

WAY WIDOWED AND YOUNG

England & Wales · Charity number 1164988

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2015-12-29

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address WAY Widowed and Young
Advantage House
Stowe Court
Stowe Street
Lichfield

Phone 0300 2010051

Email enquiries@widowedandyoung.org.uk

Website www.widowedandyoung.org.uk

Activities

Objects: The objects of the CIO are: (1) to advance the education of the public to raise the awareness of the needs of people who are widowed and young;(2) to relieve persons in need, following bereavement by offering a peer-to-peer support network for anyone aged 50 or under, at time of bereavement, who is overcoming the loss of a partner, married or not, with or without children, inclusive of sexual orientation, gender, race and religion.

Activities: i. To advance the education of the public to raise the awareness of the needs of people who are widowed and young. ii. To relieve persons in need, following bereavement by offering a peer-to-peer support network for anyone aged 50 or under, at time of bereavement, who is overcoming the loss of a partner, married or not, with or without children, inclusive of any sexual orientation.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£284,079	£296,104	-	-
2023-12-31	£261,032	£333,002	-	-
2022-12-31	£264,988	£317,968	-	-
2021-12-31	£254,026	£226,164	-	-
2020-12-31	£300,750	£211,903	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Joanna Sedley-Burke	Chair	2018-12-01
Emma Louise Charlesworth		2025-06-10
Gary McFarlane		2024-09-28
Katherine Denise Spikings		2019-03-09
Louise Jane Fisher		2019-09-14
Mike Etherington		2020-12-12
Nadir Keshani		2024-04-20
Roberta Kelly		2022-12-10

WAY WIDOWED AND YOUNG

England & Wales - Charity number 1164988

Accounts

W&Y Widowed
and Young

Annual Report 2024



www.widowedandyoung.org.uk
Support. Understanding. Friendship

Registered Charity No: 1164988

Introduction



A word from WAY's Chief Executive and Chair



Welcome to WAY Widowed and Young's 2024 Annual Report.

Firstly, and most significantly, we would like to thank our community of wonderful members who have continued to embody what WAY is all about.

WAY is a club that nobody wants to be eligible to join, but our members are so glad that they have found us – and we continue to be inspired by the incredible support that is shared across our community.

There were an unbelievable **1,143 events** organised by WAY and our members across the UK in 2024, which helped our members to find other people who understand what they are going through (see p8 for more on our events).

This year WAY has supported **4,523 people** who have been widowed young, including 1,508 new members. However, we know that there are many more young widows who have yet to find us – as there are sadly nearly 24,000* people aged 18-50 who die every year.

We still have a lot of work to do to try and reach these people and ensure that anyone who needs WAY can find us. To help achieve this goal, we have continued to engage with the media and work alongside other bereavement networks. In 2024, we reached more than **2,000 bereavement professionals** at events and conferences and the audiences of **66 media outlets** to help spread the word about our charity.

Improving our services

Over the last few years, many of our members have fed back that WAY's member-only platform was difficult to use, and the charity has worked hard to raise funds to invest in this area of member services. Following the launch of our new **Members Hub** in 2023, 2024 saw the continued bedding in of the new system. We have continued to listen to our members and make improvements to the members area and the public facing pages of

our website with limited funds and capacity available. This remains an ongoing area of focus for the charity.

We also launched a new counselling service delivered by our valued partner, bereavement specialists **Professional Help**.

The cost-of-living crisis has continued to affect our members with 71%** reporting that they are concerned about their finances. We were able to support members who were struggling to meet the cost of the membership fee by increasing the amount available in WAY's **Memorial Fund** in 2024.

Despite the tough financial environment, our fantastic fundraisers exceeded our expectations and our substantial reserves still allowed us to continue to invest funds in developing member services and activities to increase the reach of the charity. WAY does not receive any statutory funding and is reliant on every penny raised, so we would like to thank every single person who has supported WAY in 2024 (see p11 for more on fundraising).

Our superb volunteers have continued to provide the foundations upon which WAY's peer-to-peer networks are built. We are incredibly fortunate to have so many volunteers who are passionate about supporting WAY members (read more on p10).

We would also like to say a huge thank you to our strategic partners – the law firm **Irwin Mitchell** and child bereavement charity **Winston's Wish** – who have both helped us to increase the reach of the charity and to improve services to our members (see p15 for more).

We are sincerely grateful to all of our committed volunteers, trustees and dedicated staff team who make sure WAY is a lifeline for so many of our members.

Stephanie Patrick, Chief Executive
Joanna Sedley-Burke, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Our Story

95% of WAY members said that WAY membership of £30 per year is good/somewhat good value for money*

WAY is the only national charity in the UK for people aged 50 or under when their partner died.

Founded in 1997, it's a club that nobody wants to be eligible to join, but we are so glad that our members find us. We provide a safe space for people who have been widowed at a young age – offering friendship, support and understanding.

WAY offers a unique peer-to-peer support network, led by volunteers who have all been bereaved at a young age themselves so they understand exactly what other members are going through.

As well as offering a secure members only website and opportunities to meet and chat online and in person, our members also have access to a confidential telephone support line offering bereavement counselling, legal and financial advice.

WAY also raises awareness of issues affecting those widowed young, campaigns on current issues such as changes to bereavement benefits and seeks out opportunities to publicise the existence of the charity wherever possible, through the media and other avenues, to show that there is support out there to help people navigate life after loss.

"WAY has provided invaluable support and advice. I have formed friendships and connections with other widows and gained a community of people who understand, so I feel less alone in my grief. Taking out a WAY membership was one of the best decisions I have ever made and being a member still makes the world of difference in my life."

WAY Member



* Based on member responses in WAY's Annual Impact Survey June 2025.

* Based on ONS death figures 2023.

** Based on member responses in WAY's Annual Impact Survey June 2025.

WAY impacted the lives of
4,523
young widows in 2024



helping them to navigate
their bereavement by
offering friendship,
support and
understanding.



What WAY does



WAY members organised **1,143**
in person and virtual events in 2024 (up 28% on 2023).



184 amazing volunteers
helped to support our work throughout the year (up 8%).

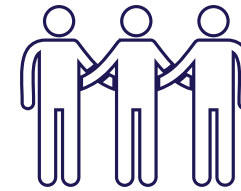


Generous supporters raised **£150,000**,
helping us to reach more people in need of support.



178 young widowed people received financial
assistance through our Memorial Fund.

How WAY helped



78% of members found
that meeting people in the
same situation has helped.*



Our small team of
5 employed
members of staff
continued to support
our members.



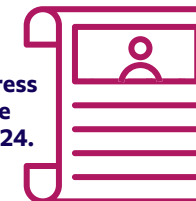
85% of members felt
that they had better
knowledge about grief and
bereavement.*



82% felt less isolated.*



More than
30,000 people
helped us to
spread the word by
following us across
our social media
channels.



66 pieces of press
coverage were
generated in 2024.



76,426 people
visited our website
in 2024.

* Based on member responses in WAY's Annual Impact Survey June 2025.

Our Members

1,508 new members joined WAY's peer support network in 2024.



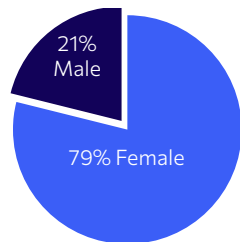
67% of members renewed their membership.

97% of members would recommend WAY to other people*

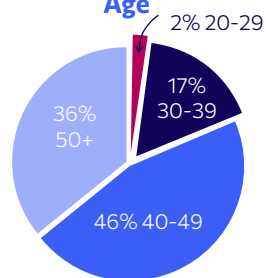


Demographics

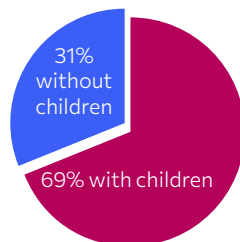
Gender



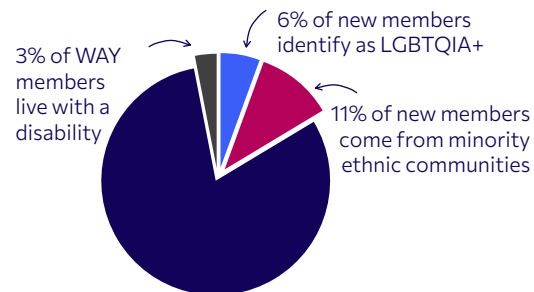
Age



With/without children



Diversity



* Based on member responses in WAY's Annual Impact Survey June 2025.

Our Member Services

WAY continued to provide a range of vital services and support for all of our members as they navigate their bereavement journey, including:



Improving our telephone support services, which include bereavement counselling provided by **Professional Help** as well as legal and financial advice offered by **Irwin Mitchell**.



140 people made use of these telephone support services in 2024.



78% of members who used the telephone counselling service found it helpful.*



Between them, WAY members and volunteers organised **1,143** events via our Member Hub



248 online events were held for members.



Our closed Facebook group and a large range of subgroups were accessed by **78%** of members.



178 members were supported financially through our Memorial Fund (this included payment of membership for 148 new members).

* Based on member responses in WAY's Annual Impact Survey June 2025.

We took the difficult decision to increase **WAY's membership fee** from £25 to £30 per year in 2024. The cost of WAY membership had remained unchanged for more than a decade and during this time, the cost of goods and services has continued to rise steadily. At £2.50 per month, we believe WAY membership represents exceptional value for money.

In 2024, we also made the decision to move our member newsletter **WAY Forward** to a digital platform to help save paper and transport emissions. Members can still opt to receive a printed version of the newsletter if they prefer.

"WAY has helped massively with feelings of loneliness and bereavement. The new member Zooms allowed me a safe space to interact with others at a time when face-to-face was overwhelming, and the national nature of them meant there was always someone at a similar stage. The face-to-face groups have given me a new group of people who aren't scared of the word death and who may I think develop into friendships outside the WAY umbrella."

WAY Member



Events



67%
of WAY
members rated
face-to-face
meetings
as one of the top five
WAY services*



Across the UK, WAY members came together in a variety of ways – from relaxed catch-ups in local parks, cafés and pubs to virtual get-togethers like online bingo, quizzes, yoga classes and book discussions.

These events are largely made possible by the enthusiasm and commitment of our volunteers and members, who help to coordinate activities through 62 local groups covering every corner of the UK – from the Highlands of Scotland to the coast of Cornwall and from Wales to Northern Ireland.

WAY's Operations Team also organised four national events during the year for members across the country to get together with other young widowed people and their families:

Big Picnic weekend

More than 400 WAY members, friends and family rolled out their picnic blankets at 29 picturesque picnic locations across the country for our sunny Big Picnic weekend in May 2024 – from Cornwall to Cumbria and from Belfast to Glasgow.

Weekends aWAY

Nearly 100 WAY members and children headed to **PGL Caythorpe Court** near Grantham for a weekend of adventure in February. The two days were full of laughter, kindness and camaraderie.

In June, 52 members and children got together in **Derbyshire** over the Father's Day weekend to enjoy activities including high ropes, kata canoes and go karting – and to make new memories together.

In September, more than 70 members headed to Crewe for the charity's biggest annual gathering – our **Annual General Meeting and Spa Retreat**, which also included a dinner dance.

"WAY has been a lifeline. I had no friends that had any idea how I felt until I joined WAY. Losing your partner is the most devastating experience and finding people who just get it has been incredibly helpful and the support has been amazing."

WAY Member



*Based on member responses in WAY's Annual Impact Survey June 2025.

Campaigning for Change

It's a core part of WAY's mission to raise awareness and understanding among the public of the needs of people who are widowed and young – and to campaign on their behalf.

We continued to remind people of deadlines to apply for retrospective payments after our decade-long campaign to extend bereavement benefit payments to **cohabiting** couples with dependent children.

In 2024, we launched our **Stand up for Bereaved Families** campaign to coincide with the July General Election. We encouraged our members and supporters to write to newly elected MPs after the election to ask them to support our calls to:

- Extend Bereavement Support Payments beyond 18 months and uprate payments.
- Extend Bereavement Support Payments to cohabiting couples without children.
- Reconsider National Insurance eligibility for Bereavement Support Payment applicants.

Our campaign got off to a flying start when we attracted media coverage on Radio 4's **MoneyBox** show in July, which was also mentioned on the main Radio 4 and Radio 2 news bulletins.

We were also thrilled when the Liberal Democrats passed a motion at their autumn conference in support of extending bereavement benefits. We were able to meet with former WAY Chair and South Devon MP **Caroline Voaden** in November to enlist her support for our key campaign asks.

Our Chair **Joanna Sedley-Burke** and Chief Executive **Stephanie Patrick** were also invited to the Houses of Parliament by Thurrock MP **Jen Craft** to discuss our Blank Space campaign, which is calling for the birth registration process to be made simpler and more compassionate for mothers whose partner died before their baby's birth was registered.

WAY Ambassador and Blank Space campaigner **Orlanda Bryars** shared her story at the Irwin Mitchell Bereavement Conference in December and we are looking forward to continuing to work together towards birth certificate equality for non-married mothers.

Bill on Assisted Dying

Our Chief Executive was also invited to Westminster to present WAY members' thoughts and experiences around the Bill on Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults to MPs and bereavement charity leaders at an event convened by the bereavement signposting organisation **At a Loss** in November.

Although WAY remains neutral on this bill, we were keen to make sure that WAY members had the chance to share their experiences to help inform MPs on this very important issue ahead of a key parliamentary second reading held on 29 November 2024.

A survey of WAY members showed that more than one third of respondents believe the Bill would have made their bereavement easier; one third said it would have made no difference, one quarter said they weren't sure and the remaining 6% felt that it would have made their experience more difficult.

As a Steering Group member of the **All Parliamentary Group on Grief Support and the Impact of Death on Society**, we continue to be involved in discussions as the Bill moves through the parliamentary process.

"The Blank Space campaign is something so close to my heart, and yet for ages it felt like an impossible task to try to achieve or run or to make any difference. Without WAY's contributions, determination and support, I really feel I would have given up."

Orlanda, WAY Ambassador



Our Volunteers



The vast majority of WAY volunteers are members themselves, juggling everyday life, their grief and whatever challenges come their way – yet they step forward to support others along their journey too. WAY simply could not do what it aims to do without them!

At the end of 2024, WAY had 184 volunteers covering 207 different roles, which is 8% up on the previous year. Roles range from local area contacts, who welcome new members to an area; setting up local area events; being admins and moderators of WAY's closed Facebook subgroups; hosting online discussion groups and activities; being Trustees and ensuring good governance of the charity; helping with diversity working groups; raising awareness of the charity and supporting campaigns; attending bereavement network events or using specialist skills to help support the charity in a very focused way.

WAY's online presence continues to be important to members who need to be able to connect with others who 'get it'. Due to member feedback, and with the support of volunteers, WAY expanded our online events to encourage members to connect in meaningful ways.

While continuing to offer regular weekly or monthly online activities such as bingo, book club, quizzes and yoga, volunteers have also enabled the increase of Zoom events for those who have been widowed for more than a year and the addition of online spaces for those bereaved by suicide, bereaved suddenly or widowed before their 36th birthday.

WAY listens to members and when asked, members step forward to volunteer and respond by offering what support they can.



184 volunteers covered **207** volunteer roles – with some volunteers helping in multiple roles.



We saw an **8%** increase in formal volunteers in 2024 compared to 2023.



93% of members have volunteers in their local areas.

WAY was built by volunteers and they continue to drive our peer-to-peer support network across the UK.

“Being a volunteer for WAY allows me to share my experience, the advice I have been given and the resources I have used with others. I also find it important to be able to give back to the charity as I have gained so much and have had such good support over the last five years.”

Alison, WAY Volunteer

Raising Funds for WAY



WAY does not receive any government funding, so we rely entirely on memberships, donations and fundraising to support our members. In 2024, our supporters achieved some remarkable fundraising successes, and collectively raised an impressive **£150,080 (inc Gift Aid)*** for WAY.

Here are some of the highlights:

- A team of seven amazing WAY members, including **Xavier** (pictured above), took part in the Ultra Challenge Winter Walk – raising more than £2,000. While WAY members **Charles** and **Ed** walked their way to raising more than £800 between them through gruelling walking challenges.
- WAY supporter **Tom** and member **Jez** raised more than £4,700 by taking on the London Marathon in April, while member **Suzanne** raised over £400 for WAY in the Great North Run.
- Member **Vicki** also raised over £300 by taking part in the military yomp – the Fan Dance in June.
- WAY member **Cheri** and her two friends **Jessica** and **Rosanna** completed a Tough Mudder in April raising over £2,600; and member Laura and her friend Kate then took on Tough Mudder in September and raised £1,854.
- WAY member **David** took part in a mammoth four-charity fundraiser over the year, raising more than £700 for WAY.
- WAY members **Karli** and **Leona** raised £1,855 in lieu of wedding gifts.
- WAY's Volunteer Manager **Veronica** took part in four Kiltwalk events; she was joined by various members at different locations and together they raised £2,293.
- WAY supporters **Daniel**, **Hugh**, **Lee** and **Sam** took part in the Royal Parks Half Marathon in October raising £7,786 between them for WAY.
- Through her tenure as Ladies Captain at her local golf club, WAY member **Catherine** raised more than £3,800 in 2024.

Huge thanks to all our fantastic fundraisers who help make our work possible!

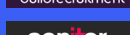
We'd also like to thank the following companies and foundations that have supported WAY in 2024:



• **Irwin Mitchell**, who joined in our Santa run raising £1,260 – Irwin Mitchell also awarded a £10,000 grant that was used to boost our Memorial Fund.



• A team from **Build Recruitment**, who raised £7,120 for WAY.



• David from **Senior Recruitment**, who put on a family fun day and golf weekend, raising an incredible £14,307 for WAY.

• **Clench Widows** donated more than £13,000.

• WAY received generous donations of £3,867 from **Aberdeen Crematorium** and from **Worthing Crematorium** and £1,000 from **Berkshire Crematorium** through the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM).

How your support helps

£5

pays for access to the members area of our website

£10

pays for a member to access our helpline for a year

£30

pays for a year's funded membership of WAY

£40

pays to train a WAY volunteer

£100

pays for a member to access a funded place on a WAY weekend break

If you're interested in fundraising, please get in touch at fundraising@widowedandyoung.org.uk

* All figures include Gift Aid.

Accounts to the end of December 2024 Income & Expenditure Account

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income		
Membership Fees	128,235	121,080
Donations & Fundraising	113,635	107,421
Other Income	5,764	2,735
Gift Aid	36,445	29,796
TOTAL INCOME	284,079	261,032
Expenditure		
Staff Costs	181,694	210,416
Other Office/Admin Costs	23,199	24,951
Publications/Media/PR	43,748	44,624
Website	22,183	22,926
Helpline	13,333	18,996
Memorial Fund	5,615	5,230
Other	6,333	5,860
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	296,105	333,003
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(12,026)	(71,971)

Balance Sheet

	2024	
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Fixed Assets		
IT	22,795	
Debtors		
Gift Aid	8,282	
		31,077
Investment Accounts		121,813
Current Accounts	22,790	
Less Uncleared Payments/(Credits)	8,264	
		31,054
Set Aside Funds		
Gift Membership	(525)	
		(525)
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND DEFERRED INCOME		
Liabilities	(18,047)	
Events	(6,275)	
		(24,322)
TOTAL Assets		159,097
FINANCED BY:		
Accumulated Surplus Brought Forward		171,123
Net Deficit/(Surplus) for the Year		(12,026)
		159,097



At our 2024 AGM in Cheshire:

- WAY members approved the re-appointment of trustee **Mike Etherington**, who has been on WAY's board since 2020.
- AGM attendees also approved the appointment of new trustees **Sarah Bowsher, Nadir Keshani** and **Gary McFarlane**, who are all WAY members.
- Graham Briscoe** resigned from the Board following six years' service as an external WAY trustee.

Trustee

Stuart Scarbrough	2016
Jo Sedley-Burke (Chair)	2018
Kate Spikings (formerly Siegler)	2019
Louise Fisher (formerly Dodds)	2019
Mike Etherington	2020
Bobbie Kelly	2023
Marcos Eleftheriou	2023
Sarah Bowsher	2024
Nadir Keshani	2024
Gary McFarlane	2024

Appointed

Thank you to WAY's trustees, who continue to ensure that the charity receives strong governance, driven by the needs of young widowed people.

"After organising events for the Glasgow area for a few years, I eventually signed up as an official WAY volunteer. Then, when the chance came round to be a trustee, I was interested right away. I wanted to be part of giving back to the charity that has done a lot for me as well as hopefully providing help to others."

