the period 6th April 2021-5th April 2022.

Structure, governance and management

Foundation Years Information and Research is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and was established with approval of the Charity Commission on 7th August 2014. The CIO is governed by a constitution.

The first trustee appointments were made in August 2014 for a three-year term. Trustees may serve up to three consecutive terms before a break is enforced. The Trustees meet three times annually and hold an Annual General Meeting.

New trustees are briefed on relevant trust matters by the Secretary.

Officers

Karen Buck, MP, and Catherine West MP are Co-Chairs.

The first Chair of FYIR was Lord Field of Birkenhead. Lord Field resigned as Chair in September 2015 and has now become president of FYIR.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the CIO are:

- To advance public education and understanding of the substantial body of scientific work on the extent to which the earliest relationships play a major role in shaping a baby's brain and in influencing their future mental and physical health
- To promote research and study into all aspects of the foregoing, including improved knowledge of neuroscience and developmental processes and to make available the useful results

Report

After the pandemic

Trustees agreed that after our pandemic time successful Zoom meetings in 2020-1, which engaged foreign and farflung UK participants so easily that we would arrange fewer in-person events in future.

We have acted on this decision and, after some more excellent online meetings, now offer a wide range of topics in the thirteen speakers' presentations on our Youtube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSAP17ITNQc8RcAGrguDH1A>

Seminars and Meetings by Zoom

Educating Society about the Early Years

20th April 2021

We were delighted to welcome Aida Cable, Chief Advisor to the Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and Felicity Gillespie of Kindred Squared to our Zoom event on 20th April for two fascinating presentations. Aida gave us an insight into the Foundation's far-reaching objectives following their Big Survey on attitudes to early years. Felicity explained Kindred Squared's drive to teach all students about the science of the first 1000 days by commissioning an Oxford University team to develop a secondary curriculum resource.

13th December, 2021

Joeli Brearley, founder of Pregnant then Screwed (PTS), updated us on their powerful campaign on child care and discrimination against mothers. She stressed their major campaigning theme: challenging the ubiquitous categorisation of resources that support mothers through the 1,000 days and beyond as costs to the Exchequer; setting out the unanswerable case seeing their use as investments that are economically and socially beneficial.

Aurélia Rabe & Marion Charpentier of Ensemble pour l'éducation de la petite enfance (EduEnsemble), explained the EU initiative [First Years, First Priority](#), (EduEnsemble is French National co-ordinating organisation), and the Family-Friendly Company badge scheme to improve employer approaches to the first 1000 days of life. The EU initiative is of considerable significance: it allows countries in the EU to choose from supported early years themes with an emphasis on drawing commitments from the whole of society to the improvement of under 3s provision Marion explained – in tune with the EU initiative – how EduEnsemble had put in place an action plan for parents with some well-known employers in France: Joeli's experience of this sort of scheme led to some valuable discussion of the possibilities and pitfalls.

10th January, 2022

Nikki Humphrey, Director, People, John Lewis Partnership described the company's new equal parental leave policy, recognised as the first commitment by a major UK retailer to address equality in this area. Nikki stressed that this was early days for the initiative, but that response from employees with children

had been extremely positive. We look forward to hearing more about this promising development as its results emerge in greater detail.

14th March 2022.

Reforming the Early Learning Care and School-Age Childcare System in Ireland: Recent Policy Development, Early Implementation

Professor Eva Lloyd, University of East London, Hazel O’Byrne, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) (Ireland) & Toby Wolfe, (DCEDIY) (Ireland)

We were delighted to hear from three speakers at the centre of the recent Irish reviews of early learning care and childcare and workforce issues relating to the age group. Our Trustee, Eva Lloyd, had been a leading voice in the review groups which made a fine case for the sort of universalising reforms that many would like to see in this country. The Irish government has accepted the conclusions of both reviews and funding has been provided to allow the reforms proposed to move ahead.

Impact statement

The charity has always worked with policy leaders on interesting and innovative developments in the field of the under 3s, and in 2021-2022 we were particularly lucky in the quality and quantity of exciting ideas we were able to showcase in our meetings. We do not know of any other organisation in the UK providing this sort of broad menu of initiatives from the UK and abroad.

