

Being there for children.

Annual Report 2014/15

actionforchildren.org.uk



Action for Children works in local communities across the UK to make children's lives better: now, tomorrow and every day.

Working with 180 local authorities (85%), we deliver 650 children's services across the UK.

- 440 taking action for families
- 96 taking action for children with disabilities
- 32 taking action for children in care
- 82 taking action for youth

In the past year we directly helped more than 300,000 children, young people and families across the UK.

£173m

Total income

5,000

Total staff

2,000

Total volunteers

650

Total services

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Childhood needs early action.

Chair's Statement

This past year, my third as the Chair of Action for Children, has been exciting as it marked the start of a five year journey for the charity. The new strategy, developed with teams across the charity, embraces our core ethos of being in the service of children. This spirit has characterised the charity since 1869. It takes stock of our determination to listen, to adapt, and most of all to act early so that every child has the love, support and opportunity they need to reach their potential.

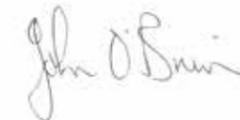
Early action is at the heart of our strategy. For the past 25 years, we have pioneered earlier support and interventions that are locally-led, joined-up and sustainable - helping children and families in difficult situations before problems spiral out of control. Over the next five years, we want to reach out to far more children quickly and effectively. To do this, we must be fearless in our approach - whether campaigning for system change, or securing greater public support and funding.

As we set course to deliver a better childhood for more vulnerable children, I remain indebted to all our staff for their remarkable contribution over the past year. Services up and down the country have shown that determination to do more for children can meet the most complex and challenging needs, even at a time of great fiscal pressure.

Whilst staff dig deep to meet local needs, our local heroes are our volunteers and supporters, including the Methodist community who have given us unconditional support for more than 145 years. They give us the means to reach out each and every day to make a real difference.

Our annual Stephenson Awards, named after our founder and held at the House of Lords, pay tribute to remarkable individuals across the UK for their contribution. We had more nominations this year than any previous; we expect an even greater response in the next.

I am proud of our progress and remain confident that, thanks to the strength of our trustees' and management team, backed by staff, volunteers, supporters and a growing number of ambassadors - including our children - the charity is on course to keep ever more children safe, supported and with hope for the future.



John O'Brien
Chair

15 July 2015



“ We are one of the last countries in the western world to recognise all forms of child abuse as a crime. Years of campaigning by Action for Children have been rewarded, the government has listened and this change to the law gives us the potential to reach out to millions more. ”

Chief Executive's Statement

In my first year as Chief Executive, I have travelled the length and breadth of the country visiting our services - to talk, to listen, and to learn. What I uncovered pays tribute to our founder, Thomas Bowman Stephenson - we are, as we were 145 years ago, working tirelessly in the service of children who need us most.

I joined Action for Children firm in my belief that childhood should be wonderful. The concern remains that for too many, it's not.

Growing up in Britain today is challenging. Over 40% of parents are concerned about their child's emotional wellbeing as they face new pressures from social media, sexualisation of childhood and growing pressure to fit in and achieve. Many feel that their children are being pushed to grow up too quickly. Meanwhile, the situation for vulnerable children deteriorates as budgets are squeezed and vital services cut.

Today, one child in every ten grows up experiencing physical, sexual or emotional abuse. One child in every four lives in absolute poverty. I find it unacceptable that for some, childhood in this country is as challenged as it was when we first set out 145 years ago. My first year has not only brought this home, but also brought the resolute conviction that with current measures failing, this is our time to take more action - and earlier - for children. Over the years ahead, we will lead the way in this.

Political parties already endorse the need for earlier support and interventions to prevent many of the problems faced by children and families escalating. The longer term benefits of this approach are well evidenced, not least by early intervention services we have pioneered - better outcomes for children and their families; cost savings for local communities across healthcare, crime and anti-social behaviour. We must now make this approach the norm.

Our landmark victory to update the antiquated child neglect law, signals the start of our campaign to tackle the real issues facing children today - at the first signs of distress.

To get there sooner, we will deliver our 2014-2019 five-year strategy, raise the volume and fully engage our partners, and the public, in supporting our efforts to reach out to more children. And finally, with children at our heart - their voice not ours, helping us to shape their future - I know we will succeed.

Tony Hawkhead

Sir Tony Hawkhead
Chief Executive

15 July 2015



Childhood should be wonderful.

Action for Children works in local communities across the UK to make children's lives better: now, tomorrow and every day.

We take action at the earliest opportunity to help children as they grow up. We care about each child and every family. We support and protect the most vulnerable.

We never give up.

We believe.

Every child should feel supported.

Every child should feel safe.

Every child should feel secure.

Every child should have opportunities.

Every child should have a childhood.

Every child should have the chance of reaching their individual potential.



Our vision.

Every child has the love, support and opportunity they need to reach their potential.

Our mission.

To act early so children get the care and support they need, and to speak out fearlessly on their behalf.

Our charitable objectives.

The promotion of the upbringing and care of children and young people in need, from all backgrounds, cultures and faiths or none, in particular by:

- promoting their health
- promoting better care and safeguarding them
- promoting their education and establishment in life
- providing assistance to them, their families and carers

We are satisfied that the services we deliver meet our charitable objectives and the public benefit requirement as defined in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011.

Progress

against our 2014/17 strategic objectives.

1. Improving costs and efficiency.

- **Balancing budgets and driving forward effective change that puts full focus on delivering more evidence-based early action services.**

In the past year, working in a climate of welfare reform and political uncertainty in the run up to the general election, improving costs and efficiency has been necessary to mitigate the risk severe government budget cuts place on delivering vital services for vulnerable children and families.

In response to local authorities looking to new ways of working to reconcile severely reduced budgets, we have been streamlining our delivery. We have substantially reduced our costs and improved efficiency by implementing a number of structural changes – integrating teams, reducing overheads, balancing budget.

Doing more with less is the new reality unless we substantially increase income from diversified sources to counter steep decline in statutory funding. With demand for front-line services on the increase and further budget cuts ahead, our challenge over the next five years will be to continue to become more effective and efficient across all our activities.