Gary McFarlane, Trustee

Strategy and Charity Objectives

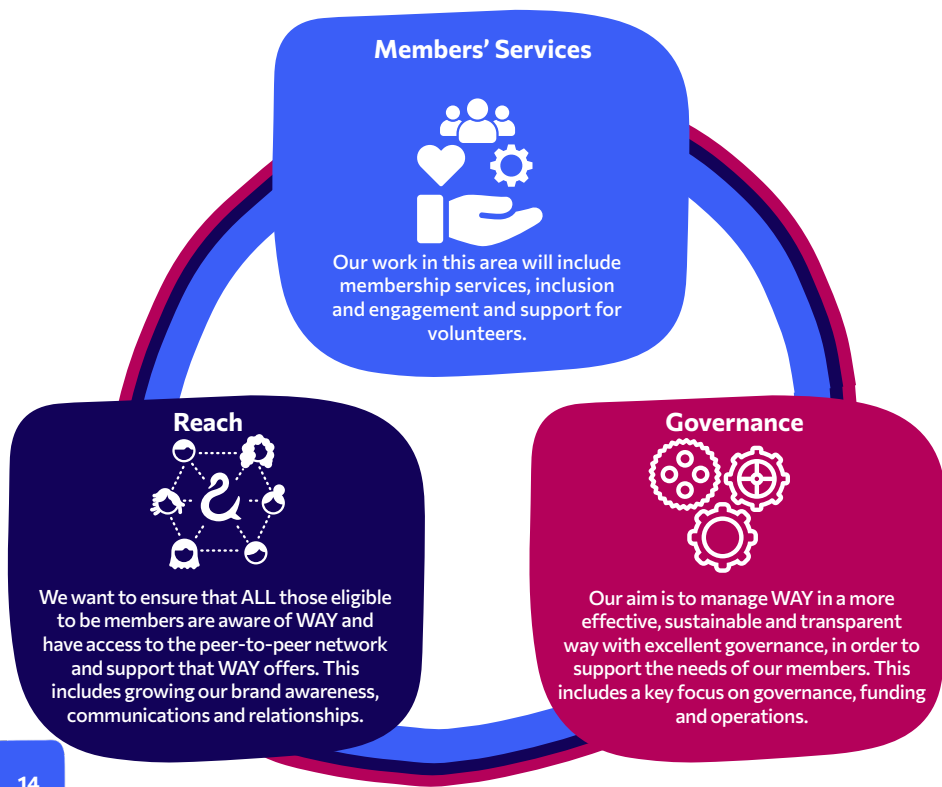
WAY members help to shape our future and, after going through an organisational transformation in 2018, WAY carried out a range of consultations with our members to help inform the direction our charity should take in the future. We carried out an extensive survey of our members and volunteers to work out the best way forward as our charity continues to grow.

From this, our 2021-2026 five-year Strategic Plan was born, which reflects the views of all our members and volunteers to make sure the charity meets their needs, to draw out our long-term ambitions, to help outline our organisational priorities and to reflect our new structure.

WAY's Strategic Plan was developed in line with recommendations drawn from reports and takes on feedback from our members, staff and volunteers.

We would like to thank everyone who offered their valuable input – from completing WAY surveys to attending meetings, from talking to our team to taking part in working groups.

Our Strategic Plan is split into three key areas:



Our Strategic Partnerships

Irwin Mitchell



Our strategic partnership with legal firm **Irwin Mitchell** was launched in 2023 and this led them to take over the financial and legal aspect of our telephone support line in 2024, resulting in 209 calls being taken throughout the year. They have also provided tailored support through a series of webinars on welfare benefits and wealth management as well as topics including inquests.

Irwin Mitchell have been fantastic supporters of WAY, giving us opportunities to share our work with their company and speak at their annual bereavement conference. In 2024, they donated over £10,000 to WAY, provided meeting spaces for our staff and volunteers and helped to develop a "How to Guide" for our Blank Space campaign.

"I personally have received counselling support and have also made good use of the helpline on days where the loss of Ross was all too much to manage."

WAY Member and Fundraiser, Fiona

Winston's Wish

WAY and the child bereavement charity **Winston's Wish** partnered in 2023 to provide full circle support for the whole family following a bereavement. As well as referring bereaved families to each other's services, the two charities have joined forces to provide tips and advice to help parents as they support their bereaved children. These have been published in our newsletters and on our websites.



In 2024, we also began partnering on campaign and policy work, advocating for improved services and experiences for bereaved families both now and in the future.

"For anyone else on the same path as me, I really would recommend getting in touch with Winston's Wish and WAY. You never feel completely alone, even when the grief makes you feel totally isolated."

WAY Member and mother of two, Chloe

WAY's Mission

"To offer unique support for those aged 50 or under when their partner died, through an inclusive peer-led network based upon mutual self-help. WAY also campaigns to raise awareness and understanding of the issues affecting those widowed young, and to influence relevant policy."

WAY's Vision

"To ensure ALL those eligible to be members are aware of WAY and have access to the peer-to-peer network and support that WAY offers."

WAY's Values

Caring

Respectful

Innovative

Valued

Transparent

www.widowedandyoung.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1164988

Email: enquiries@widowedandyoung.org.uk | Telephone: 0300 201 0051

Registered Address: Advantage House, Stowe Court, Stowe Street, Lichfield WS13 6AQ



Charity Registration Number 1164988



**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

3S Accountancy
Chartered Accountants

WAY Widowed and Young
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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WAY Widowed and Young

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Trustees

Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Graham Briscoe Resigned 21/09/2024
Ramanjit Janack

Marcos Eleftheriou
Sarah Bowsher Appointed 03/02/2024
Katherine Denise Siegler
Stuart Alan Scarbrough

Joanna Sedley-Burk Chair

Gary McFarlane Appointed 1/07/2024
Roberta Kelly
Nadir Keshani Appointed 20/04/2024

Secretary Current Vacancy

Key management personnel Stephanie Patrick Chief Executive appointed Aug 21

Registered office Advantage House
Stowe Court
Stowe Street
Lichfield
WS13 6AQ

Trading address N/A

Accountants 35 Accountancy Services
Chartered Accountants
5-8 Priestgate
Darlington
DL1 1NL

Bankers CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Charity number 1164988

WAY Widowed and Young
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014. Legal and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

WAY was established in 1997 and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with an association Governing Document (the constitution). This was registered on 29 December 2015, amended on 4th March 2017, 18th September 2021 and 10th September 2022. The Charitable Objects were updated on 10th September 2022 to include 'gender, race and religion'.

The trustees meet at least five times a year, trustees serving during the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 are listed on page 1.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration for duties carried out as a trustee. However, trustees claimed out of pocket expenses while undertaking volunteer duties during the year and reimbursement of any expenditure incurred purchasing goods and services required by the charity. The trustees may also be members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

At every Annual General Meeting, trustees who have served a term of 3 years are required to retire, but they are permitted to be re-elected or re-appointed by the members for a maximum of 3 consecutive terms or 9 years. At any one time, the constitution stipulates there should be a minimum of five Trustees. Members are also able to appoint two Trustees that are not WAY members.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Charity are:

- i. To advance the education of the public to raise the awareness of the needs of people who are widowed and young.
- ii. to relieve persons in need, following bereavement by offering a peer-to-peer support network for anyone aged 50 or under, at time of bereavement, who is overcoming the loss of a partner, married or not, with or without children, inclusive of sexual orientation, gender, race and religion.

WAY Widowed and Young

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES continued

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

WAY is the only national charity in the UK for people aged 50 or under when their partner died. It's a peer-to-peer support group operating with a network of volunteers who have been bereaved at a young age themselves, so they understand exactly what other members are going through.

WAY was founded in 1997 and had 4,523 members across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland at the end of 2024. The charity aims to provide peer-to-peer support to young widowed people – married or not, with or without children, inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender, race and religion – as they adjust to life after the death of their partner.

In 2024 the cost-of-living crisis continued to affect the nation. We met the ongoing demand for our services and were able to support members who were struggling to meet the cost of the membership fee by doubling the amount available in WAY's Memorial Fund. Strategic partnerships with Irwin Mitchell Solicitors and child bereavement charity Winston's Wish impacted positively to both the reach of the charity and to improve services to our members. Despite the tough financial environment being faced, Community Fundraising exceeded expectation and showed 4% increase year on year. Following the completion of the development of the new members hub, the Digital Marketing role was reduced from a full to a part time role, which resulted in the movement of staff. Our substantial reserves still allowed us to continue to invest funds in developing member services and activities to increase the reach of the charity. Whilst it is difficult to summarise everything that WAY has been involved in over the last 12 months, we have included key achievements below.

Membership – the year closed with 4,523 members, which included 1,508 new members. Member retention rates have dropped slightly with 68% choosing to renew their membership this year. We continue to work hard to listen to our members and respond to their needs, however the sharp increase in applications to the memorial fund and the slight drop in membership numbers signify that members are struggling to meet membership fees.

Volunteers - WAY ended the year with 184 volunteers covering 207 roles across the UK, up 8% year-on-year. WAY volunteers are the backbone of the charity and WAY is incredibly fortunate to have so many members who are so passionate about supporting WAY. WAY's Volunteer Manager has provided invaluable support to our volunteers and has offered them chance to network and access training. Out of the 62 regions, 56 areas are covered by at least one Area Contact Volunteer, meaning that 84% of WAY regions are covered by a local volunteer member

Through our members-only website, our volunteers and members can organise their own in-person meet-ups - from walks in the park, to group meals to virtual online events. There were 1,143 events hosted in 2024, which was a 23% increase year on year and 3,831 attendees. This included: 109 new member zooms; 228 Online Events; 44% were food and drinks events.

WAY Widowed and Young

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES continued

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE continued

... funds to invest in this area of member services. The new Members Hub was launched on 1st October 2023 and 2024 saw the continued bedding in of the new system as members became accustomed to it. The Website Working Group have focused on continuing improvements to the members area and the public facing

Social Media - We continued to make strides on all our social media platforms, having a combined following which exceeds 30k. All of our social media platforms showed a strong performance in 2024, helping us to reach out to new audiences.

Media Coverage -WAY was featured in 66 media opportunities throughout the year including TV, Press and Radio which was 40% less than 2023. Media features show a substantial drop year-on-year because of focus on the Bereavement Allowance legislation changes in February 2023.

Awareness-raising - WAY continued to work alongside other bereavement charities and networks to achieve our shared goals. Our staff spoke about WAY at various conferences which included a Bereavement Conference in Manchester and Suicide and Co Annual Conference in London. WAY hosted a stand at various national events including the National Suicide Conference, National Funeral Exhibition Conference and Compassionate Communities Conference which directly reached over 2,000 bereavement professionals and led to relationships being developed at various hospices. WAY also continues working alongside other bereavement charities as part of the National Bereavement Alliance and to promote National Grief Awareness Week and sits on the National Childhood Bereavement steering group

Fundraising- 2024 proved to be a successful year for fundraising despite the cost of living crisis. The year saw a variety of individual virtual fundraisers and a growth in Facebook Birthday Fundraisers. WAY members ran several successful fundraising campaigns, including participation in events such as the London Parks Half Marathon, Kiltwalks and London Marathon. Corporate partners who also raised funds included Irwin Mitchell and Build Recruitment. Notable donations came in from Clench Widows of £13k and David Atherton of £14k from a Family fun day in Memory of a WAY members late husband.

WAY AGM 2024

Every year since WAY was launched in 1997, the charity has held an Annual General Meeting (AGM). The annual gathering incorporating the AGM is the biggest WAY event of the year and has become a fixed and key point in the charity's social calendar. WAY's 2024 AGM was held at Crewe Hall in Cheshire and was attended by 76 members in person and 41 virtually.

WAY Widowed and Young
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES continued
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Income

As previously, income for the current year came from three main sources:

- Membership Fees
- Fundraising
- Donations and Grants

Our membership numbers have steadied this year at 4,523 members. Membership fees have been increased for the first time in 10 years, therefore income from new memberships and renewals has grown to £128,235 (2023 - £121,080). Membership fundraising activities showed an increase compared to the previous year at £48,223 (2023 £32,982) despite the ongoing 'cost of living' crisis. And during 2024, despite the sector-wide difficulties in generating charitable donations, we saw only a small decline in revenue from external donations and grants to £65,402 (2023 £74,439)

As always we wish to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who have worked hard to raise funds or make a donation in 2024. This support is invaluable in providing the resources needed to continue the charity's work.

The trustees have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Reserves

The Charity's policy, as decided by the Board of Trustees is to maintain reserves at the level of 50% of anticipated running costs for the coming year. With total funds of just over £159k at the end of the year, our reserves remain above that level. This year trustees made the decision to invest surplus funds in interest saving accounts using a Flagstone platform which is a low risk investment tool.

It has, for a while, been a key challenge for the Charity to identify how and where to best use surplus funds to support our members and to reach more of those eligible to become members. To this end the Board has invested funds during 2024 in making the short-term contract of of WAY's Membership and Finance Officer into a permanent position. This has resulted in a new deficit during the year of £12,025 (2023 deficit of £71,971) but this level of deficit is not expected to recur.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- c) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) prepare the Financial Statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue operating.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the board on . . . 26th April 2025. and signed on its behalf



Joanna Sedley-Burke
Chair

WAY Widowed and Young

WAY Widowed and Young

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WAY WIDOWED AND YOUNG YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

I report on the accounts of WAY Widowed and Young (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

This report is made solely to the trustees of the charity, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees of the charity those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees of the charity as a body for my examination, for this report or the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements concerning the format and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination),

have not been met; or

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



Catherine Milbanke BSc BFP FCA
35 Accountancy, Chartered Accountants
5-8 Priestgate
Darlington
DL1 1NL

Date: 26 April 2025

WAY Widowed and Young

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating Income and Expenditure Accounts) YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	282,829	-	282,829	259,675
Total		<u>284,079</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>284,079</u>	<u>261,032</u>
Resources Expended					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		26,560	-	26,560	26,015
Charitable activities		267,774	1,770	269,544	306,986
Total	4	<u>294,334</u>	<u>1,770</u>	<u>296,104</u>	<u>333,001</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		(10,255)	(1,770)	(12,025)	(71,969)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(10,255)</u>	<u>(1,770)</u>	<u>(12,025)</u>	<u>(71,969)</u>
Fund balances brought forward at 1 JANUARY 2024		169,353	1,770	171,123	243,094
Fund balances carried forward at 31 DECEMBER 2024	10	<u>159,098</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>159,098</u>	<u>171,125</u>

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

WAY Widowed and Young

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

		2024		2023	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Intangible Assets	11		21,897		35,709
Tangible Assets	11		<u>898</u>		<u>1,107</u>
			22,795		36,816
Debtors and prepayments	8	8,282		6,113	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>152,868</u>		<u>163,018</u>	
		161,150		169,131	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(24,846)</u>		<u>(34,824)</u>	
Net current assets			136,303		134,307
Net assets			<u>159,098</u>		<u>171,123</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted Funds			159,098		169,353
Restricted funds			-		1,770
Total charity funds	10		<u>159,098</u>		<u>171,123</u>

These financial statements were approved and signed by the trustees and authorised for issue on

Joanna Sedley-Bui 
Chair

WAY Widowed and Young

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's accounts.

- (i) The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the notes to these accounts.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

(ii) Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

(iii) Incoming resources

Income is accounted for on an accruals basis. Grants are recognised as an incoming resource when the conditions for the receipt have been met and are accounted for in accordance with the headings they have been allocated to on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

(iv) Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure, it is probable settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

(v) Tangible and Intangible Assets

Tangible and intangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The only tangible asset of the charity is computer equipment and this is capitalised at cost and depreciated over three years reflecting the expected useful life. Intangible assets reflect the cost of the development of the new member portal and is being depreciated over three years from the date at which the new portal was launched, which was October 2023.

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations and Grants	65,402	-	65,402	74,439
Gift Aid	36,445	-	36,445	29,796
Membership Subscriptions	128,235	-	###	###
Fundraising	48,233	-	48,233	32,982
Other	4,514	-	4,514	1,378
	282,829	-	###	###

In 2024 a donation of £1,500 was received that has been classified as Designated Funds.

In 2023 a grant of £10,000 was classed as restricted funds.

WAY Widowed and Young

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
Income from activities				
Merchandise	1,250	-	1,250	1,357
	1,250	-	1,250	1,357

In 2024 and 2023 all income from activities was unrestricted.

4. Analysis of total resources expended

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
Cost of generating funds				
Media & PR	26,560	-	26,560	27,815
	26,560	-	26,560	27,815
Charitable Activities				
Staff Costs	181,694	-	181,694	210,416
Member Services - WAY Forward, Helpline	16,709	-	16,709	35,805
Website Maintenance	24,337	-	24,337	24,635
Merchandise	2,119	-	2,119	2,863
Administration	9,085	-	9,085	8,206
Bank charges & other fees	5,481	-	5,481	5,071
Insurance	2,467	-	2,467	2,111
Independent Examination & Legal Fees	852	-	852	780
Volunteer Costs	2,100	-	2,100	2,014
Members Events	8,227	1,770	9,997	9,075
Project Swan	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	891	-	891	758
Amortisation	13,812	-	13,812	3,453
	267,774	1,770	269,544	305,187
	294,334	1,770	296,104	333,002

5. Governance

	2024 £	2023 £
Accountancy and professional fees	852	780
	852	780

6. Trustees' remuneration

Except below, the trustees received £nil (2023: £nil) worth of emoluments during the period.

Expenses amounting to £743 (2023: £573) were reimbursed in 2024

WAY Widowed and Young

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

7. Staff costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	158,454	180,542
Employer National Insurance	10,773	15,040
Employer Pension Contributions (Defined Con	3,725	4,318
Temporary Staff	-	-
Other Payroll costs	8,742	10,516
TOTAL	<u>181,694</u>	<u>210,416</u>

By the end of 2024 there were five permanent members of staff (2023: 5)

8. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gift Aid	8,282	5,000
Other	-	1,113
	<u>8,282</u>	<u>6,113</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	24,846	34,824
Other creditors	-	-
	<u>24,846</u>	<u>34,824</u>

WAY Widowed and Young
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

10 Statement of Funds

	Balance b/fwd £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfer s £	Balance c/fwd £
Unrestricted funds - general	4,203	281,569	(293,199)	18,600	11,173
Designated - Memorial Fund	-	1,500			1,500
Designated - Gift Membership	650	1,010	(1,135)		525
Designated - Operating Fund	164,500			(18,600)	###
Total unrestricted funds	<u>169,353</u>	<u>284,079</u>	<u>(294,334)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>###</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
	1,770	-	(1,770)	-	-
Total restricted funds	<u>1,770</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,770)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>171,123</u>	<u>284,079</u>	<u>(296,104)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>###</u>

The designated Gift Membership represents funds received to cover membership costs for the recipient of the voucher

The designated Operating Fund represents 50% of our operating costs in 2024, in line with our reserves policy

Made up of:	2024			2023		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Fixed assets	-	22,795	22,795	-	36,816	36,816
Current assets						
Stock	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors and prepayments	-	8,282	8,282	-	6,113	6,113
Cash at bank and in hand	-	152,868	152,868	1,770	161,248	###
	-	161,150	161,150	1,770	167,361	###
Creditors	-	(24,846)	(24,846)	-	(34,824)	(34,824)
	-	159,098	159,098	1,770	169,353	###

11 Fixed Assets

	Tangible equipment	Intangible Website	TOTAL
Cost			
As At 1 Jan 2024	2,273	39,162	41,435
Additions	682	-	682
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2024	<u>2,955</u>	<u>39,162</u>	<u>42,117</u>
Depreciation			
As At 1 Jan 2024	1,166	3,453	4,619
Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation / amortisation	891	13,812	14,703
Impairment	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2024	<u>2,057</u>	<u>17,265</u>	<u>19,322</u>
Net Book Value at 31 December 2024	<u>898</u>	<u>21,897</u>	<u>22,795</u>
Net Book Value at 31 December 2023	<u>1,107</u>	<u>35,709</u>	<u>36,816</u>

WAY Widowed and Young

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WAY WIDOWED AND YOUNG

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

I report on the accounts of WAY Widowed and Young (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

This report is made solely to the trustees of the charity, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees of the charity those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees of the charity as a body for my examination, for this report or the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements concerning the format and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination),

have not been met; or

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



Catherine Milbanke BSc BFP FCA
3S Accountancy, Chartered Accountants
5-8 Priestgate
Darlington
DL1 1NL

Date: . 26 April 2025

WAY WIDOWED AND YOUNG

England & Wales - Charity number 1164988

Accounts

W&Y Widowed
and Young

Annual Report 2023



www.widowedandyoung.org.uk
Support. Understanding. Friendship

Registered Charity No: 1164988

Introduction



A word from WAY's Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees



In 2023, we faced ongoing challenges posed by the cost-of-living crisis. Our 2023 **Impact Survey** highlighted that 68%* of WAY Widowed and Young members were concerned about their finances (up from 62% in 2022).

Over the course of the year, we met the continuing demand for our services and were able to support members who were struggling to meet the cost of the membership fee by doubling the amount available in WAY's **Memorial Fund** (see p4).

Sadly, nearly 24,000** people aged 18-51 die every year, which means that the need for WAY's peer-to-peer support services has never been greater. 2023 saw the year end with 4,650 members and we were able to welcome 1,638 new members. We saw an increase in member retention rates, with 70% choosing to renew their membership this year.

We are pleased that the time we have taken to listen to our members and respond to their needs is really helping to create a service that members truly value. Member feedback drives everything we do and we were delighted to be able to launch our new online **Members Hub** in October. This was in response to members reporting that the previous platform was outdated and difficult to use. This new platform has enabled our volunteers and members to organise their own in-person and online meet-ups – from walks in the park to group meals.

Between them, our volunteers and our members hosted 893 events in 2023, of which 253 were online. In person and online events offer friendship, support and understanding to our members – the special support that can only come from others who have faced the unique experience of losing your partner at a young age (see p8).

Our army of **volunteers** are at the heart of everything that WAY does. In 2023, we had a 2% increase in members choosing

to volunteer, with 170 people covering 196 roles, ensuring that our members are supported through digital platforms and WAY's 62 home groups (see p10).