The charity trustees, throughout the year, raised awareness of issues based on members’ concerns concerning 0-3 year olds in a time of COVID with policy makers and others, not least through Parliamentary Questions. For example:

[Written questions and answers - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

[Written questions and answers - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

Financial review

There are no funds materially in deficit.

The principal sources of funding in the period to 5th April 2022 were:

- Funds carried forward from the previous year's operations: £2369

FYIR's expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity through the continuation of the organisation's seminar programme, meetings and collaborations alongside development of the website to include a Youtube channel to broaden the scope of information and evidence we make available relevant to the organisation's aims.

Reserves Policy

The aim of the trustees is to hold at least 6 months overhead expenses in reserve. The fund at 5th April 2022 meets this test.

Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account for period 6th April 2020 to 5th April 2021

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2020/2021 Total £
Incoming resources			
Incoming resources - grants	0	0	0
Donations	0	0	0
Resources expended - charitable			
Administration/staff development	0	150	150
Design	0	0	0
Phone	0	0	0
Refreshments/sustenance	0	0	0
Speakers honoraria/hospitality	0	0	0
VAT	0	0	0
Accommodation		0	0
Total expenditure	0	150	150
Surplus/deficit for the period	0	(150)	(150)
Brought forward from previous financial year		2369	2369
Carried forward	0	2219	2219

Balance sheet

As at 5th April 2022

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total £
Fixed assets	0	0	0
Current assets	0	2219	2219
Net assets		2219	2219

Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

b) Income

Grants are credited to income when receivable.

c) Expenses

Expenses are recognised in the period when they are incurred.

d) Restricted funds

These are grants received for specific purposes. Expenses incurred for these purposes are charged to the restricted fund.

2. Staff costs

The charity has no employees.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf



Catherine West MP, Chair

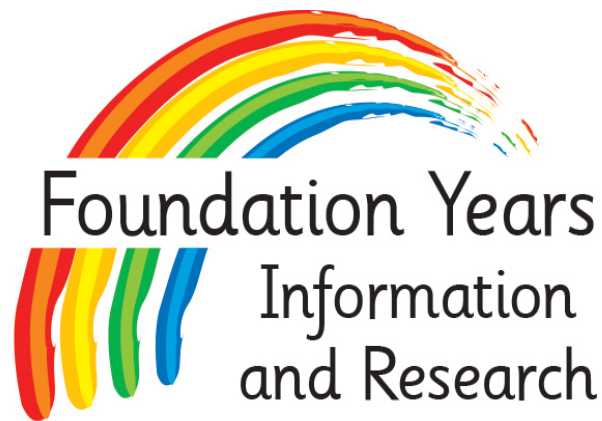
Date: 20.1.23

FOUNDATION YEARS INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1158170

Accounts

Foundation Years Information and Research



**Annual report and unaudited
financial statements**

6th April 2020– 5th April 2021

Charity no. 1158170

Reference and administration details

Charity registration number	1158170
Charity name	Foundation Years Information and Research
Registered address	35 Ulleswater Road London N14 7BL
Telephone number	020 8372 1516
Email address	office@fyir.org.uk
Website	www.fyir.org.uk
President	Lord Field of Birkenhead CH
Co-Chairs	Karen Buck MP, Catherine West MP
Trustees	Karen Buck MP (appointed 2016) Robin Balbernie (appointed 2020) Dr Sunil Singh Bhopal (appointed 2020) Marcus Codrington-Fernandez (appointed 2016) Professor Gabriella Conti (appointed 2016) Professor Dame Sarah Cowley (appointed 2014) Merle Davies (appointed 2021) Professor Pasco Fearon (appointed 2016) Lord Field of Birkenhead CH (appointed 2014) Dr Rob Hale (Vice Chair) (appointed 2014) Professor Jane Hurry (appointed 2018) Dr Amanda Jones (Vice Chair) (appointed 2014) Dr Carine Minne (appointed 2014) Ron Orders (appointed 2014) Jane O'Rourke (appointed 2017) Nick Peacey (Secretary) (appointed 2014) Andrew Pitt (Treasurer) (appointed 2014) Dr Matthias von der Tann (appointed 2014) Catherine West MP (appointed 2018)

Bank National Westminster Bank
Muswell Hill Branch, 190 Muswell Hill Broadway, London N10 3TF

The trustees present their reports and financial statements for the period 6th April 2020-5th April 2021.