This year, data from across more than 650 local services reveals that despite cuts, we continue to deliver a real and lasting difference for children and families across the UK:

- **We have continued to find new ways of making children safer.**
- **We have continued to deliver effective help as early as possible.**
- **We have succeeded in finding new ways of meeting children's needs.**

2. Investing to support income generation.

- **In response to declining statutory funding, we are investing in new ways of funding early action services that nip problems in the bud.**

We are currently working at a local and national level to develop early action funding products to generate greater support from the public and the business community.

Social investment is a key response. Evaluation of the first Social Impact Bond (SIB) for the children's sector to fund front-line youth intervention services in Essex, together with a further initiative in Manchester for children in care, is providing the platform to expand social investment delivery.

Fundraising also plays its part. In its second year, our Giant Wiggle event (in partnership with 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by world famous author, Eric Carle), continued to raise vital funds and engaged over 54,000 young families. Byte Night, now in its 18th year, is ranked within the top 20 UK mass participation events.

Over the course of our strategy leading up to our 150th anniversary, we will continue to invest in brand and digital to improve income generation and deliver our ambitious goals. To set the platform, our new user-centric, multi-device website was launched in May 2015.

3. Improving processes to deliver growth.

- **We want commissioners to come to us for our expertise and a unique approach that puts each child's potential at the heart of everything we do.**

Children will always be our most important stakeholders and at the heart of our drive to improve processes and deliver growth. They not only influence the design, delivery and monitoring of our services and campaigns, they hold us to account to make sure that we never become distant from the issues they face.

In the past year we have delivered a new digital platform across more than 650 services. This not only delivers greater efficiency, but helps us to meet the needs of the children and families we work with by using the sorts of technology they engage with in their daily lives.

Enabling our staff to take advantage of new technology both helps us connect quickly and to share best practice. We are also striving for excellence in other core business areas in order to integrate our systems, teams and practices.

We are the go-to charity for safeguarding advice and our already excellent safeguarding practice will continue to develop. It is this relentless determination to improve and strive forward that will help us to reach out to more vulnerable children in the years ahead.

4. Improving performance.

- **Demonstrating the difference we make in the lives of children and improving the impact of our services.**

In the past year we have developed our database to improve our ability to understand and evaluate with greater precision whether we are effective in meeting the range of children's needs referred to our services.

We have also worked hard to improve our inspection ratings where this helps us to deliver better outcomes for children. This includes support for our children's centre managers and actively working to ensure practice in our children's homes is focussed on making a real and lasting difference to the lives of children receiving short breaks or longer term provision. We also continue to develop better processes that give disabled children and their families the support they need.

Our annual impact report details the life changing impact of our work. It also helps us to showcase the benefits of delivering early action services that work. Early action defines the approach we have taken for more than 25 years across local communities: from targeted interventions at the earliest opportunity for children at risk, to early support to prevent problems from escalating. Both lay the foundations for children to grow up strong, resilient and with hope for their future.

To read the full 2015 impact report, please visit actionforchildren.org.uk/impact

Volunteers.

We have a task force of more than 2,000 volunteers across the UK working with staff across all our activities. Local volunteer programmes, such as Parents Champions, often service users themselves, add considerable value to our work at the front-line:

- **Peer advisers in their local communities, they connect with hard to reach parents and help them to understand the benefits of quality childcare and early learning.**
- **They encourage these parents to participate in our services.**
- **They help out at play sessions.**

In return, they gain new skills, gain confidence and in many cases, gain employment.

Volunteers also help the charity to trial new approaches – such as scrapstores that make the most of locally sourced materials that are typically wasted. Our pilot scrapstore in Devon is not only proving popular, it offers a unique way to deliver employment training to volunteers whilst ensuring resources are used sustainably.

96% of our volunteers responding to a survey said they would recommend volunteering with Action for Children.



2014/17 objectives.

Over the course of our business plan (2014/17) we will continue to deliver against set objectives:

- 1. Improving costs and efficiency.**
- 2. Investing to support income generation.**
- 3. Improving our processes to deliver growth.**
- 4. Improving performance.**

In addition, this year we launched a new strategy which will take us up to our 150th anniversary in 2019. Our strategy was developed with input from over 2,000 staff and included the senior leadership team travelling up and down the country to engage staff with our goal of improving performance and processes in order to take early action for childhood:

- 1. Campaigning for early action** – speaking out fearlessly with greater participation from our children, families, volunteers and supporters, to influence decision makers and help make children's lives better: now, tomorrow and every day.
- 2. Funding early action** – streamlining processes, developing our commercial expertise, and investing in digital and brand to generate greater participation and financial support for front-line early action support services.
- 3. Delivering early action** – promoting our expertise in safeguarding, early support and interventions to grow our portfolio across children's/family centres, intensive family support, youth support, children in care and disability services, to reach out to more children and struggling families across the UK.

We are at the start of our journey to give more vulnerable children a voice – and the chance of a real childhood that gives them all the support they need to be the very best they can be.



Our services across the UK:

Action for Children England

Meeting the Duchess: Kate visits Cape Hill Children's Centre and meets families taking part in our pilot programme, Family Partners.

In March this year, HRH The Duchess of Cambridge took the time to chat to many of the parents and children we help, including those taking part in Action for Children's Family Partners.

Like Molly, a single mum (26) with four children – a fifth child was born prematurely and sadly died the following day; the youngest child has cerebral palsy. Struggling to grieve, Molly's children were showing signs of neglect. At risk of losing her four young children to care, Action for Children stepped in with its unique Family Partners programme.

"I was sticking my head in the sand, I was really angry and argumentative with the schools and other workers, they saw me as difficult to deal with as I didn't want to hear what they had to say. As soon as they tried to talk to me I just put the barriers up.

Lorna, a Family Partner from Action for Children came to see me and I couldn't believe it, after over a year of hell, everything started to make sense. Lorna helped me to organise myself as the hospital appointments, school and nursery drop-offs were all over the city and I couldn't cope, it was overwhelming. Lorna sorted it out quickly. She came to meetings at the school with the health visitor and was amazing. She even came to the hospital with me on Christmas Eve, something I will never forget. She explained my situation with the professionals and we made a plan of how I could deal with everything.

If it wasn't for Action for Children, I wouldn't have my kids with me today. I wouldn't have seen them grow up; they wouldn't have had their mum."