Our **campaign** work has also been bearing fruit. In February 2023, we celebrated a historic success when cohabiting parents with dependent children were finally able to access bereavement benefit support following the death of their partner (see p9). This was the culmination of more than a decade of campaigning and we continue to campaign for the rights of young widowed people across the UK.

WAY continued to work alongside other bereavement charities and networks to achieve our shared goals. We were delighted to announce our new strategic partnerships with **Irwin Mitchell Solicitors** and child bereavement charity **Winston's Wish** in 2023, with the goal of extending our advice and support for all WAY members (see p15).

WAY is incredibly fortunate to have so many people who are passionate about supporting our charity. We are sincerely grateful to all of our committed volunteers, trustees and dedicated staff team, who provide the structure for the charity's day-to-day operations. And we'd like to say a huge thank you to WAY's incredible fundraisers, donors and corporate partners without whom WAY simply could not operate.

Finally, and most significantly: thank you to our wonderful community of members, who are at the heart of everything we do.

Stephanie Patrick
Chief Executive

Joanna Sedley-Burke
Chair of the Board of Trustees

*Based on feedback from 379 members in WAY's Impact Survey 2023

**Based on ONS death figures 2022

Our Story

94% of WAY members said that WAY membership is good/somewhat good value for money.*

WAY is the only national charity in the UK for people aged 50 or under when their partner died.

Founded in 1997, it's a club that nobody wants to be eligible to join, but we are so glad that our members find us. We provide a safe space for people who have been widowed at a young age – offering friendship, support and understanding.

WAY offers a unique peer-to-peer support network, led by volunteers who have all been bereaved at a young age themselves so they understand exactly what other members are going through.

As well as offering a secure members only website and opportunities to meet and chat online and in person, our members also have access to a confidential telephone support line offering bereavement support, legal, financial and health advice.

WAY also raises awareness of issues affecting those widowed young, campaigns on current issues such as changes to bereavement benefits and seeks out opportunities to publicise the existence of the charity wherever possible, through the media and other avenues, to show that there is support out there to help people navigate life after loss.

"When I found WAY, they helped me so much with support and friendship. Just knowing there were others who were going through what I was going through made it more bearable... I have found their peer-to-peer support invaluable."

Carol (bottom right), WAY member and fundraiser



*Based on survey responses for 2023 from 304 members in our May 2024 Impact Survey.

WAY impacted the lives of **4,650** young widows in 2023



helping them to navigate their bereavement by offering friendship, support and understanding.



What WAY does



WAY members organised **893** in person and virtual events in 2023.



170 amazing volunteers helped to support our work throughout the year.

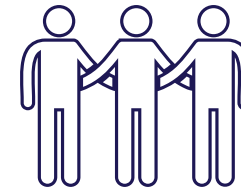


Generous supporters raised **£137,217**, helping us to reach more people in need of support.



157 young widowed people were gifted annual membership through our Memorial Fund.

How WAY helped



79% of members found that meeting people in the same situation has helped.*



Our small team of **5 employed** members of staff continued to support our members.



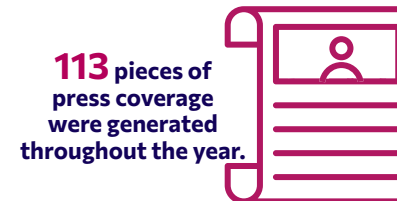
81% of members felt that they had better knowledge about grief and bereavement.*



83% felt less isolated.*



More than **30,000** people helped us to spread the word by following us across our social media channels.



72,617 people visited our website in 2023.

*Based on survey responses for 2023 from 304 members in our May 2024 Impact Survey.

Our Members

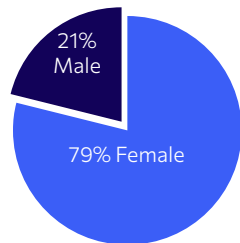
1,638 new members joined WAY's peer support network in 2023.



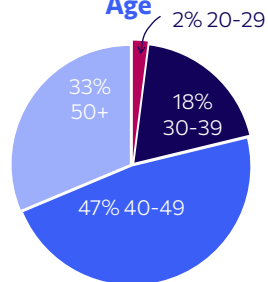
70% of members renewed their membership.

Demographics

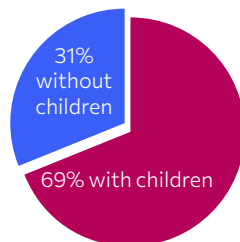
Gender



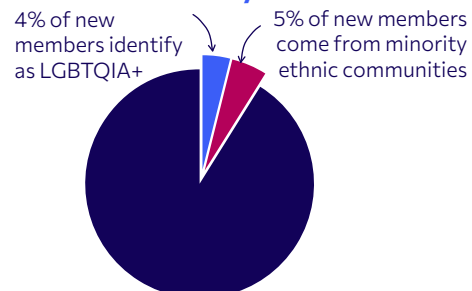
Age



With/without children



Diversity



Our Member Services

WAY continued to provide a range of vital services and support for all of our members as they navigate their bereavement journey, including:



We unveiled our new Members Hub in September 2023, which listed **893** events, and allowed members to connect and communicate privately with each other, as well as offering a wide range of geographical and individual interest groups.



WAY members and volunteers organised **253** online events.



Our closed Facebook group and a large range of subgroups were accessed by **65%** of members.



More than **290** people made use of the telephone support line offering counselling services, legal and financial advice.



68% of members who used the telephone counselling service found it helpful.*



109 events for new members were held.



157 members were supported financially through our Memorial Fund.

* Based on survey responses for 2023 from 304 members in our May 2024 Impact Survey.

"Knowing that WAY has a tailored telephone support line for us to use is really fantastic... It has been a comfort knowing that there is somebody available, just a telephone call away. I feel safer somehow knowing there is another human being available to listen to me cry and grieve. No advice, no judgement, just there for you."

Hannah, WAY Member

"I want you to know that WAY helped me in ways I am still only now discovering. I'm still working my way back to a form of normal myself. There are still hard days and weeks but, in the main, life feels easier now than a year ago."

Steve, WAY member



Events



77%
of WAY
members rated
face-to-face
meetings
as one of the top five
WAY services*

WAY members have been busy getting together in parks, pubs and cafes across the UK – as well as meeting for online bingo, quizzes, yoga and book groups. Many events are organised by members and volunteers in our 62 home groups, which stretch from Scotland to Cornwall.

WAY's Operations Team also organised five national events during the year for members across the country to get together with other young widowed people and their families:

Big Picnic weekend

The sun came out for WAY's Big Picnic weekend in May, enticing more than 400 WAY members, friends and family to roll out their picnic blankets at 38 picturesque picnic locations from North Wales to Norfolk and from Jersey to Aberdeen.

Weekends aWAY

More than 60 WAY members and children headed to **PGL Caythorpe Court** near Grantham for a weekend of adventure in February. It was a great opportunity for WAY members and their families to spend some time in the company of other people who understand what they're going through.

WAY returned to the **Pembrokeshire Coast** for the second year in early May: it was an action-packed couple of days and 15 members had the chance to enjoy the amazing countryside and do something completely different, while finding support and friendship.

In June, 55 members and children got together in **Derbyshire** over the Father's Day weekend to make new memories.

In September, more than 100 members headed to Bristol for the charity's biggest annual gathering – our **Annual General Meeting**, which included a dinner dance.

“This was my first weekend away without my husband. I think I felt safe enough to enjoy it as I was around lovely people that just get it.... I had such a lovely weekend. If someone had told me a month ago that I'd be up dancing and singing, I would have thought they were crazy.”

Hayley, WAY member and AGM attendee

Campaigning for Change

It's core to WAY's mission to raise awareness and understanding among the public of the needs of people who are widowed and young – and to campaign on their behalf.

Campaign success

After a decade-long campaign, from February 2023, bereavement benefit payments were finally extended to non-married cohabiting couples with dependent children.

This followed rulings from both the High Court and Supreme Court that found it was against the human rights of the children involved to discriminate against them based on their parent's marital status.

As of 9 February 2023, bereaved cohabiting couples with dependent children can apply for and receive Bereavement Support Payments, in the same way as those who are married or in a civil partnership, to help them cope with the financial challenges of such a significant family bereavement.

As many as 20,000 bereaved parents were also able to submit a claim for retrospective payments worth several thousand pounds.

We were thrilled about this campaign success and continue to campaign on behalf of young widowed people across the UK to make sure their voices are being heard.

We are calling for:

- Bereavement Support Payments to be extended beyond 18 months and uprated in line with inflation.
- Bereavement Support Payments to be extended to cohabiting couples without children.
- National Insurance eligibility to be reconsidered for Bereavement Support Payment applicants.

Blank Space campaign

Our Blank Space campaign is also calling for the birth registration process to be made simpler and more compassionate for mothers whose partner died before their baby's birth was registered. We don't believe it's fair that some babies have a blank space on their birth certificate where their father's name should be.



Blank Space: Birth certificate equality for bereaved parents

“WAY has been a brilliant support in all of this and the campaigning has made a very real difference... It was so incredible to see, after all these years, that unmarried widowed parents will now be able to claim a benefit that was denied to us until now.”

Elanor, WAY member

Our Volunteers



WAY was built on volunteering and volunteers continue to help drive forward progressive change while supporting members in a variety of different ways. WAY welcomes volunteers from all over the UK and embraces diversity amongst its volunteer community in all its forms. Volunteering with WAY really is the ultimate in peer support.

At the end of 2023, WAY had 170 volunteers covering 196 different roles. These included the new role of Outreach Volunteers, who help to regularly spread the word about WAY in their local communities, either by attending local events or attending bereavement networks where they can share WAY's work and find out about the work of other bereavement organisations.

WAY continued the work of our Diversity Working Groups. The goal of raising awareness of diversity and inclusivity was evident through our members and volunteers waving WAY's Pride flag at several UK Pride events and participating in activities during Black History Month. We also provided tailored diversity training for WAY's volunteers both in person and online.

With volunteers based across the UK, it can be challenging to bring volunteers together. However, there were several opportunities in 2023 as WAY's Volunteer Manager travelled to different locations to meet some of our volunteers for opportunities to engage in helpful discussions and training sessions. (Thanks to our partners at Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, who offered some of its office space to host these sessions.)



170 volunteers covered **196** volunteering roles – with some volunteers helping in multiple roles.



93% of members have volunteers in their local areas.



83% of new members reported in their three-month survey that they had been welcomed by a volunteer in the area.

“Since starting volunteering, I have organised mostly weekend events so people with and without children can come... I would not have gone to many of these places if it was not for WAY. Whenever I feel lonely, there is someone to talk to and share thoughts and feelings with. As this is a peer-to-peer organisation, each volunteer is helping members – whatever stage of the grieving process they are at – to cope with life.”

Kristine, WAY volunteer and recipient of our 2023 Mandy Burrows Award

Raising Funds for WAY



WAY does not receive any government funding, so we rely entirely on memberships, donations and fundraising to support our members. In 2023, our supporters achieved some remarkable fundraising feats, and collectively raised an impressive £137,217* for WAY.

Here are some of the highlights:

- Two teams of intrepid WAY members went head to head with our supporters from Irwin Mitchell Solicitors at the Kingston-upon-Thames **Dragon Boat Race** in July – raising more than £5,000.
- WAY member Carol raised more than £4,700 cycling 100 miles through the heart of London by taking part in the **RideLondon** event.
- WAY supporters Nick (pictured right) and Margaret raised more than £2,300 by taking on the **London Marathon** in April, while fundraising volunteer Chantal raised over £1,600 for WAY in the **Marathon de la Loire** in France.
- Chantal also raised £1,000 by taking part in the **Bournemouth Half Marathon**.
- Not prepared to be outdone, WAY supporter Matt ran a gruelling **seven marathons** over seven days in memory of his brother-in-law Clax – raising £4,400.
- WAY member Kass raised more than £400 by taking part in a **Winter Walk** for WAY; and Ben, Claire and Karli raised an impressive £1,600 through the **London to Brighton** Ultra Challenge.
- WAY member Natalie raised £350 by jumping from a plane in October.



Huge thanks to all our fantastic fundraisers who help make our work possible!

We'd also like to thank the following companies and foundations that have supported WAY in 2023:

- **Irwin Mitchell Solicitors**, who joined in our Dragon Boat Race and our Santa run – raising £858 – and the Irwin Mitchell Charitable Foundation awarded a £10,000 grant which was used to boost our Memorial Fund.
- A team from **CrossCountry Trains**, who got on board with WAY's fundraising and raised more than £4,000.
- 18 colleagues from **Mainstay Recruitment**, who took on an epic Snowdon challenge to raise funds and awareness for WAY, raising a fabulous £3,145. Two Mainstay team members also raised £550 in a fearless skydive.
- **Purple Goat Agency**, whose fundraising crowdfunder raised more than £14,000.
- WAY also received two donations totalling £24,000 through the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Recycling (ICCCM) from **Mintlyn Crematorium** in West Norfolk and **Burnley Crematorium**.

How your support helps

 £5 pays for access to the members area of our website	 £10 pays for a member to access our helpline for a year	 £30 pays for a year's funded membership to WAY
 £40 pays to train a WAY volunteer	 £100 pays for a member to access a funded place on a WAY weekend break	

If you're interested in fundraising, please get in touch at fundraising@widowedandyoung.org.uk

* All figures include Gift Aid.

Accounts to the end of December 2023 Income & Expenditure Account

	2023	2022
Income	£	£
Membership Fees	121,080	120,675
Donations & Fundraising	107,421	105,654
Other Income	2,735	2,799
Gift Aid	29,796	35,860
TOTAL INCOME	261,032	264,988
Expenditure		
Staff Costs	210,416	191,137
Other Office/Admin Costs	24,951	29,638
Publications/Media/PR	44,624	51,305
Website	22,926	22,415
Helpline	18,996	8,663
Memorial Fund	5,230	5,635
Other	5,860	9,163
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	333,003	317,956
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year*	(71,971)	(52,968)

Balance Sheet

	2023	
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Fixed Assets		
IT	36,816	
Debtors		
Gift Aid	5,000	
Prepayments	1,113	
		42,929
Current Accounts	153,577	
Less Uncleared Payments/(Credits)	(6,322)	
		147,255
Set Aside Funds		
Memorial Fund	(1,770)	
Gift Membership	(650)	
		(2,420)
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND DEFERRED INCOME		
Liabilities	(12,678)	
Events	(3,963)	
		(16,641)
TOTAL Assets		171,123
FINANCED BY:		
Accumulated Surplus Brought Forward		243,094
Net Deficit/(Surplus) for the year*		(71,971)
		171,123

*The charity's policy, as decided by the Board of Trustees, is to maintain WAY's reserves at the level of 50% of anticipated running costs for the coming year. With total funds of just under £180k at the end of 2023, our reserves remain above that level.

In previous years, it has been a key challenge for the charity to identify how to best use surplus funds to support our members and to reach more of those eligible to become members. In 2022 and 2023, the Board invested in new staff as well as improving our website for members. This resulted in a planned deficit during 2023 of £71,971 (and £52,968 in 2022). However, this level of deficit is not expected to recur.



At our 2023 AGM in Bristol, WAY members approved the re-appointment of Trustee **Louise Dodds**, who is a member of WAY in the North East.

AGM attendees also approved the appointment of new Trustees **Bobbie Kelly** and **Marcos Eleftheriou**, who were both co-opted onto the Board earlier in the year.

Bill James stood down as Treasurer after seven years as a Trustee; and **Rammi Janack** stood down after one year in post.

Trustee

Stuart Scarbrough
Bill James (Treasurer)
Graham Briscoe
Jo Sedley-Burke (Chair)
Kate Siegler
Louise Dodds
Mike Etherington
Rammi Janack
Bobbie Kelly
Marcos Eleftheriou

Appointed

2016
2017 (stood down in 2023)
2018
2018
2019
2019
2020
2022 (stood down in 2023)
2023
2023



"I applied to become a Trustee of WAY to say thank you and to give something back to the charity that has helped me. I also work for a mental health charity in communications, and I intend to use my skills and ideas to raise WAY's profile and help the charity to reach more widowed people at an earlier stage in their journeys."

Bobbie, WAY member and Trustee

Strategy and Charity Objectives

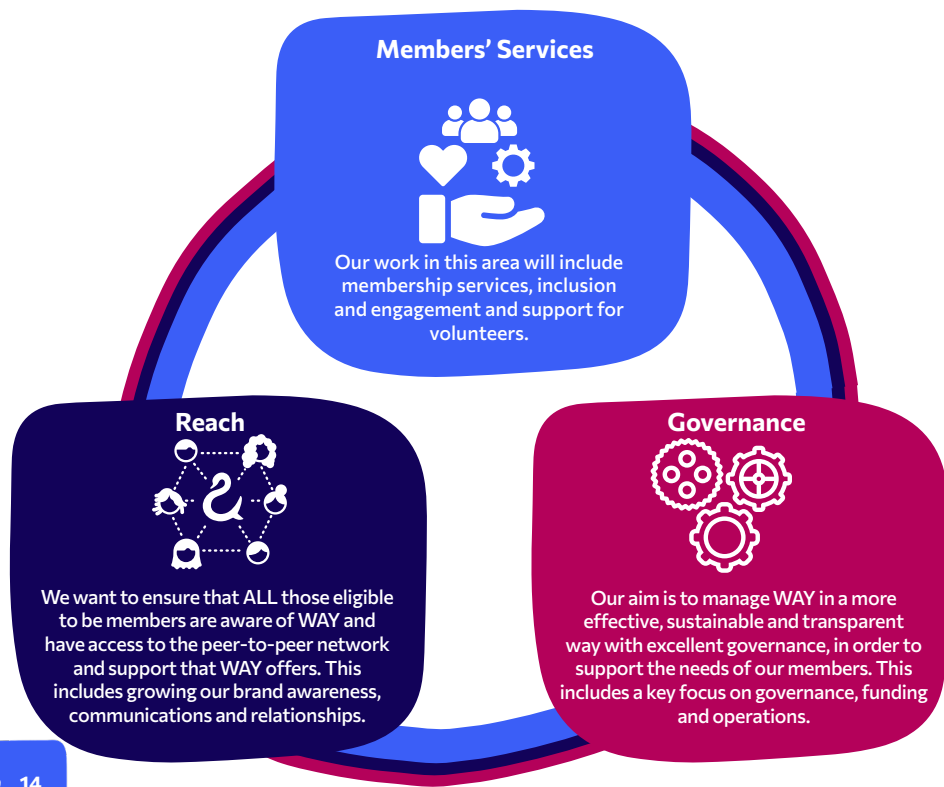
WAY members help to shape our future and, after going through an organisational transformation in 2018, WAY carried out a range of consultations with our members to help inform the direction our charity should take in the future. We carried out an extensive survey of our members and volunteers to work out the best way forward as our charity continues to grow.

From this, our 2021-2026 five-year Strategic Plan was born, which reflects the views of all our members and volunteers to make sure the charity meets their needs, to draw out our long-term ambitions, to help outline our organisational priorities and to reflect our new structure.

WAY's Strategic Plan was developed in line with recommendations drawn from reports and takes on feedback from our members, staff and volunteers.

We would like to thank everyone who offered their valuable input – from completing WAY surveys to attending meetings, from talking to our team to taking part in working groups.

Our strategic plan is split into three key areas:



Our Strategic Partnerships

Irwin Mitchell

In December 2023, we were pleased to announce our strategic partnership with Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, who have been supporting WAY with fundraising and legal advice over the past four years.

Irwin Mitchell have been fantastic supporters of WAY, taking part in our Big Picnics, giving us opportunities to speak and share our work with their company, taking part in various fundraising events, offering meeting spaces and supporting our campaign work.

As part of our partnership, Irwin Mitchell is taking over the financial and legal aspect of our telephone support line and they will be offering tailored support through a series of webinars.



Winston's Wish

Together, WAY and Winston's Wish are partnering to provide full circle support for the whole family following a bereavement. As well as referring bereaved families to each other's services, the two charities are joining forces to provide tips and advice to offer help for the parents they support and their children.

We are also partnering on campaign and policy work, advocating for improved services and experiences for bereaved families both now and in the future.



"Having access to over 4,600 members who understand what I'm feeling and can support me through tough moments and celebrate my successes is invaluable, whether that be online through the Members Hub or in person at meet ups."

Kathryn, WAY member and volunteer

WAY's Mission

To offer unique support for those aged 50 or under when their partner died, through an inclusive peer-led network based upon mutual self-help. WAY also campaigns to raise awareness and understanding of the issues affecting those widowed young, and to influence relevant policy.

WAY's Vision

To ensure ALL those eligible to be members are aware of WAY and have access to the peer-to-peer network and support that WAY offers.

WAY's Values

Caring

Respectful

Innovative

Valued

Transparent

www.widowedandyoung.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1164988

Email: enquiries@widowedandyoung.org.uk | Telephone: 0300 201 0051

Registered Address: Advantage House, Stowe Court, Stowe Street, Lichfield WS13 6AQ



Charity Registration Number 1164988



**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

3S Accountancy Services
Chartered Accountants

WAY Widowed and Young

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)	5
Balance sheet	6
Notes to the financial statements	7

WAY Widowed and Young

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Trustees	Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows: Graham Briscoe Ramanjit Janack Marcos Eleftheriou Louise Jane Dodds Mike Etherington William Thomas James Katherine Denise Siegler Stuart Alan Scarbrough Joanna Sedley-Burke Roberta Kelly	<i>Resigned 29/07/2023</i> Appointed 10.12.2022 <i>Resigned 23/09/2023</i> Chair Appointed 10.12.2022
Secretary	Current Vacancy	
Key management personnel	Stephanie Patrick	Chief Executive appointed Aug 21
Registered office	Advantage House Stowe Court Stowe Street Lichfield WS13 6AQ	
Trading address	N/A	
Accountants	3S Accountancy Services Chartered Accountants 5-8 Priestgate Darlington DL1 1NL	
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill, West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	
Charity number	1164988	

**WAY Widowed and Young
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

The trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014. Legal and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

WAY was established in 1997 and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with an association Governing Document (the constitution). This was registered on 29 December 2015, amended on 4th March 2017, 18th September 2021 and 10th September 2022. The Charitable Objects were updated on 10th September 2022 to include 'gender, race and religion'.