Structure, governance and management

Foundation Years Information and Research is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and was established with approval of the Charity Commission on 7th August 2014. The CIO is governed by a constitution.

The first trustee appointments were made in August 2014 for a three-year term. Trustees may serve up to three consecutive terms before a break is enforced. The Trustees meet three times annually and hold an Annual General Meeting.

New trustees are briefed on relevant trust matters by the Secretary.

Officers

Karen Buck, MP, and Catherine West MP are Co-Chairs.

The first Chair of FYIR was Lord Field of Birkenhead. Lord Field resigned as Chair in September 2015 and has now become president of FYIR.

Trustees

We were delighted to welcome Dr Sunil Bhopal as a Trustee.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the CIO are:

- To advance public education and understanding of the substantial body of scientific work on the extent to which the earliest relationships play a major role in shaping a baby's brain and in influencing their future mental and physical health
- To promote research and study into all aspects of the foregoing, including improved knowledge of neuroscience and developmental processes and to make available the useful results

Report

Working through the pandemic

In common with many organisations during the financial year 2020 to 2021, FYIR's face-to-face meetings and events were curtailed by lockdowns and the pandemic.

However, we found our way forward through increasing understanding of the possibilities of Zoom and other communication strategies and were able to have a series of successful meetings online. We have enjoyed including distinguished foreign and farflung UK participants so easily (and cheaply!) in our discussions. For this reason, it seems unlikely that Trustees will wish to return to a programme solely consisting of face-to-face meetings in the future.

With the support of our web specialist, Cate Rae, who generously gives us time, she says, as a relaxation from being Managing Director of her technology company, we were able to take full advantage of our Youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSAP17lTNQc8RcAGrguDH1A> to broadcast all speakers' presentations soon after the meetings when they were given.

Seminars and Meetings by Zoom

Trustees met on Zoom three times during the summer months of 2020 in order to review developments in policy and service provision for the 0-2 age group during the pandemic and to raise awareness of concerns.

Discussions frequently centred round:

1. service redeployment, which was particularly high in some areas during the first lockdown, and had profound effects on services such as health visiting where recruitment and retention was already an issue;
2. professionals' anxieties about effective safeguarding checks when the only communication possible with families was online;
3. the long-term effects of gaps in provision created by responses to COVID-19 on such conditions as oncology specialisms and children and parents' mental health. In relation to this point, our trustee Professor Gabriella Conti published a briefing on parental involvement and play during lockdown at the end of July 2020. This was based on data from a web survey during May of 18,000 people, members of five nationally representative cohort studies and resulted in headlines in *the Guardian* (30/7/20): "Women 'put careers on hold' to home school during UK Covid-19 lockdown"; "women across several age groups bore the brunt of childcare and home schooling" Our Chair, Catherine West MP, pursued all these concerns with Ministers and other colleagues in Parliament.

16th November 2020 FYIR was delighted to welcome the Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP and Professor Susan Golombok, Director of the Centre for Family Research at the University of Cambridge. Andrea gave us a thorough and upbeat pre-publication account of progress on the Government's cross-departmental Early Healthy Development Review, which she led.

Susan introduced her book *We are Family: What Really Matters for Parents and Children* which explains how her research challenges commonly held assumptions about new family forms and also contests widely held theories of child development by demonstrating that structural aspects of the family are less important for children's psychological wellbeing than the quality of family relationships.

7th December 2020

At this seminar we learned of developments in France, Norway and the UK.

Nathalie Casso-Vicarini founded and now leads the charity 'Ensemble pour l'Education de la Petite Enfance' (Eduensemble). Nathalie was a leading light of the French National Commission on the first 1000 days of life, and gave us good news on the reception and implementation of the Commission's Report <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/rapport-1000-premiers-jours.pdf>

Tove Mogstad-Slinde, the Norwegian Government's Senior Adviser on Early Childhood Education and Care, took us through the progressive and effective Norwegian framework of provision for the first days of life. As always, the promotion of equity of through Scandinavian systems for under 5s services impressed her audience.

Our trustee Gabriella Conti of UCL reviewed the significant and widely reported Royal Foundation' review of attitudes to early childhood. She was impressed by the review's emphasis on, and analysis of, evidence gathered from many parents and carers (a sadly neglected resource), while feeling that we should not underplay the importance of quality support that builds on the best possible start for life advocated in the review.