Names have been changed to protect identities.

Taking action for disability: we want disabled children to have the support they need to be able to do what they want to do, when they want to do it.

Currently, we support more than 14,000 disabled children and young people across the UK, delivering a wide range of support services that act at the earliest opportunity. Significant transformation of disability service delivery is underway. This includes new plans combining education, health and care that are child-centred with the option for young people or families to have a personal budget.

Kite Ridge House in Buckinghamshire represents a new model of 'shared' residential care that enables disabled children to live part of the week at home. It supports young people aged 12-19 who have learning disabilities and a range of additional complex needs around communication, social interaction, challenging behaviour and mental health. The service is provided from a new, purpose-built home that provides a calm, bright, homely environment with a small school located alongside. Feedback has been positive:

"It gives us a break from 24/7 care – apart from when she's asleep, one of us has to be with her all the time."

"Life is much less stressed at home, we talk more as a family and spend time together like watching our eldest son play sport."

"When he's back at home there's much less aggression towards his family."





Action for Children Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, we deliver tailored programmes targeted to the needs of local communities. With a focus on early intervention as part of a 'whole family approach', we deliver quality services to families at all levels of need. As with England, Scotland and Wales, early years parenting programmes, like Incredible Years, are a key response. This is Karla's story:

"I am text book. Incredible Years does what it says. It gives techniques to deal with problems that arise during parenthood. Different things work at different times. It gave me confidence to practice and tailor what worked for my child. The group relationships grew and peer support in the community is every bit as important as one to one support. It builds a network of support both professional and personal. I didn't have anyone else with children around me before joining Action for Children.

Had I not done this programme, my mental health would have been a lot worse and my son would have been wild. I would have felt like I was failing, I might even have given up. As a parent I was losing my confidence. You know what it is like when your confidence goes. It would have been a lot worse for us both without this. It's a real fear, child protection, folk looking over my shoulder. I had negative experiences before.

Look at me now, I was away speaking to people running Incredible Years groups! I was able to tell them how to make changes to make the groups easier for the likes of ordinary parents like me to be in. He's my first child. I had no knowledge about being a parent. I want to do this job well."

Names and images have been changed to protect identities.

Across Northern Ireland, we are also acutely aware of the need to support older children and aim to expand our delivery in this area.

Young people need a stable home, education and training. They also need support to gain independent living skills. We work with them to identify and overcome barriers in their lives, to build self-confidence and self-esteem. By helping them to make more positive choices, they can plan their journey and get to where they want to be.

Sperrin and Lakeland floating support services for young people aged 16-25, who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness in the southern area of the Western Trust in Northern Ireland, is proving highly successful. In February 2015, we achieved for the second time a Grade A in Supporting People QAF (Quality Assessment Framework).

Young people are also at the heart of how we promote our work across the UK. A Young Ambassador from Northern Ireland represented Action for Children at the One World event in Dublin in the presence of Kofi Annan, Bob Geldof and Mary Robinson. Another Young Ambassador played a lead role in our film to introduce the new five-year strategy to staff in December 2014.

"Being an ambassador is a way of saying thank you to Action for Children for giving me a home when I didn't have one. It has also given me the opportunity help out at events and to help raise money. You should become an ambassador because it's fulfilling, rewarding and fun."





Action for Children Wales (Gweithredu dros Blant)

In Wales we deliver services to children and families across all 22 local authorities. These collaborative projects deliver a range of evidence-based programmes that support parenting skills and promote early intervention. There is a clear focus on social inclusion by tackling disadvantage, allowing children and parents to increase their wellbeing, emotional intelligence and skill development.

We also work extremely hard to help children and young people thrive when they cannot live with their parents.

This year, we had a significant victory with our **Chance to Stay (Cyfle I Aros)** campaign. Led by our young people leaving foster care, the National Assembly for Wales voted unanimously to change the law and allow children to remain in foster care up to the age of 21.

Some children in our care have experienced severe disruption, abuse or trauma. They have difficulties forming attachments to other people, and often display extremely challenging behaviour – which makes it difficult to give them the stable placements they desperately need if they are to recover.

Wales is at the forefront of a new approach to delivering stability of care with over 80% of the children in placements staying with our carers for over two years. This is significant, as 50% of these young people had more than three previous placement breakdowns before they came into our care. This success is as a result of the innovative attachment-based approach taken by Action for Children Fostering Cymru. The service has been designed around evidence of what works in practice, combined with therapeutic models that deliver not only attachment but much greater stability.

Children asked about what they liked about living in foster care list things other children take for granted:

- *Hugging. I love the hugs.*
- *I love the food its yum, yum, yummy in my tummy. I only had scraps with daddy.*
- *I like being told off because that means you love me and care about me.*
- *Feeling valued and having a good friendship with my foster carer.*
- *Happy and safe.*
- *Feeling wanted, treated like other household members and accepted.*

Whilst attachment-based fostering works for many, we have also introduced a new relationship-based approach for young people in need of residential care. Piloted in both Wales and Scotland, RON (Residential Outcomes Now) is an evidence-based programme that builds resilience to deliver productive and positive relationships that help children to grow up strong. A member of staff from a North Wales residential service commented:

"From now on we have an extra staff member on duty at all times and he is called RON."

From programmes like RON to Next Steps in Port Talbot, an innovative new pilot that helps parents to understand autism and meet their child's needs, our team in Wales have been instrumental in helping the charity to make the case for change by highlighting the positive impact of informed, evidence based services.

Names and images have been changed to protect identities.





**CELEBRATING
60 YEARS IN
SCOTLAND**
WWW.ACTIONFORCHILDREN.ORG.UK

Action for Children Scotland

This year, marks the 60th anniversary for Action for Children Scotland. And sixty years on, Scotland continues to build a formidable reputation for driving forward innovative evidence-based programmes that help children to grow up strong – often by keeping families together.