The trustees meet at least five times a year, trustees serving during the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022 are listed on page 1. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration for duties carried out as a trustee. However, trustees claimed out of pocket expenses while undertaking volunteer duties during the year and reimbursement of any expenditure incurred purchasing goods and services required by the charity. The trustees may also be members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

At every Annual General Meeting, trustees who have served a term of 3 years are required to retire, but they are permitted to be re-elected or re-appointed by the members for a maximum of 3 consecutive terms or 9 years. At any one time, the constitution stipulates there should be a minimum of five Trustees. Members are also able to appoint two Trustees that are not WAY members.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Charity are:

- i. To advance the education of the public to raise the awareness of the needs of people who are widowed and young.
- ii. to relieve persons in need, following bereavement by offering a peer-to-peer support network for anyone aged 50 or under, at time of bereavement, who is overcoming the loss of a partner, married or not, with or without children, inclusive of sexual orientation, gender, race and religion.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

WAY is the only national charity in the UK for people aged 50 or under when their partner died. It's a peer-to-peer support group operating with a network of volunteers who have been bereaved at a young age themselves, so they understand exactly what other members are going through.

WAY was founded in 1997 and had 4,658 members across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland at the end of 2023. The charity aims to provide peer-to-peer support to young widowed people – married or not, with or without children, inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender, race and religion – as they adjust to life after the death of their partner.

In 2023 we faced a new challenge as the cost-of-living crisis overtook the nation. We met the continuing demand for our services and were able to support members who were struggling to meet the cost of the membership fee by doubling the amount available in WAY's Memorial Fund. We built strategic partnerships with Irwin Mitchell Solicitors and child bereavement charity Winston's Wish so that we could extend our advice and support offer to WAY members. Community Fundraising was lower than expected and so we were unable to renew the contract for WAY's Community Fundraiser. After a decade-long campaign cohabiting parents with dependent children who need support following the death of their partner were finally able to apply for bereavement benefits. Our substantial reserves still allowed us to continue to invest funds in developing member services and activities to increase the reach of the charity. Key investments were the development of the new members hub and the continued salary of a Digital Market Officer. Whilst it is difficult to summarise everything that WAY has been involved in over the last 12 months, we have included key achievements below.

Membership – the year closed with 4,658 members, which included 1,638 new members. We have seen an increase in member retention rates, with 70% choosing to renew their membership this year. We are pleased that the time we have taken to listen to our members and respond to their needs is really helping to create a service that members truly value.

Volunteers - WAY ended the year with 170 volunteers across the UK, up 2% year-on-year. WAY volunteers are the backbone of the charity and WAY is incredibly fortunate to have so many members who are so passionate about supporting WAY. WAY's Volunteer Manager has provided invaluable support to our volunteers and has offered them chance to network and access training. There has also been the development of new roles such as social media Facebook Admins for WAY's many closed WAY Facebook groups which provide invaluable support to our members.

Through our members-only website, our volunteers and members can organise their own in-person meet-ups - from walks in the park, to group meals. Virtual events continued to happen as well and between them, our volunteers and our members there were 893 events hosted in 2023, of which 253 were online.

Website – Over the last few years, many members have feedback that the members platform is difficult to use, and the charity has worked hard to raise funds to invest in this area of member services. The Working Website Group responded by developing plans for a new platform and a tender process followed in 2022 which resulted in BinaryFold4 being appointed to deliver this project. Work continued for the first 6 months of the year and members were fully included in the process, via consultation, testing and focus groups. The new Members Hub was launched on 1st October 2023. Since then we have continued to bed in this new system and make improvements to the members area and the public facing pages.

Social Media - We continued to make great strides on all our social media platforms, having a combined following which exceeds 30k. All of our social media platforms showed a strong performance in 2023, helping us to reach out to new audiences.

Media Coverage –WAY was featured in 113 media opportunities throughout the year including TV, Press and Radio, which is higher than the previous year by 55%.

Awareness-raising - WAY continued to work alongside other bereavement charities and networks to achieve our shared goals. Our staff spoke about WAY at various conferences which included Grief Loss Conference in Liverpool and Grief Care Annual Conference in London. WAY hosted a stand at various national events including the National Suicide Conference, National Hospice Conference and Scotty's Adventure Day which directly reached over 300 bereavement professionals and led to relationships being developed at various hospices. WAY also continues working alongside other bereavement charities as part of the National Bereavement Alliance and to promote National Grief Awareness Week.

Fundraising- 2023 proved to be a challenging year for fundraising due to the cost of living crisis meaning that people have had less to give. The year saw a variety of individual fundraisers and a growth in Facebook Birthday Fundraisers. WAY members ran several successful fundraising campaigns, including participation in events such as the London2Brighton Walk and London Marathon. Corporate partners who also raised funds included Irwin Mitchell, Mainstay Recruitment and Purple Goat.

Strategic plan – The staff team and trustees continued to successfully progress through the set KPIs of WAY's five-year strategic plan which was unveiled to members in early spring 2021.

WAY AGM 2023

Every year since WAY was launched in 1997, the charity has held an Annual General Meeting (AGM). The annual gathering incorporating the AGM is the biggest WAY event of the year and has become a fixed and key point in the charity's social calendar. WAY's 2023 AGM was held at the Marriot Hotel in Bristol and was attended by over 92 members in person and 15 virtually.

Income

As previously, income for the current year came from three main sources:

- Membership Fees
- Fundraising
- Donations and Grants

The continuing growth of our membership has been such that we now have over 4,650 members for the first time. Income from new memberships and renewals has therefore grown to £121,080 (2022 - £120,675). Membership fundraising activities showed a decline compared to the previous year at £32,982 (2022 £49,256) which reflects the 'cost of living' crisis and is a common trend across the third sector. And during 2023, despite the sector-wide difficulties in generating charitable donations, we saw only a small decline in revenue from external donations and grants to £74,439 (2022 £56,408)

As always we wish to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who have worked hard to raise funds or make a donation in 2023. This support is invaluable in providing the resources needed to continue the charity's work.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Reserves

Reserves - The Charity's policy, as decided by the Board of Trustees is to maintain reserves at the level of 50% of anticipated running costs for the coming year. With total funds of just under £180K at the end of the year, our reserves remain above that level.

It has, for a while, been a key challenge for the Charity to identify how and where to best use surplus funds to support our members and to reach more of those eligible to become members. To this end the Board has invested during 2023 in both new staff and in improving our website offering. This has resulted in a new deficit during the year of £71,971 (2022 deficit of £53,758) but this level of deficit is not expected to recur.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- c) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) prepare the Financial Statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue operating.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the board on 13th July 2024 and signed on its behalf



Joanna Sedley-Burke
Chair

WAY Widowed and Young
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WAY WIDOWED AND YOUNG
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

I report on the accounts of WAY Widowed and Young (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

This report is made solely to the trustees of the charity, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees of the charity those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees of the charity as a body for my examination, for this report or the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

I, the examiner, have undertaken the examination and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). I have satisfied myself that you as trustees have complied with the requirements of section 145 of the 2011 Act and I have followed the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention:
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
requirements concerning the format and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter that has not been met; or
(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



3S Accountancy Services, Chartered Accountants
5-8 Priestgate
Darlington
DL1 1NL

Date: 13th July 2024

WAY Widowed and Young**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Incoming Resources					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	249,675	10,000	259,675	263,704
Other trading activities	3	1,357	-	1,357	1,283
Total		<u>251,032</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>261,032</u>	<u>264,988</u>
Resources Expended					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		26,015	-	26,015	32,929
Charitable activities		298,757	8,230	306,987	285,027
Total	4	<u>324,772</u>	<u>8,230</u>	<u>333,002</u>	<u>317,955</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		(73,740)	1,770	(71,970)	(52,968)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(73,740)</u>	<u>1,770</u>	<u>(71,970)</u>	<u>(52,968)</u>
Fund balances brought forward at 1 JANUARY 2022		243,094	-	243,094	296,061
Fund balances carried forward at 31 DECEMBER 2023	10	<u>169,353</u>	<u>1,770</u>	<u>171,123</u>	<u>243,094</u>

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

WAY Widowed and Young

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Intangible Assets	11		35,709		20,267
Tangible Assets	11		<u>1,107</u>		<u>1,865</u>
			<u>36,816</u>		<u>22,132</u>
Current assets					
Debtors and prepayments	8	6,113		16,733	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>163,018</u>		<u>205,990</u>	
		<u>169,131</u>		<u>222,722</u>	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(34,824)</u>		<u>(1,760)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>134,307</u>		<u>220,962</u>
Net assets			<u><u>171,123</u></u>		<u><u>243,094</u></u>
Funds					
Unrestricted Funds			<u>169,353</u>		<u>243,094</u>
Restricted funds			<u>1,770</u>		<u>-</u>
Total charity funds	10		<u><u>171,123</u></u>		<u><u>243,094</u></u>

the net assets have changed by £1770 - should be same, just split out between unrestricted and restricted?

These financial statements were approved and signed by the trustees and authorised for issue on



Joanna Sedley-Burke
Chair

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's accounts.

- (i) The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the notes to these accounts.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

(ii) Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

(iii) Incoming resources

Income is accounted for on an accruals basis. Grants are recognised as an incoming resource when the conditions for the receipt have been met and are accounted for in accordance with the headings they have been allocated to on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

(iv) Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure, it is probable settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

(v) Tangible and Intangible Assets

Tangible and intangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The only tangible asset of the charity is computer equipment and this is capitalised at cost and depreciated over three years reflecting the expected useful life. Intangible assets reflect the cost of the development of the new member portal and is being depreciated over three years from the date at which the new portal was launched, which was October 2023

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations and Grants	64,439	10,000	74,439	56,408
Gift Aid	29,796	-	29,796	35,860
Membership Subscriptions	121,080	-	121,080	120,675
Fundraising	32,982	-	32,982	49,246
Other	1,378	-	1,378	1,516
	249,675	10,000	259,675	263,704

In 2023 a grant of £10,000 was classed as restricted funds.

In 2022 all income from donations and legacies was unrestricted.

WAY Widowed and Young

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Income from activities				
Merchandise	1,357	-	1,357	1,283
	1,357	-	1,357	1,283

In 2023 and 2022 all income from activities was unrestricted.

4. Analysis of total resources expended

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Cost of generating funds				
Media & PR	26,015	1,800	27,815	32,929
	26,015	1,800	27,815	32,929
Charitable Activities				
Staff Costs	209,216	1,200	210,416	191,137
Member Services - WAY Forward, Helpline etc	35,805	-	35,805	27,039
Website Maintenance	28,088	-	28,088	25,745
Merchandise	2,863	-	2,863	5,278
Administration	8,205	-	8,205	9,897
Bank charges & other fees	5,071	-	5,071	7,117
Insurance	2,111	-	2,111	1,820
Independent Examination & Legal Fees	780	-	780	1,788
Volunteer Costs	2,014	-	2,014	2,428
Members Events	3,845	5,230	9,075	12,370
Project Swan	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	758	-	758	408
	298,757	6,430	305,187	285,027
	324,772	8,230	333,002	317,955

5. Governance

	2023 £	2022 £
Accountancy and professional fees	780	720
	780	720

6. Trustees' remuneration

Except below, the trustees received £nil (2022: £nil) worth of emoluments during the period.

Expenses amounting to £573 (2022: £1,603) were reimbursed in 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

7. Staff costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	180,542	162,975
Employer National Insurance	15,040	11,973
Employer Pension Contributions (Defined Contribution Scheme)	4,318	3,882
Temporary Staff	-	-
Other Payroll costs	10,516	12,307
TOTAL	<u>210,416</u>	<u>191,137</u>

By the end of 2023 there were five permanent members of staff (2022: 6).

8. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gift Aid	5,000	7,991
Other	1,113	8,742
	<u>6,113</u>	<u>16,733</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	34,824	1,760 Audit, Events, Gift Mship
Other creditors	-	-
	<u>34,824</u>	<u>1,760</u>

WAY Widowed and Young
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

10 Statement of Funds

	Balance b/fwd £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/fwd £
Unrestricted funds - general	83,694	250,407	(324,397)	(5,500)	4,203
Designated - Memorial Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Designated - Gift Membership	400	625	(375)	-	650
Designated - Operating Fund	159,000			5,500	164,500
Total unrestricted funds	<u>243,094</u>	<u>251,032</u>	<u>(324,772)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>169,353</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
	-	10,000	(8,230)	-	1,770
Total restricted funds	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>(8,230)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,770</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>243,094</u>	<u>261,032</u>	<u>(333,002)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>171,123</u>

The designated Gift Membership represents funds received to cover membership costs for the recipient of the voucher

The designated Operating Fund represents 50% of our operating costs in 2023, in line with our reserves policy

Made up of:

	2023			2022		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Fixed assets	-	36,816	36,816	-	22,132	22,132
Current assets						
Stock	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors and prepayments	-	6,113	6,113	-	16,733	16,733
Cash at bank and in hand	10,000	153,018	163,018	-	205,990	205,990
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>159,131</u>	<u>169,131</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>222,722</u>	<u>222,722</u>
Creditors	-	(34,824)	(34,824)	-	(1,760)	(1,760)
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>161,123</u>	<u>171,123</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>243,094</u>	<u>243,094</u>

11 Fixed Assets

	Tangible	Intangible	TOTAL
	IT equipment	Website	
Cost			
As At 1 Jan 2023	2,273	20,267	22,540
Additions	-	18,895	18,895
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2023	<u>2,273</u>	<u>39,162</u>	<u>41,435</u>
Depreciation			
As At 1 Jan 2023	408	-	408
Disposals	-	-	-
Depreciation / amortisation	758	3,453	4,211
Impairment	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2023	<u>1,166</u>	<u>3,453</u>	<u>4,619</u>
Net Book Value at 31 December 2023	<u>1,107</u>	<u>35,709</u>	<u>36,816</u>
Net Book Value at 31 December 2022	<u>1,865</u>	<u>20,267</u>	<u>22,132</u>

**WAY Widowed and Young
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WAY WIDOWED AND YOUNG
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

I report on the accounts of WAY Widowed and Young (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

This report is made solely to the trustees of the charity, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees of the charity those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees of the charity as a body for my examination, for this report or the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Catherine Milbanke BSc BFP FCA
3S Accountancy Services, Chartered Accountants
5-8 Priestgate
Darlington
DL1 1NL

Date: 13th July 2024

WAY WIDOWED AND YOUNG

England & Wales - Charity number 1164988

Accounts

W&Y Widowed
and Young



Annual Report 2022



www.widowedandyoung.org.uk

Support. Understanding. Friendship

Registered Charity No: 1164988

Introduction



A word from WAW's Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees

As the country finally eased out of lockdown restrictions, 2022 began with huge celebrations for WAW as we marked the charity's 25th anniversary. A birthday party was held 25 years to the day of the charity's very first members' meeting in Cardiff – the city where WAW was born in 1997.

We were delighted to be joined by members from around the country, including the charity's founder **Caroline Sarril** and some of the very earliest WAW pioneers. To mark this milestone anniversary, we refreshed WAW's branding and gave the charity a new, more modern look and even created our very own bespoke Swanpersand (a cross between a swan and 8) to help reach out to new and younger members.

WAW's birthday celebrations continued to provide a theme for the rest of the year and there were events in each of the four nations of the UK. This included WAW's first **face-to-face AGM**, since before the pandemic, which was attended by nearly 100 members in Glasgow.

2022 saw our **membership rise by 9%** and we sadly welcomed 1,725 new members into our fold. The need for WAW has never been greater. The return to 'in person' events allowed our members to offer wisdom, kindness and understanding to each other – the special support that can only come from others who have experienced the unique loss of being widowed young.

This year also saw more members than ever putting themselves forward to help others in our community. We had an 11% increase in those choosing to **volunteer**, ensuring that our members are supported through digital platforms and WAW's 62 local groups.



Diversity and inclusion was a strong focus for our charity in 2022. We introduced member working groups representing the LGBTQ+ community and from diverse cultural backgrounds to help make changes to ensure that WAW is welcoming and inclusive to all.

We were also painfully aware that the cost-of-living crisis hit WAW members hard – 63% of members in our 2022 survey reported being concerned about their finances.* **WAW's Memorial Fund** – which was set up to support members who are struggling financially – saw a 43% increase in applications and supported more members than ever.

Despite these challenges, WAW members raised an incredible **£105,654** through a range of activities and donations this year. Without the efforts of our incredible fundraisers, donors and corporate partners, WAW simply could not sustain the vital peer support to our 4,650+ members. This support not only ensures that our current member activities continue, but also allows us to reach out to people who may need us in the future too.

Sincere gratitude goes to all of our committed volunteers, fellow trustees and dedicated staff team, who provide the structure for the charity's day-to-day operations and are key in driving forward WAW's vision to ensure that everyone who needs WAW can find us.

Finally, and most importantly... thank you to our incredible community of members, who continue to inspire and motivate us every day with their resilience, compassion and generosity of spirit.

Stephanie Patrick (pictured above left)
Chief Executive

Ioanna Sedley-Burke (pictured above right)
Chair of Trustees

* Based on feedback from 357 members in WAW's Impact Survey 2022



Our Story

WAW is the only national charity in the UK for people aged 50 or under when their partner died.

Founded in 1997, it's a club that nobody wants to be eligible to join, but we are so glad that our members find us. We provide a safe space for people who have been widowed at a young age – offering friendship, support and understanding.

WAW offers a unique peer-to-peer support network, led by volunteers who have all been bereaved at a young age themselves so they understand exactly what other members are going through.

As well as offering a secure members only website and opportunities to meet and chat online and in person, our members also have access to a confidential telephone helpline offering bereavement support, legal, financial and health advice.

WAW also raises awareness of issues affecting those widowed young, campaigns on current issues such as changes to bereavement benefits and seeks out opportunities to publicise the existence of the charity wherever possible, through the media and other avenues, to show that there is support out there to help people navigate life after loss.

"Being a member of WAW has changed my life and helped me to rebuild. I will always miss Paul. And sometimes I still can't believe the story of what is actually my life. Yet somehow, I have found happiness and life again after loss. However, I am sure I wouldn't be where I am today without WAW."

WAW Ambassador, Karen (pictured below, far right)

93% of WAW members said that WAW membership of £25 per year is good/ somewhat good value for money.*



* Based on survey responses for 2022 from 381 members in May 2023.



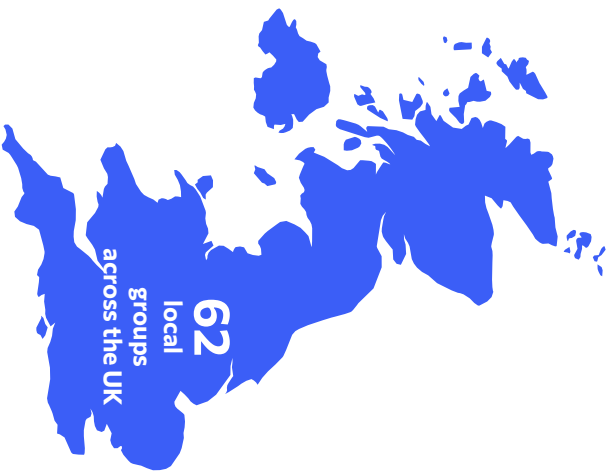
WAY in Numbers

Our Impact in 2022

WAY impacted the lives of **4,650** young widows in 2022 - up **9%** on 2021



helping them to navigate their bereavement by offering support and advice, both online and in person.



What WAY does



WAY members organised **1,164** in person and virtual events in 2022, which had more than **5,390** attendees.



166 amazing volunteers helped to support our work throughout the year.

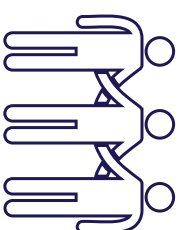


Generous supporters raised **£105,654**, helping us to reach more people in need of support.

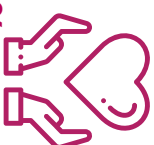


194 young widowed people were gifted annual membership of £25 through our Memorial Fund, which saw a **43%** increase in applications.

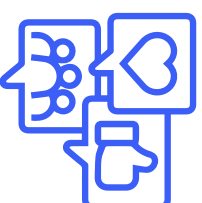
How WAY helped



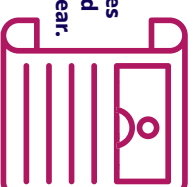
76% of members found that meeting people in the same situation has helped.*



83% of members felt that they had better knowledge about grief and bereavement.**



More than **28,000** people helped us to spread the word by following us across our social media channels.



71 press articles were generated throughout the year.



Our small team grew to **5 employed** members of staff, helping to better support our members.



79% of members felt less isolated.**



Members were updated with **117,681** communications throughout the year.

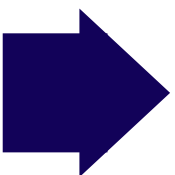


107,340 people visited our website during the year.