Collaboration with Ensemble pour l'Education de la Petite Enfance

Online collaboration with the French charity Eduensemble was an important feature of the year. The face-to-face Congress that EduEnsemble and the OECD planned in Paris was turned into a virtual 'international train journey' with stops (conferencing dates) running between 30th June and 20th November 2020. This excellent series of online events used an innovative and (usually) efficient virtual environment incorporating avatars, a lecture hall and a railway station on which one platform hosted a train with carriages full of panels of film, still images and information on early years. FYIR contributed to the opening ceremony: Dr Rob Hale was invited to

submit a podcast and recorded a fascinating discussion with Drs Amanda Jones and Sebastian Kraemer for the session.

We welcomed the publication of the report of the French Presidential Commission *Les 1000 Premiers Jours* in September. Eduensemble had a leading role in the Commission, to which FYIR Trustees, Rob Hale, Nick Peacey, Gabriella Conti and Pasco Fearon gave evidence in 2019. Reference to the UK Parliament's Health and Social Care Select Committee 2019 report, *First Thousand Days of Life*, appeared strongly in the Commission's publication. The Secretary sent the Commission a copy of that report; it was circulated to all members of the Commission in their preparatory reading.

Impact statement

We were pleased that the report of the French Presidential Commission *Les 1000 Premiers Jours* showed clearly that our input had affected their conclusions.

The charity trustees, throughout the year, raised awareness of issues based on members' concerns concerning 0-3 year olds in a time of COVID with policy makers and others, not least through Parliamentary Questions.

For example:

Supply of health visitors during the pandemic

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63448/>

Child development : Healthy Child Programme appointments

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-23/63449/>

Routine vaccinations/immunisation

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-06-29/66150/>

Increased risk during lockdown, increased need for safeguarding

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-02/84314>

Financial review

There are no funds materially in deficit.

The principal sources of funding in the period to 5th April 2021 were:

- Funds carried forward from the previous year's operations: £2069
- FYIR's expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity through the continuation of the organisation's seminar programme, meetings and collaborations with development of the website to include a Youtube channel to broaden the scope of information and evidence we make available relevant to the organisation's aims.

Reserves Policy

The aim of the trustees is to hold at least 6 months overhead expenses in reserve. The fund at 5th April 2021 meets this test.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

Catherine West MP
Chair

Financial review

There are no funds materially in deficit.

The principal sources of funding in the period to 5th April 2021 were:

- Funds carried forward from the previous year's operations: £2069

FYIR's expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity through the continuation of the organisation's seminar programme, a fact finding visit to German under 2s provision and maintenance of the website to share information on research evidence relevant to the organisation's aims.

Reserves Policy

The aim of the trustees is to hold at least 6 months overhead expenses in reserve. The fund at 5th April 2021 meets this test.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf



Catherine West MP
Chair

Date 10.1.22

Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account for period 6th April 2020 to 5th April 2021

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2020/2021 Total £
Incoming resources			
Incoming resources - grants	0	0	0
Donations	0	300	300
Total incoming resources	0	300	300
Resources expended - charitable			
Administration/staff development	0		0
Design	0		0
Phone	0		0
Refreshments/sustenance	0		0
Speakers honoraria/hospitality	0		0
VAT	0		0
Accommodation			0
Total expenditure	0		0
Surplus/deficit for the period	0	300	300
Brought forward from previous financial year		2069	2069
Carried forward	0	2369	2369

Balance sheet

As at 5 th April 2021	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds £	2020/2021 Total £
Fixed assets	0	0	0
Current assets:			
Debtors	0	0	0
Cash	0	2369	2369
Creditors due within 1 year	0	0	0
Net assets		2369	2369
Funds:			
Restricted funds	0	0	0
Unrestricted funds		2369	2369
	0	2369	2369

Approved by the Trustees and
signed on their behalf



Catherine West MP, Chair

Date: 10.1.22

1. Accounting Policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. They follow the recommendations in the statement of recommended practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005).

b) Income

Grants are credited to income when receivable.

c) Expenses

Expenses are recognised in the period when they are incurred.

d) Restricted funds

These are grants received for specific purposes. Expenses incurred for these purposes are charged to the restricted fund.

2. Staff costs

The charity has no employees.

3. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable income applied for charitable purposes.

4. Trustees remuneration/expenses

Trustees receive no remuneration.