With full support from progressive authorities such as Renfrewshire, Action for Children Scotland has demonstrated the benefits to local communities from targeted ‘whole family’ interventions like FFT (Functional Family Therapy), that support young offenders, or young people at risk of offending or going into care:

Referred following a heated argument between Jane and her mother, FFT was the last chance for Jane who was frequently pushing boundaries, stealing, hitting out and being disruptive. The family completed 11 sessions: three Motivation sessions, six Behaviour Change sessions and two Generalisation sessions. Jane's case will now be closed as she is no longer self-harming, taking risks with drink and drugs, or staying out past curfew. She also returned to school in September and has increased her ability to manage ‘crisis’ situations and arguments.

This year, the success of our Big Lottery funded FFT pilot programme in Renfrewshire has resulted in the local authority fully funding the programme going forward.

In environments where money and opportunity are scarce, young people can easily be seduced into criminal activity. In a breakthrough development by Action for Children Scotland, peer mentor role models have been introduced to provide living proof that, given the right support, young people can turn their lives around.

“From the age of 13 I was delivering drugs and stealing to order. But that isn't what I wanted for my life. Action for Children Scotland helped me to change and I am pleased to be using my experience to help others to build a good life. I am well-placed to give these young people advice, they know that and they listen to me.”

Another key response in Scotland is to see beyond the behaviour and give young people the opportunities they desperately need to get ahead in life. This is Sean's story:

Sean was at risk of going to prison when he was referred onto the Action for Children Youthbuild programme. He started with lots of barriers: broken relationships, quiet, unable to mix with other young people. But with input from Action for Children staff, Sean really turned things around. Having enjoyed the programme, passing all certification with ease, Sean was given a work placement with a local scaffolding company. He did well which resulted in a full time job and he's now working towards his Part 1 & 2 scaffolding qualifications. The company aims to train Sean up as a team leader with the purpose of mentoring other young employees. Sean himself is a lot happier and things have improved at home.

“Youthbuild is the best thing I have ever done and I would tell any young person looking for opportunities to try the programme”.

Whilst we give young people opportunities and keep families together, we also pilot innovative programmes to help young children learn how to empathise with the help of a tiny teacher, a baby. More than 450,000 children have taken part in Roots of Empathy worldwide, including Canada, USA, New Zealand, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland as well as Scotland. Following a successful pilot, this year we have won funding from the Scottish Government to introduce Roots of Empathy to primary schools across Scotland with the aim of reaching 5,000 pupils in 2015.

These are just some of the highlights. We know we can look forward to a brighter future for children with new and better services pioneered by Action for Children Scotland.

Names and images have been changed to protect identities.

Governance, structure and management.

Council.

The Action for Children Council formally meets five times each year and is responsible for our long-term objectives and overall financial and organisational control. The Council comprises 11 trustees who bring considerable experience and expertise from their business and professional activities. Council reviews its own and the Chair's performance regularly.

The Council has delegated responsibility for specific areas of activity to a number of committees that regularly report to Council. These committees have agreed terms of reference and include specialist co-opted members in addition to trustees. The Council has further delegated the day-to-day running of the organisation to the Chief Executive and the Executive Management Team. These delegations are detailed in Action for Children's Scheme of Delegation.

Trustees.

Trustees and committee members are appointed for the skills and experience that they bring to the organisation and we involve children from our services in their selection process. Once appointed for a three year term, trustees and committee members undertake an induction programme to ensure they understand their role as a trustee under charity law and as a director under company law. Trustees also receive information on areas of our work and are encouraged to visit our services.

Trustees may be reappointed for a second term and in exceptional circumstances, can be reappointed for a third and final term.

All our trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in our financial statements.

Our close historic links with the Methodist Church are reflected in our constitution, and we value the knowledge, expertise and passion that Methodist trustees bring to the charity.

Committees.

Finance Committee oversees all the financial aspects of the charity and advises Council on the most appropriate financial strategy.

Operations Committee oversees and monitors performance across the UK, with a particular emphasis on service delivery and new business acquisition.

Fundraising, Communications, Campaigns Committee oversees the development of our voluntary income generation, communications, public policy and campaigns activity.

Audit Committee ensures that we meet our statutory accounting obligations and maintain an effective system of internal control and risk management.

Nation Committees (three nations) oversee the delivery of our strategic objectives in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales through the provision of high-quality children's services, taking into account any geo-political priorities that may affect our work in each national context.

Remuneration Committee reviews the salary policy for all staff and determines the remuneration of the Chief Executive, Executive Management Team and Directors.

Nominations Committee identifies, proposes and recruits new members of Council and ensures they have appropriate induction, support and development. It also approves the approach to and appointment of ambassadors.

Charity Investment Sub-group advises the Finance Committee on investment strategy and planning and makes recommendations regarding the appointment and performance of external investment managers.



Executive Leadership Team.

The Executive Leadership Team includes the Chief Executive and four managing directors responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the charity. The Executive Leadership Team oversees the following areas:

- Operations
- Corporate Shared Services
- Fundraising, Communications and Policy
- People and Organisation

Ethical framework.

Action for Children has a framework to help us consider any ethical issues that might arise and enable us to make decisions in a clear and transparent fashion. This applies when receiving donations, working with suppliers or partners, investing funds and appointing trustees, staff and ambassadors.

Remuneration policy.

In March 2015, Council agreed a review programme that will ensure that the Charity's pay policy offers fair pay to attract and retain appropriately qualified staff to deliver against strategic objectives. Council also agreed that Action for Children should implement a Living Wage policy during the financial year 2015/16.

Pay for executive and senior positions is determined through benchmarking across the not-for-profit sector, other relevant labour market information and Acton for Children's internal comparators. A copy of the full policy is available upon request.

Management of risk.

Our risk management framework helps to ensure that we identify and manage key risks which could affect our ability to deliver our objectives, and achieve our charitable aims. This reduces uncertainty, and allows the charity to be innovative and to manage change effectively.

Management of risk is embedded into our day to day business activities, and well established processes and policies are in place to manage them. All of our employees have a role in reducing risk through our internal control framework.

Risks are recorded in a risk register and are evaluated in terms of impact and likelihood under one of the following classifications:

Strategic risks.

These risks are the direct responsibility of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and concern the strategic leadership and direction of the charity, helping to ensure that the charity meets its charitable purpose and remains sustainable.

Operational risks.

These risks concern day to day activity, and which need to be managed in order for the charity to operate. They are managed across the wider organisation, and are overseen by the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT).