* Based on survey responses for 2022 from 372 members in May 2023.
** Based on survey responses for 2022 from 400 members in May 2023.

Our Members

1,725 new members joined WAY's peer support network in 2022.

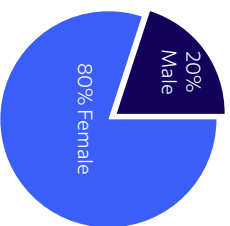


69% of members renewed their membership

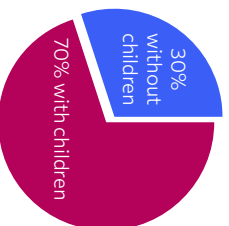
WAY's membership grew by **9%**

Demographics

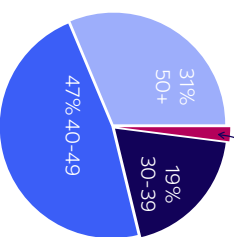
Gender



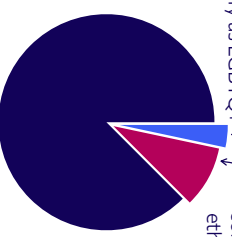
With/without children



Age



Diversity



Our Member Services

WAY continued to provide a range of vital services and support for all of our members as they navigate their bereavement journey, including:



Our members' only website, which listed **1,164** events, and allowed members to connect and communicate privately with each other.



197 online events, with **417** members attending.



Our closed Facebook group and a large range of subgroups, which were accessed by **83%** of members.



More than **400** people made use of the telephone helpline offering counselling services, legal and financial advice.



71% of members used the telephone counselling service experienced a positive change.



101 events for new members were held, with **213** members attending.



More than **190** members were supported financially through our Memorial Fund.

"There are no shortcuts in grief but walking the path alongside others means we can share and support ourselves, no matter how tough it gets. The beauty of WAY is that you get out what you want, and you give what you want – no more or less. Having plucked up the courage to join a new members' Zoom chat, I met someone I'm now proud to call a friend. He was bereaved about the same time, was struggling in many of the same ways as me and was also now flying solo with two children of similar ages."

Pete, WAY Member (pictured on left)



Events



As the pandemic restrictions eased, it was wonderful to see the return of more and more face-to-face WAY events, which are a lifeline for so many of our members:

- In February, we were able to welcome 100 WAY members and children to our first activity weekend in two years.
- In February, we also hosted 50 people at our 25th anniversary celebrations in Cardiff, the birthplace of WAY.
- In April, we organised a highly successful adult-only adventure weekend for our members in Wales.
- In May, we held our first in-person Big Picnic weekend since 2019 – with more than 400 members and supporters getting together at 30+ picnic locations across the UK, from Scotland to South Wales.
- Also in May, we held our first ever Community Fun Day in Birmingham as part of our anniversary celebrations.
- In June, 50 WAY members and children got together in Derbyshire over the Father's Day weekend to make new memories.
- In September, more than 100 WAY members headed to Glasgow to take part in the charity's first face-to-face AGM since the pandemic.
- In October, a group of 15 WAY members and children enjoyed an activity weekend in Scotland.

73%
of WAY
members rated
face-to-face
meetings
as one of the top 5
WAY services*



"My lasting memories of the weekend are the open way other WAY members shared their stories with me, the constant laughter and ability to find humour in any situation. The environment and activities all made getting to know each so easy and provided what felt like the perfect setting to have a holiday from our grief!"

Steve, WAY member (after Welsh activity weekend)

Campaigning for Change

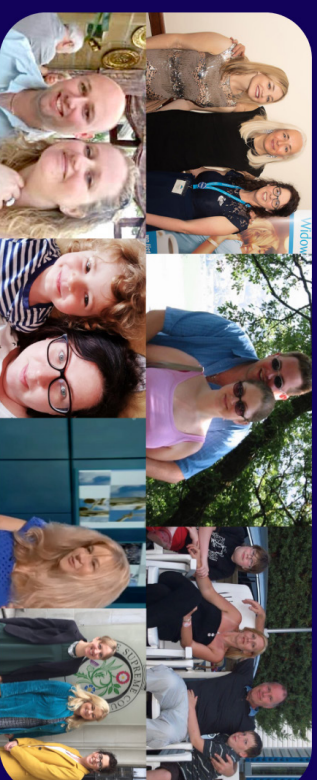
A key part of WAY's mission is "to raise awareness of the needs of people who are widowed and young".

For many years, WAY members have been campaigning to extend bereavement benefits to non-married couples. In autumn 2022, we were delighted when the Government finally introduced a Remedial Order designed to extend payments to cohabiting couples with children.

At the end of the year, we were still waiting for this legislation to become law. And we were also supporting a campaign to extend payments to cohabiting couples without children too.

In 2022, one of our members also won a landmark legal challenge when it was deemed unlawful that he was denied Bereavement Support Payments because his wife, who was not able to work due to disability, had not paid enough National Insurance contributions during her lifetime. The Government subsequently appealed this ruling.

We will continue to campaign on behalf of young widowed people across the UK to make sure their voices are being heard at the highest levels.



WAY
Widowed
and Young

Campaign: Cohabiting Couples

"Meeting people who 'get it' and seeing how others have been able to slowly rebuild their lives after such a profound loss has been so important in helping me come to terms with my own grief."

WAY member

Our Volunteers



Volunteering is the ultimate in peer support. Using their own lived experience, WAY members step forward to support both the charity and other members to help them navigate their bereavement.

WAY had more volunteers in 2022 than ever before, with 166 members covering 188 different volunteering roles – from local area contacts to online volunteers.

2022 saw another increase in volunteering opportunities, with the addition of two **Diversity Working Groups**. Twelve members volunteered their time to take part in these groups, which are focusing on how to reach people who are eligible to join WAY from all communities – and how to support WAY's LGBTQ+ members and members from different cultural ethnicities.

The cost-of-living crisis impacted many of our members adversely. Over the winter months, WAY supported our volunteers by providing a free **volunteer Zoom account** to encourage people to host online events that are accessible to all without incurring any costs. Our volunteer Zoom account is open to any volunteer wishing to host regular online activities.



11% more people helped to volunteer in 2022 than in 2021.



166 volunteers covered 188 volunteering roles – with some volunteers helping in multiple roles.



88% of regions have at least one volunteer, with 68% of areas having more than one volunteer to help support members.



82% of new members reported in their 3-month survey that they had been welcomed by a volunteer in the area.

“Every single week, someone else joins our group. I see it very much as a WAY family because there are people out there who haven't got a family as a result of what they've been through. We really can make a big difference by being there for them.”

Becky, WAY volunteer and winner of our 2022 Mandy Burrows Award

Raising Funds for WAY

WAY receives no Government funding and so the money we need to support members must be raised through memberships, donations and fundraising.

2022 saw some amazing achievements from individual supporters – with 22 challenges throughout the year raising an incredible **£105,654** between them, including:

- Four brave Scots took on the **Aberdeen Kiltwalk**, raising £6k for WAY.
- A team of six walkers took on the **London2Brighton** 100km Ultra Challenge – raising over £8,000.
- Three members took part in the **Ridelondon** 100 mile cycling challenge – together raising nearly £5k.
- Three brave members raised over £3k by jumping out of a plane.
- Five inspirational WAY supporters raised £4k by taking part in the **London Marathon** and half marathon events across the country.
- And last but not least, **Simon's Hot Stars Cycling Team** raised over £4k.

Huge thanks to all our fantastic fundraisers who help make our work possible!



We'd also like to thank the following companies and foundations that have supported WAY in 2022:

- **Irwin Mitchell Solicitors**, who joined in our Dragon Boat Race and our Santa run – raising over £1,700.
- **Mainstay Recruitment**, who walked a marathon and jumped out of a plane – raising over £2,000.
- **Purple Goat Agency**, whose fundraising crowdfunder raised £2,500 in 2022. WAY also received two donations totalling £30,000 through the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Recycling (ICCCM) from **Bangor Crematorium** and **South Essex Crematorium**.

How your support helps

£5

pays for access to the members area of our website

£10

pays for a member to access our helpline for a year

£25

pays for a year's funded membership to WAY

£40

pays to train a WAY volunteer

£100

pays for a member to access a funded place on a WAY weekend break

If you're interested in fundraising, please get in touch at fundraising@swidowedandyoung.org.uk

Accounts to the end of December 2022

Income & Expenditure Account

	2022	2021
Income	£	£
Membership fees	120,675	113,450
Donations & fundraising	105,654	105,725
Other income	2,799	3,173
Gift Aid	35,860	31,679
TOTAL INCOME	264,988	254,026
Expenditure		
Staff costs	191,137	110,906
Other office/admin costs	29,638	29,789
Publications/media PR	51,305	38,532
Website	22,415	32,922
Helpline	8,663	9,595
Memorial Fund	5,635	3,575
Other	9,163	2,287
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	317,956	227,607
Net surplus for the year	(52,968)	26,420

Balance Sheet

	2022	2021
CURRENT ASSETS	£	£
Fixed Assets		
IT equipment	(22,132)	
Debtors	(7,991)	
Gift Aid	(8,742)	
Prepayments		(38,865)
Current Accounts	(197,627)	
Less Uncleared Payments/Credits	(8,363)	(205,990)
Set Aside Funds		
Gift Membership	400	400
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND DEFERRED INCOME		
Liabilities	720	
Events	640	1,360
TOTAL ASSETS		(243,094)
FINANCED BY:		
Accumulated Surplus Brought Forward		(296,852)
Net Deficit/(Surplus) for the Year		53,758
		(243,094)



At our 2022 AGM in Glasgow, WAY members voted to approve proposed changes to the charity's Constitution to streamline it and update some of the procedures around Trustee recruitment.

In 2022, we were pleased to announce the appointment of our newest Trustee **Rammi Janack**, who brings a wealth of marketing and communications experience to the Board.

We were also very pleased that Chair **Joanna Sedley-Burke** and Trustee **Kate Siegler's** reappointments were confirmed at our AGM so that they can continue their great work in helping WAY to grow and reach out to more potential members.

Thanks to **Jacqueline Dewdney**, who gave notice of her intention to resign from the Board following two years' service as a WAY Trustee and stood down in February 2022.

Trustee

Stuart Scarbrough
2016
Bill James (Treasurer)
2017
Graham Briscoe
2018
Jo Sedley-Burke (Chair)
2018
Kate Siegler
2019
Louise Dodds
2019
Jacqueline Dewdney
2019
Mike Etherington
2020
Rammi Janack
2022

Appointed

Graham Briscoe remains on the Board as a non member Trustee after joining in 2018. WAY's constitutional allows up to two non-member Trustees with specific skills, to be appointed on its board.



We were delighted to appoint **Caroline Sarll** as our Founder Patron as part of our 25th anniversary celebrations. Caroline started WAY in 1997 after her sister Amanda was widowed at the age of 35. Remembering how hard it had been for her mother, a young widow in the 1960s, she looked for support for her sister but was shocked to find that, 25 years after her father's death, there were still no organisations offering specific support to young bereaved widows and widowers. So Caroline decided to set up her own group in South Wales and WAY was born in Cardiff in 1997 with 30 members.

"I was adamant that WAY's focus would be on those widowed young helping others in the same position. I felt you had to have gone through an untimely loss to understand and have compassion for those experiencing the same. Quite simply, to be able to say, 'I know.'"



WAY's Mission

To offer unique support for those aged 50 or under when their partner died, through an inclusive peer-led network based upon mutual self-help. WAY also campaigns to raise awareness and understanding of the issues affecting those widowed young, and to influence relevant policy.

WAY's Vision

To ensure ALL those eligible to be members are aware of WAY and have access to the peer-to-peer network and support that WAY offers.

WAY's Values

Caring

Respectful

Innovative

Valued

Transparent

www.widowedandyoung.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1164988

Email: enquiries@widowedandyoung.org.uk | Telephone: 0300 201 0051

Registered Address: Advantage House, Stowe Court, Stowe Street, Lichfield WS13 6AQ



Charity Registration Number 1164988



**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

3S Accountancy Services
Chartered Accountants

WAY Widowed and Young

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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WAY Widowed and Young

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Trustees	Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows: Graham Briscoe Ramanjit Janack Jacqueline Ann Dewdney Louise Jane Dodds Mike Etherington William Thomas James Katherine Denise Siegler Stuart Alan Scarbrough Joanna Sedley-Burke	<i>Appointed 25/06/2022</i> <i>Resigned 10/09/2022</i> <i>Treasurer</i> <i>Chair</i>
Secretary	Current Vacancy	
Key management personnel	Stephanie Patrick	Chief Executive appointed Aug22
Registered office	Advantage House Stowe Court Stowe Street Lichfield WS13 6AQ	
Trading address	N/A	
Accountants	3S Accountancy Services Chartered Accountants 5-8 Priestgate Darlington DL1 1NL	
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill, West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	
Charity number	1164988	

**WAY Widowed and Young
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

The trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014. Legal and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

WAY was established in 1997 and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with an association Governing Document (the constitution). This was registered on 29 December 2015, amended on 4th March 2017, 18th September 2021 and 10th September 2022. The Charitable Objects were updated on 10th September 2022 to include 'gender, race and religion'. The trustees meet at least five times a year, trustees serving during the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022 are listed on page 1. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration for duties carried out as a trustee. However, trustees claimed out of pocket expenses while undertaking volunteer duties during the year and reimbursement of any expenditure incurred purchasing goods and services required by the charity. The trustees may also be members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

At every Annual General Meeting, trustees who have served a term of 3 years are required to retire, but they are permitted to be re-elected or re-appointed by the members for a maximum of 3 consecutive terms or 9 years. At any one time, the constitution stipulates there should be a minimum of five Trustees. Members are also able to appoint two Trustees that are not WAY members.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Charity are:

- i. To advance the education of the public to raise the awareness of the needs of people who are widowed and young.
- ii. to relieve persons in need, following bereavement by offering a peer-to-peer support network for anyone aged 50 or under, at time of bereavement, who is overcoming the loss of a partner, married or not, with or without children, inclusive of sexual orientation, gender, race and religion.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

WAY is the only national charity in the UK for people aged 50 or under when their partner died. It's a peer-to-peer support group operating with a network of volunteers who have been bereaved at a young age themselves, so they understand exactly what other members are going through.

WAY was founded in 1997 and had 4,650 members across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland at the end of 2022. The charity aims to provide peer-to-peer support to young widowed people – married or not, with or without children, inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender, race and religion – as they adjust to life after the death of their partner.

As the country finally eased out of lockdown restrictions, 2022 began with huge celebrations for WAY as we marked the charity's 25th Year Anniversary. To recognise this milestone, we refreshed our branding and gave the charity a new, more modern look and even created our very own bespoke 'swanpersand'. WAY's birthday celebrations continued to provide a theme for the rest of the year and there were events in each of the four nations of the UK, including a Birthday Event in Cardiff, where the charity was founded, and WAY's first face-to-face AGM since the pandemic, which was held in Glasgow. As the effects of the pandemic continued to impact us all, demand for our services continued to increase and we were able to increase the operations team to help meet this demand. The existing team was restructured to include the addition of a Digital Marketing Officer, a Community Fundraiser and a Membership Officer. We reviewed our budgets and forecasts and were able to invest funds raised in developing member services and activities to increase the reach of the charity. Whilst it is difficult to summarise everything that WAY has been involved in over the last 12 months, we have included key achievements below.

Membership – the year closed with 4,650 members, which included 1,725 new members. We have seen an increase in member retention rates, with 70% choosing to renew their membership this year. We are pleased that the time we have taken to listen to our members and respond to their needs is really helping to create a service that members truly value.

Volunteers - WAY ended the year with 166 volunteers across the UK, up 11% year-on-year. WAY volunteers are the backbone of the charity and WAY is incredibly fortunate to have so many members who are so passionate about supporting WAY. WAY's Volunteer Manager has provided invaluable support to our volunteers and has offered them chance to network and access training. There has also been the development of new roles such as social media Facebook Admins for WAY's many closed WAY Facebook groups which provide invaluable support to our members.

Events - As the pandemic restrictions were lifted our members were able to host face-to-face meet-ups. Through our members-only website, our volunteers and members can organise their own in-person meet-ups - from walks in the park, to group meals. Virtual events continued to happen as well and between them, our volunteers and our members there were 1,164 events hosted in 2022, of which 197 were online.

Website – Over the last few years, many members have feedback that the members platform is difficult to use, and the charity has worked hard to raise funds to invest in this area of member services. The Working Website Group responded by developing plans for a new platform and a tender document was produced. A tender process followed which resulted in BinaryFold4 being appointed to deliver this project which is due to be launched in the summer of 2023. During this time we have continued to make improvements to the members area and the public facing pages.

Social Media - We continued to make great strides on all our social media platforms, having a combined following which exceeds 28k. All of our social media platforms showed a strong performance in 2022, helping us to reach out to new audiences and we were delighted to host 25 Instagram Lives in recognition of the charity's 25th year.

Media Coverage –WAY was featured in 73 media opportunities throughout the year including TV, Press and Radio, which is higher than the previous year.

Awareness-raising - WAY continued to work alongside other bereavement charities and networks to achieve our shared goals. Our staff spoke about WAY to Irwin Mitchell, Anthony Collins Solicitors and continued to meet with Hospices. WAY hosted a stand at various national events including the National Suicide Conference, London Pride, National Funeral Exhibition and National Hospice Conference which directly reached over 700 professionals. WAY also continues working alongside other bereavement charities as part of the National Bereavement Alliance and to promote National Grief Awareness week. We are also a member of the all-party parliamentary group for bereavement support.

Fundraising- Despite 2022 being such a challenging year for fundraising with so many organised events having to be cancelled, WAY members continued to find innovative ways to raise money for the charity. The year saw a variety of individual virtual fundraisers and a growth in Facebook Birthday Fundraisers. WAY members ran several successful fundraising campaigns, including participation in events such as the London2Brighton walk and London Marathon. Corporate partners who also raised funds included Irwin Mitchell, Mainstay Recruitment and Purple Goat.

Strategic plan - WAY's five-year strategic plan was unveiled to members in early spring 2021 and KPI's were set and achieved by the staff team and trustees.

WAY AGM 2022

Every year since WAY was launched in 1997, the charity has held an Annual General Meeting (AGM). The annual gathering incorporating the AGM is the biggest WAY event of the year and has become a fixed and key point in the charity's social calendar. WAY's 2022 AGM was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Glasgow and was attended by over 88 members in person and 17 virtually, this being the first 'hybrid' AGM.

Income

As previously, income for the current year came from three main sources:

- Membership Fees
- Fundraising
- Donations and Grants

The continuing growth of our membership has been such that we now have over 4,600 members for the first time. Income from new memberships and renewals has therefore grown to £120,675 (2021 - £113,450). Membership fundraising activities showed limited growth over the previous year at £49,256 (2021 £47,007) but are now back to pre-pandemic levels. And during 2022, despite the sector-wide difficulties in generating charitable donations, we saw only a small decline in revenue from external donations and grants to £56,408 (2021 £58,718)

As always we wish to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who have worked hard to raise funds or make a donation in 2022. This support is invaluable in providing the resources needed to continue the charity's work.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Reserves

Reserves - The Charity's policy, as decided by the Board of Trustees is to maintain reserves at the level of 50% of anticipated running costs for the coming year. With total funds of just under £200K at the end of the year, our reserves remain above that level.

It has, for a while, been a key challenge for the Charity to identify how and where to best use surplus funds to support our members and to reach more of those eligible to become members. To this end the Board has invested during 2022 in both new staff and in improving our website offering. This has resulted in a new deficit during the year of £53,758 (2021 surplus of £26,420) but this level of deficit is not expected to recur.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- c) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) prepare the Financial Statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue operating.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the board on . . .8th August 2023 . . . and signed on its behalf



Joanna Sedley-Burke
Chair

WAY Widowed and Young
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WAY WIDOWED AND YOUNG
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

I report on the accounts of WAY Widowed and Young (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

This report is made solely to the trustees of the charity, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees of the charity those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees of the charity as a body for my examination, for this report or the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements concerning the format and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination),

have not been met; or

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



Catherine Milbanke BSc BFP FCA
3S Accountancy Services, Chartered Accountants
5-8 Priestgate
Darlington
DL1 1NL

Date: 8 August 2023

WAY Widowed and Young

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Incoming Resources					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	263,704	-	263,704	252,524
Other trading activities	3	1,283	-	1,283	1,503
Total		<u>264,988</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>264,988</u>	<u>254,027</u>
Resources Expended					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		32,929	-	32,929	20,353
Charitable activities		285,027	-	285,027	207,254
Total	4	<u>317,955</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>317,955</u>	<u>227,607</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		(52,968)	-	(52,968)	26,421
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(52,968)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(52,968)</u>	<u>26,421</u>
Fund balances brought forward at 1 JANUARY 2022		296,061	-	296,061	269,641
Fund balances carried forward at 31 DECEMBER 2022	10	<u><u>243,094</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>243,094</u></u>	<u><u>296,061</u></u>

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

WAY Widowed and Young

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

		<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Tangible & Intangible Assets	11	22,132			
Current assets					
Debtors and prepayments	8	16,733		6,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		205,990		296,146	
		222,722		302,146	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(1,760)		(6,085)	
Net current assets			243,094		296,061
Net assets			243,094		296,061
Funds					
Unrestricted Funds			243,094		296,061
Restricted funds			-		-
Total charity funds	10		243,094		296,061

These financial statements were approved and signed by the trustees and authorised for issue on 8th August 2023



Joanna Sedley-Burke
Chair

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's accounts.

