

**PARENTING ACROSS SCOTLAND**  
(a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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**Annual Report and Accounts**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2021**

**Registered Charity – SC047892**



# PARENTING ACROSS SCOTLAND

## Annual Report and Accounts For the year ended 31 March 2021

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# **PARENTING ACROSS SCOTLAND**

## **Charity Information**

### **Charity number**

SC047892

### **Trustees**

Ross McCulloch  
Lesley Kelly  
John McAteer

### **PAS members group**

Children in Scotland  
Aberlour  
Contact  
One Parent Families Scotland  
Families Outside  
Relationships Scotland  
Scottish Adoption  
Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs

### **Principal office**

18 York Place  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3EP

### **Independent Examiner**

Elaine Alsop ACA DChA  
EA Independent Ltd  
1 Rosebery Place  
Dunbar  
East Lothian  
EH42 1AQ

## **PARENTING ACROSS SCOTLAND**

### **Trustees' Annual Report**

The trustees present their report and receipts and payments accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021

#### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is known as Parenting Across Scotland (PAS) and is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), registered as a charity since 2 November 2017. It is governed by the rules of its constitution.

Membership is open to any organisation whose aims are compatible with those of Parenting Across Scotland, subject to application and conditions set out in the constitution and governance documents.

The management of PAS is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected by the members under the terms of the constitution. New Trustees receive appropriate induction and training and are sought for their skills and representation. At each AGM, every trustee retires but then is eligible for re-election.

PAS is funded through the Scottish Government Children, Young People & Families Early Intervention Fund (CYPFEIF) to employ two members of staff to deliver the services of the charity and manage its administration.

Until 31 March 2021, PAS was hosted by Children in Scotland with respect to facilities and finance administration. From 1 April 2021, PAS will carry out its own administration.

#### **Objectives and activities**

PAS is the national strategic intermediary and network for parenting and family support in Scotland. Its members are national organisations who provide a variety of perspectives on family issues and concerns.

Beyond its members, PAS works with a wide range of stakeholders from the voluntary, community and third sectors, the public sector, Scottish Government, NHS, and academia.

PAS exists to provide the following charitable objectives:

- To advance the prevention and relief of poverty of families through being an effective public voice for parents and families in influencing public policy
- The relief of those in need by reason of ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage through being an effective public voice for parents and families in influencing public policy
- The advancement of education through the provision of an online database which contains practices, research and policy for parents and practitioners in Scotland.

# **PARENTING ACROSS SCOTLAND**

## **Trustees' Annual Report**

### **Achievements and performance**

This report covers the period when Covid-19 was recognised by WHO as a pandemic and lockdowns and restrictions were brought in in the UK. Like every organisation, Parenting across Scotland has been massively impacted by Covid-19 in the last year, both in how it works and in its activities.

By late February 2020, it had become clear that the UK (in common with the rest of the world) would be severely affected by Covid-19. In March 2020, PAS acted quickly to ensure the continuity of its activities and the safety of its staff, ensuring that it could continue to be effective and pursue its charitable and strategic objectives effectively in the new context of Covid-19. As a micro charity long-term staff sickness and consequent reduced capacity, had a substantial impact on our work, nonetheless we have adapted quickly and effectively and continued to work towards our charitable objectives and strategic outcomes.

### **Activities**

From March 2020 on, Covid-19 had a major impact on families' lives throughout Scotland. Parents and carers had to work from home while looking after children at the same time. Many lost jobs or were furloughed or lost income; the financial impact was severe for many. The PAS partners worked quickly to adjust their existing services to the new reality and continued to provide help to tens of thousands of families throughout Scotland in a time of crisis.

PAS was able to take what partners were learning to Scottish Government to inform them about what was happening to families and what they needed. As always, the work of our partners was crucial to informing our work and ensuring that it met the needs of families.

### **Website and digital messaging**

Our website brings together a wide range of resources for parents and carers. This year it has been more important than ever in ensuring that parents and carers have the information they need at such a critical and difficult time.

At the beginning of the first lockdown, we worked quickly to produce new pages around Covid-19 and the new regulations specifically for parents and carers. These information pages covered:

- up-to-date information about Covid-19, symptoms and how to get help
- links to local information for every local authority
- working from home, money and rights with links to sources of help
- advice and information on looking after and educating children while working from home
- mental health and wellbeing
- parents' stories

These pages were regularly updated and were widely shared by schools, nurseries and other key agencies used by parents and carers and had a good take up by parents and carers. In a rapidly changing environment, it was critical that parents and carers received accurate information in a timely fashion. We worked closely with the Scottish Government, ParentClub and the NHS to ensure that key messaging got out to parents and carers through our social media and through our partners' organisations.