The Council of Trustees has overall responsibility for establishing effective systems of internal control, which include processes for the identification and management of risk. This is independently reviewed through our assurance framework, which includes Internal Audit and oversight by the Audit Committee.

The following table summarises the primary risks currently facing the charity, why they are significant and the main mitigation strategies.



Principal risks and uncertainties.

From the strategic risk register.

Risk	Impact on the charity	Mitigation strategy
We may not maximise delivery of our mission.	We will reduce our ability to help as many service users as possible.	Clear business strategy - "Unlocking the Potential" for 2015 and beyond. Measuring the Impact of our work.
We may not achieve budgeted income levels, and have sufficient margin to cover our operating costs.	The charity will be less financially sustainable. The charity will have less resource to spend on services. There will be less ability to invest in the future.	"Growth" work stream to investigate alternative income streams. Effective marketing and business development strategies. Improving pricing and due diligence processes.
The charity may fail to maintain efficient and effective systems and processes.	The organisation may be inefficient and wasteful. Quality may be compromised.	"Systems and Processes" work stream to ensure that systems are effective and maintain appropriate levels of control, but are also user friendly and cost efficient. Governance and assurance framework.
The charity may fail to comply with regulatory and other legal requirements.	We may not keep children and young people or our staff safe from harm. Financial and legal consequences which could impact upon our ability to operate. Reputational damage.	Effective operational risk management in key areas such as Safeguarding, Health & Safety, and Data Security. "Service Excellence" work stream to ensure that service provision meets all the required standards. Internal assurance through inspection and audit.
The charity may not maintain a culture whereby everyone in the organisation is working with a sense of shared purpose towards the same goals.	The charity would not be able to achieve its key objectives. Missed opportunities to work collaboratively and effectively.	"Human Resources and Business Enabling" work stream to ensure our people policies are effective in terms of talent management, and supporting, training, and engaging our staff. Culture and Engagement Group.
We may not maximise the potential of our brand.	Reduced ability to raise income to support our work with children and families. Less able to give vulnerable children, young people and families a strong voice.	Investing in brand awareness and fundraising.

Our finances.

Financial review.

Financial performance continued to improve in 2014/15, with an increase in net funds of £5.8m, which feeds through to the balance sheet. However, the key achievement of a small operational surplus of £0.7m was against the backcloth of reducing income.

Economic conditions continue to be difficult and we have responded to that environment, continuing to improve our financial strength. There were good savings in the cost of delivering and supporting our services to enable us to continue and develop our work for vulnerable children and young people. We have targeted reserves to invest in fundraising, develop our brand and ensure our infrastructure is resilient in supporting and safely engaging with young people and staff.

We highlighted last year the continuing pressure on local authorities' funds and a possible reduction in our income. That has been the case in 2014/15. Funding was down £9.0m to £147.1m, particularly for our Children's Centres and Family Support services, Youth and Leaving Care services. However, income was up for our Schools and Fostering services. By looking at effective ways of working, and controlling overheads, we were able to provide all our services to children and young people with lower support costs, helping achieve our operational surplus.

The amazing work of our supporters and volunteers helps provide the donations, gifts and legacies to support our work. In 2014/15 income from donations and gifts was down slightly on the previous year. Legacies tend to fluctuate, and were also down. To create the environment where voluntary income can grow it was agreed to make investment in fundraising and brand awareness. That strategic investment started in December 2014, and already, by the end of March 2015 the initial target of 6,000 new regular donors had been achieved. However, the income takes time to come through, and as the investment shows in the cost of fundraising, the results for 2014/15 are not directly comparable to the previous year.

Although there has been success in controlling overheads, investment is also needed in areas of our infrastructure.

We have consolidated our support services in Watford, which involved some transition costs. We have invested in information services, where our operating system was obsolete, but with the direction of ensuring wider and easier access for all our staff, particularly those working remotely with young people and families. The cost of this strategic investment has been financed from property sold when it was no longer needed. Further investment is planned for future years from reserves.

The balance sheet total has increased by £5.8m with a combination of movements. The £1.8m reduction in fixed assets was depreciation outstripping additions; investments increased by £2.2m with continued improved stock markets, and cash was up £6.2m including the receipt from property sales in 2014/15 that has yet to be re-invested.

Pensions.

The financial position of the Pension Fund, as assessed under FRS 17, continues to be a volatile measure, although with little net change this year. Pension fund assets grew by £71.8m to £508.8m, whilst liabilities increased by £71.3m to £557.2m. These large changes resulted in a pension liability of £48.4m, a decrease of £0.5m from £48.9m at the end of the previous year. The increase in the value of Pension Fund assets relates to investment value gains together with employer contributions. Liabilities increased with a reduction in the discount rate, only partially offset by a lower inflation assumption. There was also an element relating to an increase in longevity assumptions.

As has previously been noted, FRS 17 is by no means a perfect method of assessing the true pension liability, particularly at a time of market volatility. In previous years this accounting valuation has been markedly lower than the on-going valuation basis used to agree a recovery plan and future contributions. The on-going funding position has improved since the last triennial valuation at 31 March 2012, albeit that the March 2015 estimate at £94m was less good than it had been earlier in the year. We have continued to make the agreed pension recovery payments in accordance with the 20-year recovery plan agreed between the charity

and the Pension Fund trustee directors in 2009, and are encouraged that despite market volatilities, we are ahead of the agreed recovery plan funding position. Supporting this has been the continued implementation of the agreed investment strategy which has resulted in a lower risk asset portfolio, but one which still retains a reasonable potential for growth.

Group financial statements.

In addition to the main charity, the group consolidated financial statements include two other charities that share common trustees and management.

The unincorporated trust National Children's Home (charity number 215301) continues to hold permanent endowments and receive legacies bequeathed to the old charity. This charity now only administers the permanent endowments of Action for Children and all income is given to Action for Children to spend in accordance with its objectives.

The Nicholas Galperin Trust (for charitable purposes) (charity number 210618) operates for the relief of young people under the age of 25 who are in need, hardship or distress. During the year, grants of £101,000 were made to Action for Children to support a number of services.