- (i) The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the notes to these accounts.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

(ii) Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

(iii) Incoming resources

Income is accounted for on an accruals basis. Grants are recognised as an incoming resource when the conditions for the receipt have been met and are accounted for in accordance with the headings they have been allocated to on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

(iv) Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure, it is probable settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

(v) Tangible and Intangible Assets

Tangible and intangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The only tangible asset of the charity is computer equipment and this is capitalised at cost and depreciated over three years reflecting the expected useful life. Intangible assets reflect the cost of the development of the new member portal and will be depreciated over three years from the date at which the new portal is launched, expected to be Summer 2023

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Donations and Grants	56,408	-	56,408	58,718
Gift Aid	35,860	-	35,860	31,679
Membership Subscriptions	120,675	-	120,675	113,450
Fundraising	49,246	-	49,246	47,007
Coronavirus Pandemic Support	-	-	-	-
Other	1,516	-	1,516	1,670
	263,704	-	263,704	252,524

In 2022 and 2021 all income from donations and legacies was unrestricted.

WAY Widowed and Young

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

3. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Income from activities				
Merchandise	1,283	-	1,283	1,503
	1,283	-	1,283	1,503

In 2022 and 2021 all income from activities was unrestricted.

4. Analysis of total resources expended

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Cost of generating funds				
Media & PR	32,929	-	32,929	20,353
	32,929	-	32,929	20,353
Charitable Activities				
Staff Costs	191,137	-	191,137	110,906
Member Services - WAY Forward, Helpline etc	27,039	-	27,039	31,349
Website Maintenance	25,745	-	25,745	36,572
Merchandise	5,278	-	5,278	699
Administration	9,897	-	9,897	17,406
Bank charges & other fees	7,117	-	7,117	6,218
Insurance	1,820	-	1,820	1,096
Independent Examination & Legal Fees	1,788	-	1,788	720
Volunteer Costs	2,428	-	2,428	-
Members Events	12,370	-	12,370	1,443
Project Swan	-	-	-	845
Depreciation	408	-	408	-
	285,027	-	285,027	207,254
	317,955	-	317,955	227,607

5. Governance

	2022 £	2021 £
Accountancy and professional fees	720	720
	720	720

6. Trustees' remuneration

Except below, the trustees received £nil (2021: £nil) worth of emoluments during the period.

Expenses amounting to £1,603 (2021: £0) were reimbursed in 2022

WAY Widowed and Young

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

7. Staff costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	162,975	90,698
Employer National Insurance	11,973	5,526
Employer Pension Contributions (Defined Contribution Scheme)	3,882	5,934
Temporary Staff	-	-
Other Payroll costs	12,307	8,748
TOTAL	<u>191,137</u>	<u>110,906</u>

By the end of 2022 there were six permanent members of staff (2021: 3).

8. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gift Aid	7,991	6,000
Other	8,742	-
	<u>16,733</u>	<u>6,000</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	1,760	6,085
Other creditors	-	-
	<u>1,760</u>	<u>6,085</u>

10 Statement of Funds

	Balance b/fwd £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/fwd £
Unrestricted funds - general	175,611	224,813	(316,730)	-	83,694
Designated - Memorial Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Designated - Gift Membership	450	1,175	(1,225)	-	400
Designated - Operating Fund	120,000	39,000	-	-	159,000
Total unrestricted funds	<u>296,061</u>	<u>264,988</u>	<u>(317,955)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>243,094</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
	-	-	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>296,061</u>	<u>264,988</u>	<u>(317,955)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>243,094</u>

The designated Gift Membership represents funds received to cover membership costs for the recipient of the voucher

The designated Operating Fund represents 50% of our projected operating costs in 2022, in line with our reserves policy

Made up of:

	2022			2021		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Fixed assets	-	22,132	22,132	-	-	-
Current assets						
Stock	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors and prepayments	-	16,733	16,733	-	6,000	6,000
Cash at bank and in hand	-	205,990	205,990	-	296,146	296,146
	-	222,722	222,722	-	302,146	302,146
Creditors	-	(1,760)	(1,760)	-	(6,085)	(6,085)
	-	243,094	243,094	-	296,061	296,061

11 Fixed Assets

	Tangible		Intangible	TOTAL
	IT equipment	Website		
Cost				
At 1.1.22	-	-	-	-
Additions	2,273	20,267	-	22,540
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31.12.22	<u>2,273</u>	<u>20,267</u>		<u>22,540</u>
Depreciation				
At 1.1.22	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Depreciation / amortisation	408	-	-	408
Impairment	-	-	-	-
At 31.12.22	<u>408</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>408</u>
Net Book Value at 31.12.22	<u>1,865</u>	<u>20,267</u>		<u>22,132</u>
Net Book Value at 31.12.21	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>

Charity Registration Number 1164988



**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

3S Accountancy Services
Chartered Accountants

WAY Widowed and Young

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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WAY Widowed and Young

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Trustees	Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:	
	Graham Briscoe	
	Ramanjit Janack	<i>Appointed 25/06/2022</i>
	Jacqueline Ann Dewdney	<i>Resigned 10/09/2022</i>
	Louise Jane Dodds	
	Mike Etherington	
	William Thomas James	<i>Treasurer</i>
	Katherine Denise Siegler	
	Stuart Alan Scarbrough	
	Joanna Sedley-Burke	<i>Chair</i>
Secretary	Current Vacancy	
Key management personnel	Stephanie Patrick	Chief Executive appointed Aug22
Registered office	Advantage House Stowe Court Stowe Street Lichfield WS13 6AQ	
Trading address	N/A	
Accountants	3S Accountancy Services Chartered Accountants 5-8 Priestgate Darlington DL1 1NL	
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill, West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	
Charity number	1164988	

**WAY Widowed and Young
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

The trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014. Legal and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

WAY was established in 1997 and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with an association Governing Document (the constitution). This was registered on 29 December 2015, amended on 4th March 2017, 18th September 2021 and 10th September 2022. The Charitable Objects were updated on 10th September 2022 to include 'gender, race and religion'. The trustees meet at least five times a year, trustees serving during the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022 are listed on page 1. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration for duties carried out as a trustee. However, trustees claimed out of pocket expenses while undertaking volunteer duties during the year and reimbursement of any expenditure incurred purchasing goods and services required by the charity. The trustees may also be members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

At every Annual General Meeting, trustees who have served a term of 3 years are required to retire, but they are permitted to be re-elected or re-appointed by the members for a maximum of 3 consecutive terms or 9 years. At any one time, the constitution stipulates there should be a minimum of five Trustees. Members are also able to appoint two Trustees that are not WAY members.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Charity are:

- i. To advance the education of the public to raise the awareness of the needs of people who are widowed and young.
- ii. to relieve persons in need, following bereavement by offering a peer-to-peer support network for anyone aged 50 or under, at time of bereavement, who is overcoming the loss of a partner, married or not, with or without children, inclusive of sexual orientation, gender, race and religion.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

WAY is the only national charity in the UK for people aged 50 or under when their partner died. It's a peer-to-peer support group operating with a network of volunteers who have been bereaved at a young age themselves, so they understand exactly what other members are going through.

WAY was founded in 1997 and had 4,650 members across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland at the end of 2022. The charity aims to provide peer-to-peer support to young widowed people – married or not, with or without children, inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender, race and religion – as they adjust to life after the death of their partner.

As the country finally eased out of lockdown restrictions, 2022 began with huge celebrations for WAY as we marked the charity's 25th Year Anniversary. To recognise this milestone, we refreshed our branding and gave the charity a new, more modern look and even created our very own bespoke 'swanpersand'. WAY's birthday celebrations continued to provide a theme for the rest of the year and there were events in each of the four nations of the UK, including a Birthday Event in Cardiff, where the charity was founded, and WAY's first face-to-face AGM since the pandemic, which was held in Glasgow. As the effects of the pandemic continued to impact us all, demand for our services continued to increase and we were able to increase the operations team to help meet this demand. The existing team was restructured to include the addition of a Digital Marketing Officer, a Community Fundraiser and a Membership Officer. We reviewed our budgets and forecasts and were able to invest funds raised in developing member services and activities to increase the reach of the charity. Whilst it is difficult to summarise everything that WAY has been involved in over the last 12 months, we have included key achievements below.

Membership – the year closed with 4,650 members, which included 1,725 new members. We have seen an increase in member retention rates, with 70% choosing to renew their membership this year. We are pleased that the time we have taken to listen to our members and respond to their needs is really helping to create a service that members truly value.

Volunteers - WAY ended the year with 166 volunteers across the UK, up 11% year-on-year. WAY volunteers are the backbone of the charity and WAY is incredibly fortunate to have so many members who are so passionate about supporting WAY. WAY's Volunteer Manager has provided invaluable support to our volunteers and has offered them chance to network and access training. There has also been the development of new roles such as social media Facebook Admins for WAY's many closed WAY Facebook groups which provide invaluable support to our members.

Events - As the pandemic restrictions were lifted our members were able to host face-to-face meet-ups. Through our members-only website, our volunteers and members can organise their own in-person meet-ups - from walks in the park, to group meals. Virtual events continued to happen as well and between them, our volunteers and our members there were 1,164 events hosted in 2022, of which 197 were online.

Website – Over the last few years, many members have feedback that the members platform is difficult to use, and the charity has worked hard to raise funds to invest in this area of member services. The Working Website Group responded by developing plans for a new platform and a tender document was produced. A tender process followed with resulted in BinaryFold4 being appointed to deliver this project which is due to be launched in the summer of 2023. During this time we have continued to make improvements to the members area and the public facing pages.

Social Media - We continued to make great strides on all our social media platforms, having a combined following which exceeds 28k. All of our social media platforms showed a strong performance in 2022, helping us to reach out to new audiences and we were delighted to host 25 Instagram Lives in recognition of the charity's 25th year.

Media Coverage –WAY was featured in 73 media opportunities throughout the year including TV, Press and Radio, which is higher than the previous year.

Awareness-raising - WAY continued to work alongside other bereavement charities and networks to achieve our shared goals. Our staff spoke about WAY to Irwin Mitchell, Anthony Collins Solicitors and continued to meet with Hospices. WAY hosted a stand at various national events including the National Suicide Conference, London Pride, National Funeral Exhibition and National Hospice Conference which directly reached over 700 professionals. WAY also continues working alongside other bereavement charities as part of the National Bereavement Alliance and to promote National Grief Awareness week. We are also a member of the all-party parliamentary group for bereavement support.

Fundraising- Despite 2022 being such a challenging year for fundraising with so many organised events having to be cancelled, WAY members continued to find innovative ways to raise money for the charity. The year saw a variety of individual virtual fundraisers and a growth in Facebook Birthday Fundraisers. WAY members ran several successful fundraising campaigns, including participation in events such as the London2Brighton walk and London Marathon. Corporate partners who also raised funds included Irwin Mitchell, Mainstay Recruitment and Purple Goat.

Strategic plan - WAY's five-year strategic plan was unveiled to members in early spring 2021 and KPI's were set and achieved by the staff team and trustees.

WAY AGM 2022

Every year since WAY was launched in 1997, the charity has held an Annual General Meeting (AGM). The annual gathering incorporating the AGM is the biggest WAY event of the year and has become a fixed and key point in the charity's social calendar. WAY's 2022 AGM was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Glasgow and was attended by over 88 members in person and 17 virtually, this being the first 'hybrid' AGM.

Income

As previously, income for the current year came from three main sources:

- Membership Fees
- Fundraising
- Donations and Grants

The continuing growth of our membership has been such that we now have over 4,600 members for the first time. Income from new memberships and renewals has therefore grown to £120,675 (2021 - £113,450). Membership fundraising activities showed limited growth over the previous year at £49,256 (2021 £47,007) but are now back to pre-pandemic levels. And during 2022, despite the sector-wide difficulties in generating charitable donations, we saw only a small decline in revenue from external donations and grants to £56,408 (2021 £58,718)

As always we wish to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who have worked hard to raise funds or make a donation in 2022. This support is invaluable in providing the resources needed to continue the charity's work.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Reserves

Reserves - The Charity's policy, as decided by the Board of Trustees is to maintain reserves at the level of 50% of anticipated running costs for the coming year. With total funds of just under £200K at the end of the year, our reserves remain above that level.

It has, for a while, been a key challenge for the Charity to identify how and where to best use surplus funds to support our members and to reach more of those eligible to become members. To this end the Board has invested during 2022 in both new staff and in improving our website offering. This has resulted in a new deficit during the year of £53,758 (2021 surplus of £26,420) but this level of deficit is not expected to recur.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- c) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) prepare the Financial Statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue operating.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the board on . . .8th August 2023 . . . and signed on its behalf



Joanna Sedley-Burke
Chair

WAY Widowed and Young
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WAY WIDOWED AND YOUNG
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

I report on the accounts of WAY Widowed and Young (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

This report is made solely to the trustees of the charity, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees of the charity those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees of the charity as a body for my examination, for this report or the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements concerning the format and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination),

have not been met; or

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



Catherine Milbanke BSc BFP FCA
3S Accountancy Services, Chartered Accountants
5-8 Priestgate
Darlington
DL1 1NL

Date: 8 August 2023

WAY Widowed and Young

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Incoming Resources					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	263,704	-	263,704	252,524
Other trading activities	3	1,283	-	1,283	1,503
Total		<u>264,988</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>264,988</u>	<u>254,027</u>
Resources Expended					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		32,929	-	32,929	20,353
Charitable activities		285,027	-	285,027	207,254
Total	4	<u>317,955</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>317,955</u>	<u>227,607</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		(52,968)	-	(52,968)	26,421
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(52,968)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(52,968)</u>	<u>26,421</u>
Fund balances brought forward at 1 JANUARY 2022		296,061	-	296,061	269,641
Fund balances carried forward at 31 DECEMBER 2022	10	<u><u>243,094</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>243,094</u></u>	<u><u>296,061</u></u>

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

WAY Widowed and Young

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

		<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Tangible & Intangible Assets	11	22,132			
Current assets					
Debtors and prepayments	8	16,733		6,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>205,990</u>		<u>296,146</u>	
		222,722		302,146	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(1,760)</u>		<u>(6,085)</u>	
Net current assets			243,094		296,061
Net assets			<u>243,094</u>		<u>296,061</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted Funds			243,094		296,061
Restricted funds			-		-
Total charity funds	10		<u>243,094</u>		<u>296,061</u>

These financial statements were approved and signed by the trustees and authorised for issue on 8th August 2023



Joanna Sedley-Burke
Chair

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's accounts.

- (i) The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the notes to these accounts.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

(ii) Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

(iii) Incoming resources

Income is accounted for on an accruals basis. Grants are recognised as an incoming resource when the conditions for the receipt have been met and are accounted for in accordance with the headings they have been allocated to on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

(iv) Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure, it is probable settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

(v) Tangible and Intangible Assets

Tangible and intangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The only tangible asset of the charity is computer equipment and this is capitalised at cost and depreciated over three years reflecting the expected useful life. Intangible assets reflect the cost of the development of the new member portal and will be depreciated over three years from the date at which the new portal is launched, expected to be Summer 2023

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Donations and Grants	56,408	-	56,408	58,718
Gift Aid	35,860	-	35,860	31,679
Membership Subscriptions	120,675	-	120,675	113,450
Fundraising	49,246	-	49,246	47,007
Coronavirus Pandemic Support	-	-	-	-
Other	1,516	-	1,516	1,670
	263,704	-	263,704	252,524

In 2022 and 2021 all income from donations and legacies was unrestricted.

WAY Widowed and Young

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

3. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Income from activities				
Merchandise	1,283	-	1,283	1,503
	1,283	-	1,283	1,503

In 2022 and 2021 all income from activities was unrestricted.

4. Analysis of total resources expended

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Cost of generating funds				
Media & PR	32,929	-	32,929	20,353
	32,929	-	32,929	20,353
Charitable Activities				
Staff Costs	191,137	-	191,137	110,906
Member Services - WAY Forward, Helpline etc	27,039	-	27,039	31,349
Website Maintenance	25,745	-	25,745	36,572
Merchandise	5,278	-	5,278	699
Administration	9,897	-	9,897	17,406
Bank charges & other fees	7,117	-	7,117	6,218
Insurance	1,820	-	1,820	1,096
Independent Examination & Legal Fees	1,788	-	1,788	720
Volunteer Costs	2,428	-	2,428	-
Members Events	12,370	-	12,370	1,443
Project Swan	-	-	-	845
Depreciation	408	-	408	-
	285,027	-	285,027	207,254
	317,955	-	317,955	227,607

5. Governance

	2022 £	2021 £
Accountancy and professional fees	720	720
	720	720

6. Trustees' remuneration

Except below, the trustees received £nil (2021: £nil) worth of emoluments during the period.

Expenses amounting to £1,603 (2021: £0) were reimbursed in 2022

WAY Widowed and Young

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

7. Staff costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	162,975	90,698
Employer National Insurance	11,973	5,526
Employer Pension Contributions (Defined Contribution Scheme)	3,882	5,934
Temporary Staff	-	-
Other Payroll costs	12,307	8,748
TOTAL	<u>191,137</u>	<u>110,906</u>

By the end of 2022 there were six permanent members of staff (2021: 3).

8. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gift Aid	7,991	6,000
Other	8,742	-
	<u>16,733</u>	<u>6,000</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	1,760	6,085
Other creditors	-	-
	<u>1,760</u>	<u>6,085</u>

10 Statement of Funds

	Balance b/fwd £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/fwd £
Unrestricted funds - general	175,611	224,813	(316,730)	-	83,694
Designated - Memorial Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Designated - Gift Membership	450	1,175	(1,225)	-	400
Designated - Operating Fund	120,000	39,000	-	-	159,000
Total unrestricted funds	<u>296,061</u>	<u>264,988</u>	<u>(317,955)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>243,094</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
	-	-	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>296,061</u>	<u>264,988</u>	<u>(317,955)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>243,094</u>

The designated Gift Membership represents funds received to cover membership costs for the recipient of the voucher

The designated Operating Fund represents 50% of our projected operating costs in 2022, in line with our reserves policy

Made up of:

	2022			2021		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Fixed assets	-	22,132	22,132	-	-	-
Current assets						
Stock	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors and prepayments	-	16,733	16,733	-	6,000	6,000
Cash at bank and in hand	-	205,990	205,990	-	296,146	296,146
	-	222,722	222,722	-	302,146	302,146
Creditors	-	(1,760)	(1,760)	-	(6,085)	(6,085)
	-	243,094	243,094	-	296,061	296,061

11 Fixed Assets

	Tangible		Intangible	TOTAL
	IT equipment	Website		
Cost				
At 1.1.22	-	-	-	-
Additions	2,273	20,267	-	22,540
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31.12.22	<u>2,273</u>	<u>20,267</u>		<u>22,540</u>
Depreciation				
At 1.1.22	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Depreciation / amortisation	408	-	-	408
Impairment	-	-	-	-
At 31.12.22	<u>408</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>408</u>
Net Book Value at 31.12.22	<u>1,865</u>	<u>20,267</u>		<u>22,132</u>
Net Book Value at 31.12.21	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>

WAY WIDOWED AND YOUNG

England & Wales - Charity number 1164988

Accounts

W&Y Widowed
and Young

Annual Report 2021



www.widowedandyoung.org.uk
Support. Understanding. Friendship

Registered Charity No: 1164988

Introduction



A word from WAY's Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees

As we continued to navigate the pandemic, 2021 was hugely challenging for WAY and our members. The impact of Covid-19 continued to affect us all, especially those who lost loved ones – many of whom sadly became eligible to join our charity. The kindness and friendship shared between members was needed more than ever before. Despite the overwhelming obstacles presented by the ever-changing restrictions, our members came together to provide a listening ear, to lift each other's spirits and to offer vital peer-to-peer support.

The restrictions on face-to-face events acted as a catalyst for the huge expansion of digital engagement between our members. Online events and platforms removed all geographical boundaries, allowing our members to connect with each other across the UK.

In 2021, we saw a 15.2% increase in the number of members joining WAY, and our army of member volunteers has grown to 150 – ensuring that our members are supported through digital platforms and through our 62 local homegroups across the UK.

In May, we waved goodbye to **Rebecca Cooper**, who did a wonderful job as Chief Executive for WAY for three years. **Bill James** also stepped down as WAY Chair in July after serving since 2017 – our thanks and gratitude is extended to them both for the wonderful work they did in leading the charity through this challenging time and building strong foundations for future growth.



In spite of the many challenges, our WAY members raised more than £137,000 through a range of activities and donations – up 17.5% on the previous year. Without the efforts of our wonderful fundraisers, WAY simply could not operate. Their support not only ensures that our current members' activities can continue, but also enables us to reach out to future members.

Sadly, more than 23,000 people aged 18-51 die every year.* This means that the need for WAY has never been greater. While it is sad to reflect that we welcomed more than 1,700 new members in 2021, we are pleased that so many young widowed people found our support.

However, we know that there is still much work to be done to make sure that everyone who needs WAY knows about our charity. In 2021, WAY launched a new five-year strategy plan that includes ambitions to reach out to more young widows, strive towards better engagement with underrepresented groups and continue to invest in our member services as we approach our 25th anniversary.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who has contributed to WAY in the most difficult of years – our outstanding members, dedicated volunteers, supportive trustee Board, committed staff and our generous fundraisers and donors throughout the UK.