## **PARENTING ACROSS SCOTLAND**

### **Trustees' Annual Report**

#### **Achievements and performance continued**

##### **Using the strength of the partnership**

Our partners pivoted their work swiftly to address the crisis families were facing. They continued to work with the families that they were supporting as well as supporting new families who needed help because of the pandemic. Many existing family support services moved to digital platforms, and the demand for partners' helpline services increased exponentially. During the lockdowns as everyone had to stay at home, and parents and carers were having to educate their children at home, the need for digital connection became urgent, and our partner organisations were at the forefront of getting digital devices and data packages out to those families who did not have access. Financial hardship hit many families and our partners were able to help with finance, meal deliveries and other services. For example, the demand for Aberlour's Urgent Assistance Fund increased by 1,400%, and One Parent Families Scotland provided families with support for utility bills.

Parenting across Scotland worked with its partner organisations to ensure that information about what families were experiencing and what families needed was passed to Scottish Government to inform their response to the pandemic. PAS produced a number of rapid briefings for Scottish Government which provided them with up-to-date information about how families were receiving and understanding Government messaging, home schooling, financial hardship, digital exclusion, childcare and various situations which families were experiencing. As a result, some Scottish Government messaging and guidance was altered to better address the needs of families.

##### **Children, Young People and Families Advisory Group**

The PAS Manager acted as chair of the Children, Young People and Families Advisory Group, which was convened by third sector organisations to advise Scottish Government of the needs of children, young people and families. She regularly attended and presented at meetings of the Scottish Government's Children and Families Collective Leadership Group ensuring that it was kept up to date with vital information from the third sector.

##### **Supermarket campaign**

Early during the first lockdown, we received reports of parents and carers facing difficulties going to shops with their children, facing criticism from staff or even staff not allowing them to enter the shop. Although people were being encouraged to go shopping alone where possible, there were many situations where parents and carers were unable to do so (for example, if they were single parents, where the other parent was working, or where there were issues of safety for whatever reason with leaving children at home).

We worked with PAS partners, in particular, One Parent Families Scotland, as well as other organisations, including Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People and Children 1st to highlight this issue. A letter to all the supermarkets was sent from all the organisations about this and achieved wide national and local media coverage. We received replies from all the major supermarkets with several of them changing their guidelines to staff and customers as a result, thus allowing parents and carers to shop safely with their children where necessary.

## **PARENTING ACROSS SCOTLAND**

### **Trustees' Annual Report**

#### **Achievements and performance continued**

##### **Open Kindergartens**

Open Kindergartens are a model which offer support to parents and carers in the early years of their child's life. We were piloting this along with Children in Scotland, City of Edinburgh Council, Midlothian Sure Start and the University of Stirling in 2019/20. The project funding had been extended for three months, but unfortunately because of Covid-19 and the associated restrictions we had to close both pilots in late February 2020. However, we produced an evaluation, made a short film about the project and presented at the Infant Mental Health Conference to disseminate some of the learning from the pilots.

##### **Policy work – Equal Protection, UNCRC**

We continued to sit on the Scottish Government's Equal Protection Implementation Group considering how the new Act giving children the same protection from assault as adults should be implemented.

We have continued to work towards the incorporation of the UNCRC into Scots Law.

The UNCRC is supportive of families as the natural environment for children to grow up in and states that state parties should afford families the necessary support to do so.

Convinced that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community (UNCRC preamble).

We believe implementation of the UNCR is crucial to families receiving the all-round support of secure income, childcare, fair work, decent housing and family support that they need for their children to thrive.

We submitted a consultation response to the UNCRC Incorporation Bill and are working with Scottish Government and a range of third sector organisations to ensure that parents and carers are aware of the Convention and able to advocate for their children to access their rights.

##### **End Child Poverty Campaign**

Currently one in four children are growing up below the breadline and these figures are likely to rise. We are members of the End Child Poverty Coalition, working with these organisations towards the goal of ending child poverty. One of the notable successes this year has been the introduction of the Scottish Child Payment which will provide many parents and carers with a family income supplement. Given the dire straits into which families have been pushed by the Covid-19 crisis, along with ECP we are now campaigning for this supplement to be doubled.