Three wholly owned subsidiary companies, registered in England and Wales, support the work of the charity:

- Action for Children Services Limited (company number 2332388) is a subsidiary for primary purpose trading in the provision of welfare and educational services. The company faces the same challenges as the charity, and with its services largely in early years & family support saw turnover fall in 2014/15, as reflected in the performance of the Action for Children group described in this annual report. The company made a profit of £2,578,000 in the year, which has been transferred to Action for Children under Gift Aid.
- Action for Children Trading Limited (company number 3776025) is a subsidiary for fundraising and trading activities. The company made a profit of £260,000 in the year, which has been transferred to Action for Children under Gift Aid.

- Action for Children Developments Limited (company number 6842765), a company limited by guarantee, will facilitate property and other developments in support of the charity's objectives. The company did not trade in the year ended 31 March 2015.





Charity funds.

Trust and charity law requires that the funds of charities are presented in the following categories:

- Restricted funds represent legacies, donations and other income that can only be used for particular purposes. Where these funds are held on trust to be retained for the benefit of the charity as a capital fund, they are classified as endowment funds. These funds provide scholarships and income for general purposes. At 31 March 2015, the endowment funds were £8.9m and the specific-purpose funds £3.9m.
- Unrestricted, designated funds currently comprise the capital fund, which is the amount invested in tangible fixed assets used in the charity's operational work, net of financing. The amount of the designated funds was £31.7m at 31 March 2015.
- The revaluation reserve is the amount by which investment market values exceed their historic cost. This is required by company law. This amounted to £11.0m at 31 March 2015.
- The general fund comprises the remainder of the unrestricted funds necessary to fund the operations and provide protection against risks to the charity. The use of the general funds is determined by the reserves policy. The general fund amounted to £29.8m at 31 March 2015.
- The pension reserve represents the difference between the fair values of pension assets and liabilities. This amounted to a deficit of £48.4m at 31 March 2015.

Reserves policy and forward financial forecast.

As a charity, Action for Children has limited ability to seek external funding, other than through the sources set out in the accounts. The charity's reserves therefore reflect the capital necessary to safely and consistently carry on its activities through periods of uncertainty.

The finance committee reviews annually the reserves policy and the level of general reserves, which are shown in the financial statements as the general fund and revaluation reserve. This review is approved by Council. A risk-appraisal approach, applying likelihoods to a range of future costs, potential liabilities and risks is used to assess the amount of general reserves required in addition to the core requirement for working capital. This is linked to the latest business and financial plan. Risks include the loss of income from partner agencies and voluntary donations, and changes to pension costs. Reserves are also held to support the development of more services to children, young people and their families.

The trustees aim to ensure that the general reserves are sufficient to avoid any fluctuations threatening the financial stability of Action for Children, and to allow operations to be sustained while income and expenditure are rebalanced. The trustees judge that reserves between £25m and £35m are required, within which range the mid-point of £30m will be targeted. The range is based on a risk assessment of requirements over the next five years.

The trustees believe that the charity has sufficient reserves on current projections to meet future requirements. During the last year general reserves increased, and at 31 March 2015 were £40.9m. This balance includes £11m built up from property sales, identified for strategic investment in the next two years. The current business and financial plan sets out the capital and other expenditure plans to support Action for Children's vision and strategic objectives. As a result of these plans, reserves are projected to return to the target level, and supported by the investment, achieve continued delivery of a balanced operating budget.

The Action for Children financial plan and reserves policy take into account the requirement to meet Pension Fund contribution costs. The accounting disclosure required for pension liabilities is included in the balance sheet, detailed in note 5 to the financial statements and, on the prescribed basis of calculation, shows a liability of £48.4m. As noted on page 43, the actuarial deficit on an on-going basis is larger. However, as the Pension Fund valuation is based on a current estimate of long-term liabilities over the remaining lives of members and, as the planned cash flow for the next five years has been allowed for, no further adjustment to the reserves policy for pension costs is considered appropriate or necessary.

The trustees have considered the financial plans for the budget year of 2015/16 and the following year, which cover a period of 12 months from the signing of these financial statements. The plans are built on a robust foundation of contract income, alongside a realistic net fundraising target, and continuing control of costs. Where there are any residual risks, there is the capacity to manage such exposures as may arise through flexing the cost base as well as planning, monitoring and managing cash flows accordingly. Although the general economic climate remains uncertain the trustees believe that the charity is well placed to continue its operations appropriately.

Elsewhere in this report we set out the charity's risk management approach as well as the key risks faced. In addition the pension deficit recovery plan is ahead of the target funding level agreed with the Pension Fund trustees in 2009, despite the volatility of market changes since that date.

Taking all of the above into account, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they believe that the going concern basis remains the appropriate basis on which to prepare the annual report and financial statements.

Investments.

The larger part of the charity's investments are managed by the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church. The CFB has a social, environmental and ethical investment policy that is consistent with the aims, objectives and ethical policy of the charity.

The ethical work of the CFB is based on a robust approach involving research, company meetings and networking over a wide range of issues. Its implementation involves exclusion of companies deemed inappropriate as investments, as well as constructive engagement with those where such a policy is felt likely to lead to positive change. The CFB produces original research on themes such as the environment, climate change and human rights. The CFB works closely with other church-based organisations in order to maximise the influence that such bodies have over the companies they invest in. The CFB's ethical investment policy precludes investment in companies whose principal purpose is involvement with alcohol, tobacco, pornography and armaments, or in companies that use child labour.

Action for Children's own ethical framework ensures there is a clear and consistent approach to all matters where we have some control and that impact on the wellbeing and life chances of children. This affects all areas of our work and actions including policy, fundraising and procurement. It also covers investments and supports the approach adopted by the CFB.

The CFB is signed up to and compliant with the Financial Reporting Council's UK Stewardship Code, and sets out on its website how it applies the principles of the Code.

Investments are principally held by Action for Children to provide the reserves it needs to manage future developments, risks and uncertainties. A key objective is to maintain an asset allocation model that matches the timing of potential liabilities within reserves to appropriate classes of investment assets. The investment policy and statement of investment principles is set in the light of this, and was reviewed and updated during the year. Investment decisions and performance are discussed and reviewed by a sub-group of the finance committee, which includes three expert members.