Stephanie Patrick
Chief Executive since August 2021

Joanna Sedley-Burke
Chair of Trustees since June 2021

* Source: ONS death statistics for England and Wales (2020)

Our Story

WAY Widowed and Young is the only national charity in the UK for people aged 50 or under when their partner died.

Founded in 1997, it's a club that nobody wants to be eligible to join, but we are so glad that our members find us. We provide a safe space for people who have been widowed at a young age – offering friendship, support and understanding.

WAY offers a unique peer-to-peer support network, led by volunteers who have all been bereaved at a young age themselves so they understand exactly what other members are going through.

As well as offering a secure members only website and opportunities to meet and chat online and in person, our members also have access to a 24-hour confidential telephone helpline offering bereavement support, legal, financial and health advice.

WAY also raises awareness of issues affecting those widowed young, campaigns on current issues such as changes to bereavement benefits and seeks out opportunities to publicise the existence of the charity wherever possible, through the media and other avenues, to show that there is support out there to help people navigate life after loss.

"I joined WAY over eight years ago and it has made a huge difference to my life – a safe place to talk, people to go on holiday with and a social life. Some of my best friends are still people I met through WAY, and it really has helped me rebuild a life in ways I couldn't have imagined."

WAY Member



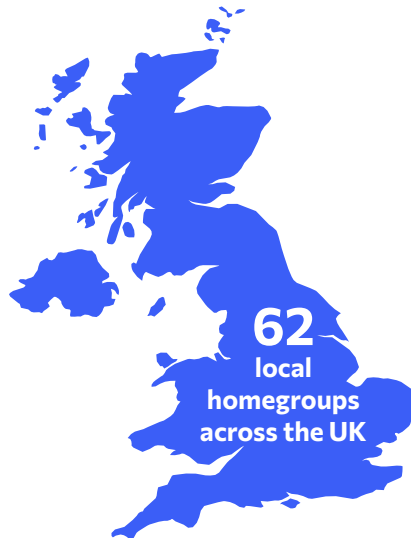
WAY

Widowed and Young

WAY impacted the lives of
4,254
young widows in 2021



helping them to navigate their bereavement by offering support and advice, both online and in person.



What WAY does



WAY members organised **987** in person and virtual events that were attended by 3,392 people.



150 amazing volunteers helped to support our work across the year.

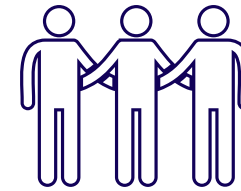


Generous supporters raised **£137,000** helping us to reach more people in need of support.



173 young widows were gifted annual membership of £25, both from our Memorial Fund and through gift memberships.

How WAY helped



79% of members found that meeting others in the same situation has helped.*



Our small team grew to **3 employed** members of staff, helping to better support our members.



79% of members felt that they were better able to cope with their grief.*



70% of members felt less isolated.*



24,332 people helped us to spread the word about WAY by following us across our various social media channels.



82 press articles were generated with 90 WAY members taking part.

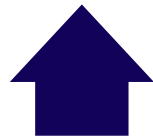


12,000 people visited our website which was an incredible **44% up** on the previous year.

* Based on survey responses from 446 members in May 2022

Our Members

1,732 new members joined in 2021. Some were newly bereaved, whilst others reached out for further support during the pandemic.



WAY's membership grew by **15.2%**



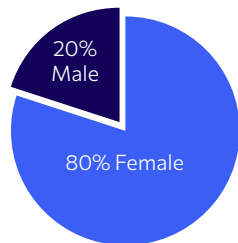
121 people used WAY's 24/7 helpline, enabling them to access counselling services, legal and financial advice.



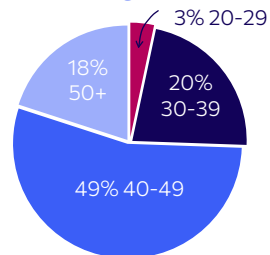
70% of members renewed their membership and retention rates continue to increase year on year.

Demographics

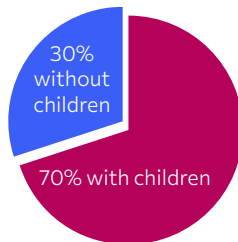
Gender



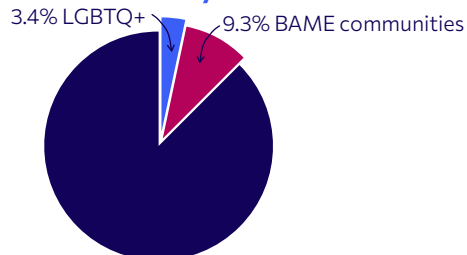
Age



With/without Children



Diversity



Our Member Services

In spite of the challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic in 2021, WAY continued to provide a range of vital services and help for all of our members as they navigated their bereavement journey, including:



A members' only website, which listed **987** events, provided access to forums, chat rooms and allowed members to connect and communicate privately with each other.



A closed Facebook group and a large range of subgroups, which were accessed by **87%** of members.



117,663 regular members' magazines and monthly e-newsletters provided information, resources and members' stories.



35 books about bereavement were loaned to members in 2021.



27 members were nominated for member awards, including our Lockdown Legends award for members who had gone the extra mile to support each other during the pandemic.



72% of members felt that they had an improved network of support.*



80% of members said that they have better knowledge about grief and bereavement.*

* Based on survey responses from 446 members in May 2022

Kirsty's Story



"During the pandemic, I quickly became very conscious of the fact that widowed people were already cut off from much of 'normal life'. To be stuck in our houses, in our own heads, was not a good prospect during lockdown. I decided to set up a Saturday Zoom session for members which very quickly expanded.

I also set up a buddy system, which provided members with a buddy who they could contact during lockdown, someone they could check in on and someone who could check in on them. I have made amazing friendships from WAY and wanted other members to experience that too.

WAY has become my support network for so much of my life. It has integrated into my 'normal' life and, during lockdown, it was one of very few constants."

Events



Many of our face-to-face meet ups were still on hold during 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic, particularly in the first half of the year. However, we adapted quickly, and a huge number of meetings went online with some smaller gatherings going ahead towards the end of the year.



3,392 people attended 987 events listed across the year - up 14% on the previous year.



75% of members said that face to face meetings and events are one of the most important services that WAY offers.*



* Based on survey responses from 446 members in May 2022

“When Rob died, I didn’t know anyone in my situation and suddenly my social life changed too. WAY gave me both social contact and contact with people who I could talk to about Rob and who genuinely understood what I was going through.”

WAY Member

Here are just a few events from across the year.

Virtual Spring Festival

The day included yoga, quizzes, games, and tips on healthy eating. With **21** different sessions throughout the day, the festival was attended by more than **100** people.



Big Picnic

With restrictions beginning to lift in May 2021, we were able to hold our annual Big Picnic event both in person and online – with **30 picnics** taking place up and down the country.



Bingo

Lots of members across the year joined in various online events including bingo and quizzes.



Creating Change

Every year, around 3,000 young, widowed men and women with children are unable to access bereavement support payments to help support their families because they were not married to their partner when they died.

WAY has been campaigning on this issue for many years alongside other charities. In July 2021, we were thrilled when the Government finally responded by introducing draft legislation to extend bereavement support payments to cohabiting couples with children.

We are very disappointed, however, that the legislation has still not been finalised at the time of writing. We continue to campaign on this issue to make sure that our members both with and without children get the support they are entitled to – as well as highlighting other injustices that affect those who’ve been widowed young.

Our Volunteers



Volunteers are absolutely central to WAY's peer-to-peer support network, with 150 volunteers covering roles up and down the country and online.

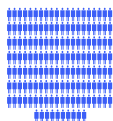
We are pleased that we have been able to increase our support to volunteers in 2021. Our National Volunteer Manager **Veronica Currie** is now in a permanent position with WAY and works tirelessly to ensure volunteers are kept informed and offers ongoing support, training and practical guidance for our growing network of volunteers.

In June, we hosted our first **Volunteers' Festival** – an online event open to volunteers with a variety of activities throughout the day. This included a presentation from author Caroline Lloyd as well as a cookalong along with Masterchef contestant Theo Michaels.

We also appointed four new **Ambassadors** to our team of WAY members who help to promote WAY and raise awareness of the diverse and inclusive nature of the group.



16% more people helped to volunteer in 2021 compared to 2020.



150 volunteers covered 175 volunteering roles.



These volunteers helped to support WAY across the UK in **62** regions.



82% of WAY regions are covered by a local volunteer member with **68%** of them having more than one volunteer.



57% of members said that they have found it helpful being able to support peers.*

*Based on survey responses from 438 members in May 2022

Raising Funds for WAY

Although many of our usual fundraising events continued to be on hold during 2021, WAY's members and supporters did an incredible job of raising funds for our charity. Together they helped to raise more than **£137,000** by taking on amazing challenges and through generous donations including gift aid.

London to Brighton



A team of 18 WAY members raised an incredible £33k!

Virtual Marathons



Walking



Wingwalking



We'd like to thank the following companies and foundations that have supported WAY in 2021:

- Austin, Davis & Sons Funeral Directors
- Bakerwell Ltd
- Decanter
- Irwin Mitchell
- Masterserve Foundation
- Sandwell Council via the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) scheme
- S.E.A. Building Compliance Limited



78 amazing fundraising challenges took place across the year.

How your support helps

£5

pays for access to the members area of our website

£10

pays for a member to access our helpline for a year

£25

pays for a year's funded membership to WAY

£40

pays to train a WAY volunteer

£100

pays for a member to access a funded place on a WAY weekend break

Interested in fundraising?

Please get in touch with us at fundraising@widowedandyoung.org.uk

Financial Review

WAY's Board

Accounts to the end of December 2021

Income & Expenditure Account

	2021	2020
	£	£
Income		
Members' subscriptions	44,025	37,500
Members' renewals	69,425	60,325
Donations	58,718	126,035
Fundraising	47,007	41,841
Income - Other	1,670	1,165
Merchandise	1,503	1,437
Covid-19 Support	0	5,000
Gift Aid	31,679	27,447
TOTAL Income	254,026	300,750
Expenditure	£	£
Memorial Fund	(3,575)	64
Member Helpline	(9,595)	(8,098)
Administration	(17,406)	(16,855)
WAY Publications	(18,179)	(18,252)
Media & PR	(20,353)	(13,469)
Staff Costs	(110,906)	(111,834)
IT Expenditure	(3,650)	(561)
Merchandise	(699)	(1,801)
Big Picnic	0	(151)
Website	(32,922)	(24,782)
Insurance, Audit & Legal Fees	(3,276)	(997)
Paypal/Just Giving/etc Fees	(4,758)	(4,351)
Other - Project Swan	(845)	(9,950)
Total Expenditure	(226,164)	(211,036)
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year excluding Events	27,863	89,714
AGM 2021	(1,443)	0
Holidays and Events	0	12
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year	26,420	89,726

Balance Sheet

	2021	
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors		
Gift Aid	6,000	
		6,000
Cash At Bank	299,869	
Less Uncleared (Cheques)/Credits	(3,273)	
		296,596
Set Aside Funds		
Gift Membership	(450)	
		(450)
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND DEFERRED INCOME		
Events	(1,045)	
Brand Refresh	(5,040)	
		(6,085)
TOTAL Assets		296,062
FINANCED BY:		
Accumulated Surplus Brought Forward		269,642
Net (Deficit)/Surplus for the Year		26,420
		296,062



Meet some of the people who make decisions about our strategic direction.

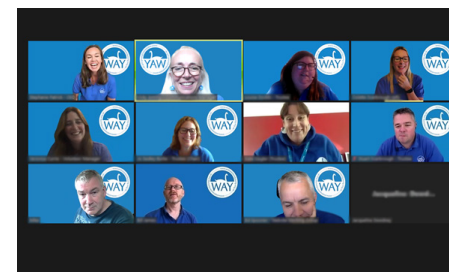
In 2021, our Board took on an ambitious brand refresh, holding **5** Board meetings and **10** working group meetings across the year looking at our website and branding.

We would like to thank Bill, who stepped down as Chair and Chris who stepped down as a Trustee at the end of the year, and all of our trustees, all of whom are volunteers and do a fantastic job.

Trustee	Appointed
Stuart Scarbrough	2016
Bill James	2017
Chris Lima	2018
Graham Briscoe	2018
Jo Sedley-Burke	2018
Jacqueline Dewdney	2019
Kate Siegler	2019
Louise Dodds	2019
Mike Etherington	2020

AGM

We were delighted that our online AGM was attended by more than **150 WAY members**, who had the chance to hear updates about the charity from the comfort of home.



“WAY has helped me a lot, particularly when I was newly widowed, and I see the help it provides to many other people today. I'd like to help the team in their quest to reach as many eligible widows as possible across the UK, so we can help to provide support to even more folks at a time when they most need it.”

Mike Etherington, Trustee

Strategy and Charity Objectives

Our members help to shape our future and after going through an organisational transformation in 2018, WAY carried out a range of consultations with our members to help inform the direction our charity should take in future. We carried out an extensive survey of our members and volunteers to work out the best way forward as our charity continues to grow.

From this, our 2021-2026 five year Strategic Plan was born and reflects the views of all our members and volunteers to make sure the charity meets their needs, to draw out our long-term ambitions, to help outline our organisational priorities and to reflect our new structure.

WAY's new Strategic Plan has been developed in line with recommendations drawn from reports and takes on feedback from our members, staff and volunteers.

We would like to thank everyone who offered their valuable input – from completing WAY surveys to attending meetings, from talking to our team to taking part in working groups.

Our new strategic plan is split into three key areas:

Members' Services



Our work in this area will include membership services, inclusion and engagement and support for volunteers.

Reach



We want to ensure that ALL those eligible to be members are aware of WAY and have access to the peer-to-peer network and support that WAY offers. This includes growing our brand awareness, communications and relationships.

Governance



Our aim is to manage WAY in a more effective, sustainable and transparent way with excellent governance, in order to support the needs of our members. This includes a key focus on governance, funding and operations.

Sachel's Story



Sachel (pictured above left) joined WAY in August 2021 after her 52-year-old husband died of Covid-19. Here's her story...

"I caught Covid in December 2020 and then a couple of days later my husband and nine-year-old son got ill too. My husband got worse and then was admitted to hospital on 6 January and died the following week. It was a lot to take on board – from having a fantastic Christmas together one minute to him not being there.

I don't know whether I coped or not in those first few days and weeks – I just existed. I just did what I had to do to get through the day. I found WAY through a Google search. I found I was in a pretty good head space, considering – but I didn't want to suddenly explode because I hadn't dealt with my grief or talked to anyone else who understood. I needed to be whole for my son.

Going along to my first WAY event was nerve-wracking but it's been hugely beneficial. I've gone along to dinners, cafes, walks and me and my son are going on a day trip to Hunstanton with fellow WAY members in future.

Our local group is very active but there's no pressure to attend things if you don't want to. The best thing is knowing you're not on your own and that people have been through what you've been through. It's a place where you can be without judgement or expectation. You can talk if you want to and if you don't, that is also fine.

What I found I struggled with was making the right decisions about my son. When you're on your own, it's relentless. Through WAY, I joined a subgroup on Facebook for other WAY parents who had children with special educational needs. Suddenly I had people to bounce those decisions off, which has been really valuable.

I would definitely encourage people to join WAY – it's been so helpful to be with people who get you without any judgement."

WAY's Mission

“To offer unique support for those aged 50 or under when their partner died, through an inclusive peer-led network based upon mutual self-help. WAY also campaigns to raise awareness and understanding of the issues affecting those widowed young, and to influence relevant policy.”

WAY's Vision

“To ensure ALL those eligible to be members are aware of WAY and have access to the peer-to-peer network and support that WAY offers.”

WAY's Values

Caring

Respectful

Innovative

Valued

Transparent

www.widowedandyoung.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1164988

Email: enquiries@widowedandyoung.org.uk | Telephone: 0300 201 0051

Registered Address: Advantage House, Stowe Court, Stowe Street, Lichfield WS13 6AQ



Charity Registration Number 1164988



**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

3S Accountancy Services
Chartered Accountants

WAY Widowed and Young

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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WAY Widowed and Young

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Trustees	Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:	
	Graham Briscoe	
	Chris Lima	<i>Resigned 18th September 2021</i>
	Jacqueline Ann Dewdney	
	Louise Jane Dodds	
	Mike Etherington	
	William Thomas James	<i>Treasurer</i>
	Katherine Denise Siegler	
	Stuart Alan Scarbrough	
	Joanna Sedley-Burke	<i>Chair</i>
Secretary	Current Vacancy	
Key management personnel	Rebecca Jane Cooper	Chief Executive Resigned May 22
	Stephanie Patrick	Chief Executive appointed Aug22
Registered office	Advantage House Stowe Court Stowe Street Lichfield WS13 6AQ	
Trading address	N/A	
Accountants	3S Accountancy Services Chartered Accountants 5-8 Priestgate Darlington DL1 1NL	
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill, West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	
Charity number	1164988	

**WAY Widowed and Young
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

The trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014. Legal and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

WAY was established in 1997 and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with an association Governing Document (the constitution). This was registered on 29 December 2015, amended on 4th March 2017 and 18th September 2021. The trustees meet at least five times a year, trustees serving during the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 are listed on page 1. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration for duties carried out as a trustee. However, trustees claimed out of pocket expenses while undertaking volunteer duties during the year and reimbursement of any expenditure incurred purchasing goods and services required by the charity. The trustees may also be members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity. At every Annual General Meeting, one third of the Trustees shall retire from office (The longest serving must resign first) but they are permitted to be re-elected or re-appointed by the members. At any one time, the constitution stipulates there should be a minimum of five Trustees. Members are also able to appoint two Trustees that are not WAY members.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Charity are:

- i. To advance the education of the public to raise the awareness of the needs of people who are widowed and young.
- ii. To relieve persons in need, following bereavement by offering a peer-to-peer support network for anyone aged 50 or under, at time of bereavement, who is overcoming the loss of a partner, married or not, with or without children, whatever their sexual orientation.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

WAY is the only national charity in the UK for people aged 50 or under when their partner died. It's a peer-to-peer support group operating with a network of volunteers who have been bereaved at a young age themselves, so they understand exactly what other members are going through.

WAY was founded in 1997 and had 4254 members across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland at the end of 2021. The charity aims to provide peer-to-peer support to young widowed people – married or not, with or without children, whatever their sexual orientation – as they adjust to life after the death of their partner.

In 2021 we continued to respond to the pandemic, adapting the way that we worked as a charity by continuing to implement procedures to protect the health and safety of our staff, volunteers and members including working from home and operating both online and face-to-face events. We met increased demand for our services and were able to offer innovative ways to support both members and volunteers. We also reviewed budgets and forecasts to take account of the expected financial impact of the pandemic. This initially forecast a significant deficit for the year due to an anticipated loss of fundraising income, however this is mitigated in full by increased engagement of our members in fundraising activities. We expect that demand for WAY services will continue to be high as the effects of the pandemic continue to take effect. Whilst it is difficult to summarise everything that WAY has been involved in over the last 12 months, we have included key achievements below.

Membership - the year closed with 4254 members, which included 562 new members. We have seen an increase in member retention rates, with 68.3% choosing to renew their membership this year. We are pleased that the time we have taken to listen to our members and respond to their needs is really helping to create a service that members truly value.

Volunteers - WAY ended the year with 150 volunteers across the UK, up 65% on pre-pandemic levels. WAY is incredibly fortunate to have so many members who are so passionate about the charity. The appointment of a volunteer manager in 2019 has meant that volunteers have been offered the chance to network, access training and support and there has also been the development of new roles such as Ambassadors and online volunteers.

Events - Although our members were unable to host face to face meetups, through our members only website, our volunteers and members are able to organise their own virtual meet ups – from chats to bingo. Between them, our volunteers and members organised 987 events hosted in 2021.

Website - We continued to make improvements to the members area and the public facing pages, with an understanding that wider investment is required to develop the members area to continue to meet member needs. The WWG continue to meet to set out future developments which are expected to be rolled out in 2022.

Social Media - We continued to make great strides on all our social media platforms, having a combined following which exceeds 24k. All of our social media platforms showed a strong performance in 2021, helping us to reach out to new audiences.

Media Coverage - WAY was featured in 65 media opportunities throughout the year including TV, Press and Radio. Whilst slightly lower than the previous year, the number of members and volunteers taking part increased, with 90 people helping to raise awareness of WAY.

Awareness-raising - WAY continued to work alongside other bereavement charities and networks to achieve our shared goals. Our staff spoke about WAY to Irwin Mitchell, Anthony Collins Solicitors and continued to meet with Hospices including hosting a stand at the National Suicide Conference which was held in Manchester. WAY also continues working alongside other bereavement charities as part of the National Bereavement Alliance and to promote National Grief Awareness week. We are also a member of the all-party parliamentary group for bereavement support.

Fundraising - Despite 2021 being such a challenging year for fundraising with so many organised events having to be cancelled, WAY members continued to find innovative ways to raise money for the charity. The year saw a variety of individual virtual fundraisers and a growth in Facebook Birthday Fundraisers. WAY members ran a number of successful fundraising campaigns, including participation in events such as the London2Brighton walk which 16 members participated in.

Strategic plan - WAY's five-year strategic plan was unveiled to members in early spring and initial KPI's were set and achieved by the staff team and trustees.