## **PARENTING ACROSS SCOTLAND**

### **Trustees' Annual Report**

#### **Achievements and performance continued**

##### **Sustainability**

A substantial proportion of our work this year has been internally focussed on governance and sustainability. We have moved from being hosted by Children in Scotland to being a more autonomous organisation. This has involved developing an employment handbook, new payroll arrangements, revising governance structures and recruiting new trustees. We hope that this will stand us in good stead for the future as we move towards increasing and diversifying our income.

##### **Financial Review**

PAS core income from Scottish Government has remained stable over this year as a grant from the Cora Foundation's Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Fund. Additionally, it has attracted some additional funding from a research grant from the Chief Scientist Office in partnership. This year we used funding from the previous year's surplus and from reserves to supplement our income.

In the year to 31 March 2021 the charity had receipts of £112,001 (2020: £101,952) and payments of £105,634 (2019: £107,931), giving net receipts of £6,367 (2020: net payments £5,979). Total funds under management at 31 March 2021 were £56,274 (2020: £49,907), of which a total of £53,274 was held as unrestricted funds.

##### **Reserves**

PAS holds reserves, in the form of unrestricted funds to allow the charity to continue to operate for a period of time and meet potential liabilities, such as staff redundancies in the event of a withdrawal of funding. It is estimated that three months running costs, together with staff redundancies would be in the region of £55,000 to £60,000. As at 31 March 2021, unrestricted reserves were £53,274. The trustees consider this is sufficient to comply with the reserves policy given the early stages of the charity, and that reserves are at a healthy level.

##### **Trustee remuneration and expenses**

The trustees did not receive any remuneration during the period or travel expenses from PAS during the year to 31 March 2021.

##### **Major risks facing the charity**

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. The principal risks facing the charity are withdrawal of the major funding streams or long-term illness of key staff members. All reserves are regularly monitored by the Trustees to ensure that sufficient funds are held to cover likely eventualities.



## **PARENTING ACROSS SCOTLAND**

### **Trustees' Annual Report**

#### **Major risks facing the charity continued**

The Covid-19 pandemic along with the associated lockdowns and other restrictions introduced by the UK and Scottish governments impacted significantly on PAS' activities. In mid-March 2020, PAS moved out of the office and onto home working, working with existing technology and implementing new systems and ways of working to enable staff to work from home. We were able to pivot our work to digital platforms.

Over this time, we did not have access to our offices. Children in Scotland's lease was due to come to an end in mid-2020. We were invited to join their working group on working arrangements and to join them in their plans. However, we were also offered new office accommodation by Relationships Scotland in early 2021 and decided to take up this offer; the new lease began in June 2021.

We have adhered to Scottish Government and NHS advice throughout this time and continue to do so.

#### **Plans for future periods**

The charity is continuing its work in all areas as described under the Achievements and Performance section. Funding from CYPFEIF is in place to end March 2022. Other funding will be sourced as appropriate for specific projects.

#### **Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf**



**Lesley Kelly**  
**17 August 2021**

## **PARENTING ACROSS SCOTLAND**

### **Independent Examiner's Report**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 9 and 10 and the related notes on pages 11 to 13.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006(as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The charity's Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. 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 seeks explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has 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 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulationshave 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.



**Elaine Alsop ACA DChA**  
**1 Rosebery Place**  
**Dunbar**  
**East Lothian**  
**17 August 2021**

## PARENTING ACROSS SCOTLAND

### Receipts and Payments Account For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
<b>Receipts from</b>					
Grants and donations	2	-	112,001	<b>112,001</b>	100,875
Charitable activities	3	-	-	-	1,077
		<u>-</u>	<u>112,001</u>	<u>112,001</u>	<u>101,952</u>
<b>Payments on</b>					
Charitable activities	4	600	105,034	<b>105,634</b>	107,931
Total payments		<u>600</u>	<u>105,034</u>	<u>105,634</u>	<u>107,931</u>
<b>Net receipts/(payments) before transfers</b>		(600)	6,967	<b>6,367</b>	(5,979)
<b>Transfers</b>		<u>(31)</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net receipts</b>		<u>(631)</u>	<u>6,998</u>	<u>6,367</u>	<u>(5,979)</u>