The CFB fund performance is measured against a benchmark relevant to the investments they manage. Overall there was satisfactory performance for the year, with the main General Fund returning 12.7%, 0.2% ahead of the benchmark. The performance was driven by the Overseas Fund and asset allocation positions taken by the CFB. Performance is reviewed and discussed with the CFB by the charity's investment group on a regular basis, which also looks at external benchmarking. The independent ARC indices have a comparable 8.6% return for the year.

Stock markets were generally strong during 2014/15, and after monthly fluctuations delivered a gain of £2.2m for the year (2014 gain of £1.9m). Investment income was consistent year on year at £0.8m.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities.

The trustees (who are also directors of Action for Children for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report (incorporating Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable group will continue in business.

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

The trustees confirm that:

- so far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The Trustees' Report (incorporating the Strategic Report) was approved and signed on behalf of the trustees on 15 July 2015.



John O'Brien
Chair

15 July 2015

Independent auditor's report

to the members and trustees of Action for Children.



We have audited the financial statements of Action for Children for the year ended 31 March 2015 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account), the group and parent charitable company balance sheets, the consolidated cash flow statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members and trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members and trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor.

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out on page 29, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements.

A description of the scope of an audit of financial statements is provided on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditscopeukprivate

Opinion on financial statements.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2015 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including the group's income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006.

In our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Report (incorporating the Strategic Report) set out on pages 3-29 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the parent charitable company has not kept proper and adequate accounting records or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records or returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Carol Rudge

Senior Statutory Auditor
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP
Statutory Auditor, Chartered Accountants

London

15 July 2015

Grant Thornton UK LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Action for Children financial statements.

for the year ended 31 March 2015.



Consolidated statement of financial activities. (incorporating the income and expenditure account)

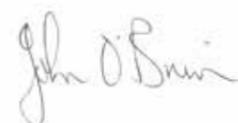
	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds		Total 2015	Total 2014
			Specific purpose	Endowment		
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Incoming resources	2					
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income						
Donations and gifts		8,027	4,857	-	12,884	13,101
Legacies		3,766	85	-	3,851	5,139
		11,793	4,942	-	16,735	18,240
Investment and other income		765	68	-	833	851
		12,558	5,010	-	17,568	19,091
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Children in care		26,385	-	-	26,385	24,736
Disability		33,998	-	-	33,998	35,191
Early years & family support		74,071	537	-	74,608	82,244
Youth		11,801	335	-	12,136	13,933
		146,255	872	-	147,127	156,104
Other incoming resources						
Net gain on disposal of fixed assets		8,131	-	-	8,131	4,475
Pension finance credit	5	244	-	-	244	-
Total incoming resources		167,188	5,882	-	173,070	179,670
Resources expended	3,4					
Costs of generating funds						
Costs of generating voluntary income						
Donations and gifts		7,120	-	-	7,120	5,485
Legacies		112	-	-	112	179
		7,232	-	-	7,232	5,664
Investment management costs		33	-	-	33	30
		7,265	-	-	7,265	5,694
Resources expended on charitable activities						
Children in care		26,191	40	-	26,231	25,237
Disability		32,960	435	-	33,395	34,633
Early years & family support		74,957	3,895	-	78,852	86,873
Youth		12,436	1,204	-	13,640	14,796
		146,544	5,574	-	152,118	161,539
Governance costs		504	-	-	504	547
Pension finance charge	5	-	-	-	-	704
Total resources expended		154,313	5,574	-	159,887	168,484
Net income for the year before transfers		12,875	308	-	13,183	11,186
Transfers between funds	13	(39)	39	-	-	-
Net income for the year before other recognised gains and losses		12,836	347	-	13,183	11,186
Other recognised gains/(losses)						
Net gains on investment assets	7	1,791	-	467	2,258	1,879
Actuarial (loss) on pension liability	5	(9,595)	-	-	(9,595)	(9,662)
Net movement in funds		5,032	347	467	5,846	3,403
Funds brought forward		19,047	3,563	8,469	31,079	27,676
Funds carried forward	.13	24,079	3,910	8,936	36,925	31,079

All activities derive from continuing operations. There are no recognised gains or losses in the current or preceding financial year other than as shown in the statement of financial activities. The surplus for the year, including realised gains of £168,000, for Companies Act purposes was £13,351,000 (2014 surplus of £11,249,000, including realised gains of £63,000).

Balance sheet.

	Notes	Group		Charity	
		2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6	32,167	33,958	32,167	33,958
Investments	7	32,076	29,830	22,926	21,148
		64,243	63,788	55,093	55,106
Current assets					
Debtors: amounts falling due after more than one year	8	98	123	-	-
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	9	20,863	18,879	18,708	17,608
Short-term deposits		23,905	17,499	23,904	17,364
Cash at bank and in hand		425	615	-	-
		45,291	37,116	42,612	34,972
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(21,835)	(18,530)	(19,175)	(16,407)
Net current assets		23,456	18,586	23,437	18,565
Total assets less current liabilities		87,699	82,374	78,530	73,671
Provisions for liabilities	11	(2,331)	(2,381)	(2,331)	(2,381)
Net assets excluding pension liability		85,368	79,993	76,199	71,290
Pension liability	5	(48,443)	(48,914)	(48,443)	(48,914)
Net assets including pension liability		36,925	31,079	27,756	22,376
Funds					
Restricted funds:					
Endowments		8,936	8,469	-	-
Specific purpose		3,910	3,563	3,910	3,563
Total restricted funds		12,846	12,032	3,910	3,563
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds		31,652	33,208	31,652	33,208
General fund		29,845	24,822	29,612	24,588
Revaluation reserve		11,025	9,931	11,025	9,931
Total general fund and revaluation reserve		40,870	34,753	40,637	34,519
Pension reserve	5	(48,443)	(48,914)	(48,443)	(48,914)
Total unrestricted funds		24,079	19,047	23,846	18,813
Total funds	12-15	36,925	31,079	27,756	22,376

These accounts were approved by the Council on 15 July 2015 and signed on its behalf on 15 July 2015.



John O'Brien, Chair



Les Clifford, Trustee

Company number 4764232

Consolidated cash flow statement.