WAY AGM 2020

Every year since WAY was launched in 1997, the charity has held an Annual General Meeting (AGM). The annual gathering incorporating the AGM is the biggest WAY event of the year and has become a fixed and key point in the charity's social calendar. Sadly, in light of coronavirus and government guidance at the time we had to cancel the planned 2021 face-to-face AGM in Glasgow. Instead, this event was held online in September 2021, being attended by over 150 members and the constitution was amended to allow this and future AGM's to take place in this manner.

WAY Widowed and Young
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES continued
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Income

Income for the current year came from three main sources:

- Membership Fees
- Fundraising
- Donations and Grants

The continuing growth of our membership has been such that we now have over 4,200 members for the first time. Income from new memberships and renewals has therefore grown to £113,450 (2020 - £97,825). As noted elsewhere, pandemic restrictions continued to hinder membership fundraising activities but even so funds raised in 2021 at £47,007 (2020 £41,841) are almost back to pre-pandemic levels. During 2021 we did see a substantial fall in revenue from external donations and grants, since in 2020 we secured additional funds from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund distributed by the National Lottery Community Fund.

As always we wish to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who have worked hard to raise funds or make a donation in 2021. This support is invaluable in providing the resources needed to continue the charity's work.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Reserves

Reserves - The Charity's policy, as decided on by the Board of Trustees is to maintain reserves at the level of 50% of anticipated running costs for the coming year. With total funds of almost £300,000 at the end of the year our reserves remain well above that level.

It remains a key challenge for the Charity to identify how and where to best use these funds to support our members and to reach more of those eligible to become members. To this end the Board is working hard to improve our website offering, has recently concluded a brand update and is expanding our staffing to better serve and support our membership.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- c) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) prepare the Financial Statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue operating.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the board on 7th May 2022 and signed on its behalf



Joanna Sedley-Burke
Chair

WAY Widowed and Young
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WAY WIDOWED AND YOUNG
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

I report on the accounts of WAY Widowed and Young (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

This report is made solely to the trustees of the charity, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees of the charity those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees of the charity as a body for my examination, for this report or the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements concerning the format and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination),

have not been met; or

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

Catherine Milbanke BSc BFP FCA
3S Accountancy Services, Chartered Accountants
5-8 Priestgate
Darlington
DL1 1NL

Date:

WAY Widowed and Young**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Incoming Resources					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	252,524	-	252,524	299,313
Other trading activities	3	1,503	-	1,503	1,437
Total		<u>254,027</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>254,027</u>	<u>300,750</u>
Resources Expended					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		20,353	-	20,353	13,469
Charitable activities		207,254	-	207,254	198,434
Total	4	<u>227,607</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>227,607</u>	<u>211,903</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		26,421	-	26,421	88,847
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>26,421</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,421</u>	<u>88,847</u>
Fund balances brought forward at 1 JANUARY 2021		269,641	-	269,641	180,794
Fund balances carried forward at 31 DECEMBER 2021	10	<u>296,061</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>296,061</u>	<u>269,641</u>

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

WAY Widowed and Young**BALANCE SHEET****AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

		2021		2020	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Debtors and prepayments	8	6,000		9,169	
Cash at bank and in hand		296,146		276,627	
		302,146		285,795	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(6,085)		(16,154)	
Net current assets			296,061		269,641
Net assets			296,061		269,641
Funds					
Unrestricted Funds			296,061		269,641
Restricted funds			-		-
Total charity funds	10		296,061		269,641

These financial statements were approved and signed by the trustees and authorised for issue on

Joanna Sedley-Burke
Chair

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's accounts.

- (i) The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the notes to these accounts.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

- (ii) Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

- (iii) Incoming resources

Income is accounted for on an accruals basis. Grants are recognised as an incoming resource when the conditions for the receipt have been met and are accounted for in accordance with the headings they have been allocated to on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

- (iv) Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure, it is probable settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Donations and Grants	58,718	-	58,718	126,035
Gift Aid	31,679	-	31,679	27,447
Membership Subscriptions	113,450	-	113,450	97,825
Fundraising	47,007	-	47,007	41,841
Coronavirus Pandemic Support	-	-	-	5,000
Other	1,670	-	1,670	1,165
	252,524	-	252,524	299,313

In 2020 £40,752 donations and grants were restricted.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

3. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Income from activities				
Merchandise	1,503	-	1,503	1,437
	1,503	-	1,503	1,437

In 2021 and 2020 all income from activities was unrestricted.

4. Analysis of total resources expended

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Cost of generating funds				
Media & PR	20,353	-	20,353	13,469
	-	-		
	-	-		
	20,353	-	20,353	13,469
Charitable Activities				
Staff Costs	110,906	-	110,906	111,834
Member Services - WAY Forward, Enews, Helpline etc	31,349	-	31,349	26,349
Big Picnic	-	-		151
Website & IT Expenditure	36,572	-	36,572	25,343
Merchandise	699	-	699	1,801
Administration	17,406	-	17,406	16,769
Bank charges & other fees	6,218	-	6,218	4,351
Insurance	1,096	-	1,096	997
Independent Examination	720	-	720	1,000
Committee Expenses	-	-		86
Members Events	1,443	-	1,443	198
Project Swan	845	-	845	9,950
	207,254	-	207,254	198,434
	227,607	-	227,607	211,903

In 2020 expenditure of £40,752 was restricted.

5. Governance

	2021 £	2020 £
Accountancy and professional fees	720	1,000
	720	1,000

6. Trustees' remuneration

Except below, the trustees received £nil (2020: £nil) worth of emoluments during the period.

Expenses amounting to £0 (2020: £86) were reimbursed in 2021

WAY Widowed and Young

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

7. Staff costs

	2021
	£
Wages and Salaries	90,698
Employer National Insurance	5,526
Employer Pension Contributions (Defined Contribution Scheme)	5,934
Temporary Staff	-
Other Payroll costs	8,748
TOTAL	<u>110,906</u>

By the end of 2021 there were three permanent members of staff (2020: 3).

8. Debtors

	2021
	£
Gift Aid	6,000
Other	-
	<u>6,000</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021
	£
Accruals and deferred income	6,085
Other creditors	-
	<u>6,085</u>

2020

£

98,972

6,655

3,655

1,359

1,193

111,834

2020

£

9,169

-

9,169

2020

£

16,154

-

16,154

WAY Widowed and Young
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

10 Statement of Funds

	Balance b/fwd £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/fwd £
Unrestricted funds - general	143,539	252,304	(220,232)	-	175,611
Designated - Memorial Fund	1,852	1,723	(3,575)		-
Designated - Project Swan	3,775		(3,775)		-
Designated - Gift Membership	475		(25)		450
Designated - Operating Fund	120,000				120,000
Total unrestricted funds	<u>269,641</u>	<u>254,027</u>	<u>(227,607)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>296,061</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
	-	-	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>269,641</u>	<u>254,027</u>	<u>(227,607)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>296,061</u>

The designated Gift Membership represents funds received to cover membership costs for the recipient of the voucher

The designated Operating Fund represents 50% of our projected operating costs in 2021, in line with our reserves policy

Made up of:

	2021			2020		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Current assets						
Stock	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors and prepayments	-	6,000	6,000	-	9,169	9,169
Cash at bank and in hand	-	296,146	296,146	-	276,627	276,627
	-	302,146	302,146	-	285,795	285,795
Creditors						
	-	(6,085)	(6,085)	(52)	(16,102)	(16,154)
	-	296,061	296,061	(52)	269,693	269,641

WAY Widowed and Young
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WAY WIDOWED AND YOUNG
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

I report on the accounts of WAY Widowed and Young (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

This report is made solely to the trustees of the charity, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees of the charity those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees of the charity as a body for my examination, for this report or the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements concerning the format and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination),
- have not been met; or

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

Catherine Milbanke

Catherine Milbanke BSc BFP FCA
3S Accountancy Services, Chartered Accountants
5-8 Priestgate
Darlington
DL1 1NL

Date: 7th June 2022

WAY WIDOWED AND YOUNG

England & Wales - Charity number 1164988

Accounts

Charity Registration Number 1164988



**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

3S Accountancy Services
Chartered Accountants

WAY Widowed and Young

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)	5
Balance sheet	6
Notes to the financial statements	7

WAY Widowed and Young

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Trustees	Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:	
	Graham Briscoe Jacqueline Ann Dewdney Louise Jane Dodds Mike Etherington William Thomas James Christopher Paul Lima Stuart Alan Scarbrough Joanna Sedley-Burke Katherine Denise Siegler	
Secretary	Current Vacancy	
Key management personnel	Rebecca Jane Cooper	Chief Executive
Registered office	Suite 14 The College Business Centre Uttoxeter New Road Derby DE22 3WZ	
Trading address	N/A	
Accountants	3S Accountancy Services Chartered Accountants 5-8 Priestgate Darlington DL1 1NL	
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill, West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	
Charity number	1164988	

**WAY Widowed and Young
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

The trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014. Legal and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

WAY was established in 1997 and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with an association Governing Document (the constitution). This was registered on 29 December 2015 and amended on 4th March 2017.

The trustees meet at least five times a year, trustees serving during the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 are listed on page 1.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration for duties carried out as a trustee. However, trustees claimed out of pocket expenses while undertaking volunteer duties during the year and reimbursement of any expenditure incurred purchasing goods and services required by the charity. The trustees may also be members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

At every Annual General Meeting, one third of the Trustees shall retire from office (The longest serving must resign first) but they are permitted to be re-elected or re-appointed by the members. At any one time, the constitution stipulates there should be a minimum of five Trustees. Members are also able to appoint two Trustees that are not WAY members.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Charity are:

- i. To advance the education of the public to raise the awareness of the needs of people who are widowed and young.
- ii. To relieve persons in need, following bereavement by offering a peer-to-peer support network for anyone aged 50 or under, at time of bereavement, who is overcoming the loss of a partner, married or not, with or without children, whatever their sexual orientation.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

WAY is the only national charity in the UK for people aged 50 or under when their partner died. It's a peer-to-peer support group operating with a network of volunteers who have been bereaved at a young age themselves, so they understand exactly what other members are going through.

WAY was founded in 1997 and has almost 3,700 members across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland at the end of 2020. The charity aims to provide peer-to-peer support to young widowed people – married or not, with or without children, whatever their sexual orientation – as they adjust to life after the death of their partner.

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of a novel coronavirus as a pandemic which continued to spread throughout the UK and many parts of the World. In response to the pandemic, we implemented new procedures to protect the health and safety of our staff, volunteers and members including working from home and cancelling face-to-face events. We met increased demand for our services and were able to offer innovative ways to support both members and volunteers.

We also reviewed budgets and forecasts to take account of the expected financial impact of the pandemic. This initially forecast a significant deficit for the year due to a loss of fundraising income, however this is mitigated in full by new grants secured and a successful fundraising campaign. We expect that demand for WAY services will continue to be high throughout the pandemic. Whilst it is difficult to summarise everything that WAY has been involved in over the last 12 months, we have included key achievements below.

Membership – the year closed with 3692 members, which included 1500 new members. We have seen an increase in member retention rates, with 69% choosing to renew their membership this year. We are pleased that the time we have taken to listen to our members and respond to their needs is really helping to create a service that members truly value.

Volunteers - WAY ended the year with 131 volunteers across the UK, up 45% on the previous year. WAY is incredibly fortunate to have so many members who are so passionate about the charity. The appointment of a volunteer manager in 2019 has meant that volunteers have been offered the chance to network, access training and support and there has also been the development of new roles such as Ambassadors and online volunteers.

Events- Although our members were unable to host face to face meetups, through our members only website, our volunteers and members are able to organise their own virtual meet ups – from chats to bingo. Between them, our volunteers and members organised 446 events hosted online in 2020.

Website – We refreshed our public website in March as part of our ongoing work with The Website Working Group (WWG). Short term improvements were also implemented to the members area, with an understanding that wider investment is required to develop the members area to continue to meet member needs. The WWG continue to meet monthly to set out future developments.

Social Media - We continued to make great strides on all our social media platforms, having a combined following which exceeds 20k. All of our social media platforms showed a strong performance in 2020, helping us to reach out to new audiences. 15% of new members told us they found WAY through social media.

Media Coverage –WAY was featured in 82 media opportunities throughout the year including TV, Press and Radio. Whilst slightly lower than the previous year, the number of members and volunteers taking part increased, with 90 people helping to raise awareness of WAY.

Awareness-raising - WAY continued to work alongside other bereavement charities and networks to achieve our shared goals. Although unable to attend in person, our staff spoke about WAY to Irwin Mitchell, St Giles, and continued to meet with Hospices including attending the Derbyshire Bereavement Hub online. WAY also continues working alongside other bereavement charities as part of the National Bereavement Alliance and to promote National Grief Awareness week. We are also a member of the all-party parliamentary group for bereavement support.

Fundraising- Despite 2020 being such a challenging year for fundraising with so many organised events having to be cancelled, WAY members continued to find innovative ways to raise money for the charity. The year saw a variety of individual virtual fundraisers and a growth in Facebook Birthday Fundraisers. WAY ran a successful 'Give WAY to Summer' fundraising campaign which involved 36 members taking part.

Strategic plan - Throughout the year we have continued to work on the new WAY five-year strategic plan, which has been developed with thanks to volunteers through the Cranfield Trust. The plan will be unveiled to members in 2021.

WAY AGM 2020

Every year since WAY was launched in 1997, the charity has held an Annual General Meeting (AGM). The annual gathering incorporating the AGM is the biggest WAY event of the year and has become a fixed and key point in the charity's social calendar. This year, sadly, in light of coronavirus and government guidance at the time we had to cancel the planned AGM in Glasgow. We had hoped to be able to hold a scaled-down 2020 AGM later in the year, however, as government guidance on large social gatherings remained subject to change, we decided that regrettably an AGM would not be possible for the year. Members were kept informed and the Charity kept a record of decisions made inline with guidance from the Charity Commission.

Income

Income for the current year came from three main sources:

- Membership Fees
- Fundraising
- Donations and Grants

The continuing growth of our membership has been such that we now have almost 3,700 members for the first time. Income from new memberships and renewals has therefore grown to £97,800 (2019: £85,600).

Fundraising activities, despite facing challenges have remained incredibly successful. Community fundraising – money raised from members both through donations and local fundraising efforts – has not surprisingly seen a decrease £41,800 (2018: 48,700). However, this is much lower than anticipated in spring 2020 as all major fundraising events were cancelled. In parallel to that, efforts to secure funding from external sourced donations has been notably successful in 2020 with a total of £85,300 raised (2019: £66,200) WAY applied for and was successful in receiving £45,752 from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund, distributed by the National Lottery Community Fund.

We would like to take this opportunity to say an enormous thank you to everyone who has raised funds or made a donation to WAY over the past 12 months. Your support is hugely appreciated, especially at this time.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Reserves

Our policy is to retain in the region of 50% of the budgeted running costs for the next year. With over £275,000 in the bank at the end of the year our reserves remain well above this level.

The initiative to appoint a National Volunteer Manager came out of the desire to develop and improve what we do and having this current level of reserves enables us to look at and implement such changes. It remains a key challenge for the charity in the coming years is to identify how and where it can best utilise these funds in order to support our members and to further our aim of reaching more potential members. To that end the Board is exploring ways to enhance WAY's digital platform with potential investment in both our website and other social media.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks

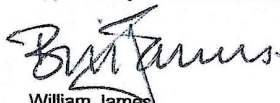
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- c) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) prepare the Financial Statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue operating.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the board on 24th April 2021 and signed on its behalf


William James
Chair

WAY Widowed and Young
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WAY WIDOWED AND YOUNG
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

I report on the accounts of WAY Widowed and Young (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

This report is made solely to the trustees of the charity, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees of the charity those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees of the charity as a body for my examination, for this report or the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements concerning the format and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination),
- have not been met; or

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

Catherine Milbanke BSc BFP FCA
3S Accountancy Services, Chartered Accountants
5-8 Priestgate
Darlington
DL1 1NL



Date: . . . 24/4/21

WAY Widowed and Young**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)****YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2020 £	2019 £
Incoming Resources					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	258,561	40,752	299,313	246,565
Other trading activities	3	1,437	-	1,437	1,737
Total		<u>259,998</u>	<u>40,752</u>	<u>300,750</u>	<u>248,302</u>
Resources Expended					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		13,469	-	13,469	16,786
Charitable activities		157,682	40,752	198,434	169,316
Total	4	<u>171,151</u>	<u>40,752</u>	<u>211,903</u>	<u>186,102</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		88,847	0	88,847	62,200
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>88,847</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>88,847</u>	<u>62,200</u>
Fund balances brought forward at 1 JANUARY 2020		180,794	-	180,794	118,594
Fund balances carried forward at 31 DECEMBER 2020	10	<u>269,641</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>269,641</u>	<u>180,794</u>

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

WAY Widowed and Young

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Debtors and prepayments	8	9,169		17,884	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>276,627</u>		<u>194,997</u>	
		285,795		212,881	
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(16,154)</u>		<u>(32,087)</u>	
Net current assets			269,641		180,794
Net assets			<u>269,641</u>		<u>180,794</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted Funds			269,641		180,794
Restricted funds			0		-
Total charity funds	10		<u>269,641</u>		<u>180,794</u>

These financial statements were approved and signed by the trustees and authorised for issue on 24th April 2021



W James
Chair

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's accounts.

- (i) The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the notes to these accounts.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

(ii) Fund accounting

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

(iii) Incoming resources

Income is accounted for on an accruals basis. Grants are recognised as an incoming resource when the conditions for the receipt have been met and are accounted for in accordance with the headings they have been allocated to on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

(iv) Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure, it is probable settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£
Donations and Grants	85,283	40,752	126,035	66,187
Gift Aid	27,447		27,447	45,675
Membership Subscriptions	97,825		97,825	85,650
Fundraising	41,841		41,841	48,741
Coronavirus Pandemic Support	5,000		5,000	
Other	1,165	-	1,165	312
	<u>258,561</u>	<u>40,752</u>	<u>299,313</u>	<u>246,565</u>

In 2019 all income from activities was unrestricted.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

3. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2020 £	2019 £
Income from activities				
Merchandise	1,437	-	1,437	1,737
	-	-	-	-
	1,437	-	1,437	1,737

In 2020 and 2019 all income from activities was unrestricted.

4. Analysis of total resources expended

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2020 £	2019 £
Cost of generating funds				
Media & PR	13,469	-	13,469	16,786
	-	-	-	-
	13,469	-	13,469	16,786
Charitable Activities				
Staff Costs	85,272	26,562	111,834	90,066
Member Services - WAY Forward, Enews, Helpline etc	26,349		26,349	25,448
Big Picnic	151		151	2,395
Website & IT Expenditure	19,607	5,736	25,343	21,234
Merchandise	1,801		1,801	4,102
Administration	8,316	8,454	16,769	17,140
Bank charges & other fees	4,351		4,351	4,516
Insurance	997		997	912
Independent Examination	1,000		1,000	690
Committee Expenses	86		86	846
Members Events	(198)	(198)	1,967
Project Swan	9,950		9,950	
	-			
	157,682	40,752	198,434	169,316
	171,151	40,752	211,903	186,102

In 2020 and 2019 all expenditure was unrestricted.

5. Governance

	2020 £	2019 £
Accountancy and professional fees	1,000	690
	1,000	690

6. Trustees' remuneration

Except below, the trustees received £nil (2019: £nil) worth of emoluments during the period.

Expenses amounting to £86 (2019: £936) were reimbursed to 2 trustees (3 in 2019)

WAY Widowed and Young

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

7. Staff costs

	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	98,972	77,355
Employer National Insurance	6,655	4,037
Employer Pension Contributions (Defined Contribution Scheme)	3,655	1,703
Temporary Staff	1,359	6,264
Other Payroll costs	1,193	707
TOTAL	<u>111,834</u>	<u>90,066</u>

By the end of 2020 there were three permanent members of staff

8. Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Gift Aid	9,169	17,884
Other	-	-
	<u>9,169</u>	<u>17,884</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	16,154	32,087
Other creditors	-	-
	<u>16,154</u>	<u>32,087</u>

WAY Widowed and Young
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

10 Statement of Funds

	Balance b/fwd £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/fwd £
Unrestricted funds - general	49,006	259,573	(164,976)	(64)	143,539
Designated - Memorial Fund	1,788			64	1,852
Designated - Project Swan	9,950		(6,175)		3,775
Designated - Gift Membership	50	425			475
Designated - Operating Fund	120,000				120,000
Total unrestricted funds	180,794	259,998	(171,151)	-	269,641
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Project Solidarity	-	40,752	(40,752)	-	-
Total restricted funds	-	40,752	(40,752)	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	180,794	300,750	(211,903)	-	269,641

The designated Memorial Fund represents funds set aside to support those members who cannot afford to attend Way events or pay for their membership

The designated Gift Membership represents funds received to cover membership costs for the recipient of the voucher

The designated Operating Fund represents 50% of our projected operating costs in 2020, in line with our reserves policy

The restricted funds represent a grant from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund, distributed by the National Lottery Community Fund

Made up of:

	2020			2019		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Current assets						
Stock	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors and prepayments	-	9,169	9,169	-	17,884	17,884
Cash at bank and in hand	-	276,627	276,627	-	194,997	194,997
	-	285,795	285,795	-	212,881	212,881
Creditors	(52)	(16,102)	(16,154)	-	(32,087)	(32,087)
	(52)	269,693	269,641	-	180,794	180,794