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form part of these accounts

## PARENTING ACROSS SCOTLAND

### Statement of Balances As at 31 March 2021

Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Opening fund balances	53,905	(3,998)	<b>49,907</b>	55,886
Net (payments)/receipts for the year	(631)	6,998	<b>6,367</b>	(5,979)
Closing fund balances at 31 March	<u>53,274</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>56,274</u>	<u>49,907</u>
Cash and bank balances at 31 March	<u>53,274</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>56,274</u>	<u>49,907</u>
<b>Fixed assets (for information only)</b>			£	£
Computer equipment (cost)			<u>1,828</u>	<u>1,828</u>
Computer equipment (NBV)			<u>457</u>	<u>914</u>
<b>Creditors (for information only)</b>			£	£
Independent examination fee			<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 17 August 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Lesley Kelly

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form part of these accounts

## PARENTING ACROSS SCOTLAND

### Notes to the Accounts For the year ended 31 March 2021

#### 1. Accounting policies

##### *Basis of accounting*

The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

##### *VAT*

The charity is not registered for VAT and, accordingly, expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

##### *Resources expended*

Expenditure incurred has been classified on a basis appropriate to the charity's circumstances. All expenditure relates to the charitable activities.

Governance costs are separately identified in the relevant note to the accounts.

#### 2. Grants and donations

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
CYPFEIF	-	100,000	100,000	100,000
Stirling University Research	-	8,000	8,000	-
Open Kindergarten	-	4,001	4,001	-
NIHR Mellow Babies Project	-	-	-	875
	<u>-</u>	<u>112,001</u>	<u>112,001</u>	<u>100,875</u>

#### 3. Receipts from charitable activities

	£	£	£	£
<i>Consultancy:</i>				
Other consultancy and similar fees	-	-	-	1,077
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,077</u>

## PARENTING ACROSS SCOTLAND

### Notes to the Accounts For the year ended 31 March 2021

#### 4. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Staff costs	-	84,847	<b>84,847</b>	84,823
Staff travel & training	-	311	<b>311</b>	1,277
Consultant costs	-	4,175	<b>4,175</b>	2,990
Facilities & administration*	-	11,852	<b>11,852</b>	11,852
Conference & meeting expenses	-	-	-	3,320
Website development & IT	-	3,637	<b>3,637</b>	2,340
Design & artwork	-	-	-	305
Postage, print & stationery	-	-	-	137
Subscriptions & publications	-	212	<b>212</b>	287
	-	105,034	<b>105,034</b>	107,331
<b>Governance costs</b>				
Independent examination 2020	600	-	<b>600</b>	600
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>105,034</b>	<b>105,634</b>	<b>107,931</b>

The March 2020 independent examination fee is included in the statement of balances.

\*Facilities and administration represent the hosting fee charged by Children in Scotland

#### 5. Staff costs

	£	£	£	£
Gross Salaries	-	71,502	<b>71,502</b>	71,503
Employer's National Insurance	-	7,443	<b>7,443</b>	7,486
Pension	-	5,902	<b>5,902</b>	5,834
	-	84,847	<b>84,847</b>	84,823

#### 6. Related party transactions

No payments were made to trustees for remuneration or travelling expenses.

## PARENTING ACROSS SCOTLAND

### Notes to the Accounts For the year ended 31 March 2021

#### 7. Funds

	Balance at 31 March 2020 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	53,905	-	(600)	(31)	<b>53,274</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
CYPFEIF	-	100,000	(100,034)	34	-
Open Kindergarten	(3,998)	4,001	-	(3)	-
Stirling University Research	-	8,000	(5,000)	-	<b>3,000</b>
	-	112,001	(105,034)	31	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>49,907</b>	<b>112,001</b>	<b>(105,634)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>56,274</b>

#### **Restricted funds:**

**CYPFEIF:** Infrastructure funding from the Children, Young People & Families Early Intervention Fund and Adult Learning & Empowering Communities Fund in order to achieve the following key outcomes:

- (1) Legislation, policy and practice better meets the needs of families in Scotland
- (2) Practitioners working with families are better informed and skilled to deliver support to families
- (3) Parents are better equipped with the information to ensure their children have the best start in life and are read to succeed.

**Open Kindergarten:** Funding for a feasibility study to assess the Open Kindergarten Model in relation to the Scottish context. This project was completed in the year.

**Stirling University Research:** Funds received for a research project to represent payment for contribution to the project of staff time.

**Transfers between funds:** A transfer of funds has been made from unrestricted funds to meet the shortfall in CYPFEIF funding during the 12-month period against the actual expenditure of the project.