	Notes	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Net cash outflow from operating activities (below)		(1,761)	(206)
Returns on investments and servicing of finance			
Interest received	2	116	130
Dividends received	2	591	585
Rental income from investment properties	2	126	136
		833	851
Capital expenditure and financial investment			
Purchase of fixed assets	6	(3,150)	(1,800)
Purchase of investments	7	(1,708)	(1,194)
Proceeds of sale of tangible fixed assets		10,282	5,533
Proceeds of sale of investments	7	1,720	1,358
		7,144	3,897
Net cash inflow before use of liquid resources		6,216	4,542
Management of liquid resources			
(Increase) in short-term deposits		(6,406)	(8,081)
(Decrease) in cash		(190)	(3,539)

Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash outflow from operating activities.

Net income before other recognised gains and losses		13,183	11,186
Investment income	2	(833)	(851)
Net gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets		(8,131)	(4,475)
Depreciation	6	2,790	3,446
Pension service cost	5	897	687
Pension finance charge	5	(244)	704
Pension employer contributions	5	(10,719)	(9,696)
Decrease in stock		-	81
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(1,959)	4,803
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		3,305	(5,573)
(Decrease) in provision for liabilities	11	(50)	(518)
Net cash outflow from operating activities		(1,761)	(206)

Analysis of net funds.

	At 1 April 2014 £'000	Cash Flow £'000	At 31 March 2015 £'000
Net cash in hand	615	(190)	425
Short term deposits	17,499	6,406	23,905
Total	18,114	6,216	24,330

Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds.

Net funds at 1 April 2014	£'000	18,114
Net funds at 31 March 2015		24,330
Movement in net funds in the period		6,216
Cash outflow from change in liquid resources		(6,406)
Decrease in cash in the period		(190)

Notes to the financial statements.

1 Accounting policies.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2005) published in 2005 and revised in 2008, the Companies Act 2006 and applicable United Kingdom accounting standards and law.

The particular accounting policies adopted by the Council are described below:

Basis of consolidation.

The results of subsidiaries are consolidated on a line by line basis and acquisitions are included at fair value at the date acquired. The statement of financial activities (SOFA) and balance sheet consolidate the financial statements of the charity and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Action for Children Services Limited and Action for Children Trading Limited. Based on the nature of the trusts, which have Action for Children as the sole trustee and share management arrangements and common control with Action for Children, two associated charities, National Children's Home and Nicholas Galperin Trust are also treated as subsidiaries and consolidated in the group accounts.

The exemption as permitted by section 4 of the Companies Act 2006 to not include the parent Statement of Financial Activities has been taken.

Incoming resources.

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income, there is certainty of income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Entitlement, for legacies, is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution and the legacy being received.

Incoming resources from charitable activities, including capital grants, are included in the SOFA when they are receivable. The full amount of capital grants is taken to the SOFA when receivable. Where cash is received in respect of contractual work to be undertaken in the

next financial year, if there is agreement from the funding body, this is treated as deferred income. Where such agreement has not been obtained it is included in other creditors.

Donations and gifts received at offices and projects during the year are recorded gross, or at estimated value, except that the sale proceeds from gifts donated for resale are included, at their sale price, when they are sold. All other incoming resources are reported gross of fees and expenditure whether raised by the charity or its agents, except for small fundraising events, not under the direct control of Action for Children, where funds are remitted and recorded net of direct expenses.

No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Resources expended.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they are allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

The costs of generating funds include fundraising and publicity costs, trading costs and investment management costs. Fundraising and publicity comprises the salaries of staff and other direct and indirect costs, which include appropriate allocations of central support costs.

Resources expended on charitable activities include the operating expenses of social work together with the costs of informing and educating the public about the work, and the costs of other supporting services, management and administration essential to the professional and competent execution of the work. Where arrangements exist for the delivery of work by partner organisations, the cost of this is included within the relevant activity. Where central services support both direct charitable work and fundraising, allocations of their costs are made on a basis which reflects the use made of those services, for example, staff numbers or floor area occupied.

Governance costs.

Governance costs represent the salaries, direct expenditure and overhead costs incurred by the corporate resources department as well as internal and external audit costs. The corporate resources department is involved in the compliance with the constitutional and statutory requirements of operating a charitable company.

Retirement benefits.

Action for Children contributes to a variety of pension arrangements on behalf of staff. Most benefits are provided by the Action for Children Pension Fund, which has a number of sections, including defined benefit and defined contribution elements.

The costs of providing defined benefit pensions are treated in accordance with FRS17. The following elements are charged to the SOFA: the service cost of pension provision relating to the period, together with the costs of any benefits relating to past service (allocated to staff costs); the pension finance cost, which is a charge equal to the increase in the present value of the pension fund's liabilities at the previous year end, less a credit equivalent to the pension fund's long-term expected return on assets; and the actuarial gain or loss on the pension fund's assets and liabilities (allocated to other recognised gains and losses). The difference between the market value of the assets of the pension fund and the present value of accrued pension liabilities is shown as an asset or liability on the balance sheet.

Pension costs for the defined contribution part of the Fund are charged to the accounts on an accruals basis in the period in which they occur.

Action for Children also contributes to the teachers', local government and NHS pension schemes in respect of a number of its employees. All such costs are included within the SOFA on an accruals basis as incurred.

Leases.

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the term of the lease on a straight line basis.

Value Added Tax.

As part of Action for Children's activities is classified as exempt or non-business activities for the purposes of VAT, Action for Children is unable to reclaim all the VAT that it suffers on its operating costs. Expenditure in these financial statements is therefore shown inclusive of VAT paid and not reclaimable.

Funds.

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

The revaluation reserve comprises the difference between the historic cost of fixed asset investments and the revalued amount included in the balance sheet.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Council for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund are set out in the annual report of the Council and the notes to the financial statements. The Council periodically reviews the levels of designated funds to ensure that they are adequate to support the purposes for which they were set up, and any surplus or deficit is transferred to or from general funds.

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. The costs of administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Endowment funds represent those assets that must be held permanently by the charity, and are invested to produce income to meet expenditure, either as directed by the endowment or for general purposes.

Tangible fixed assets.

Tangible assets are recorded at cost or, in cases where tangible assets have been donated to Action for Children or acquired through a merger, at open market valuation at the time of the donation or merger. Assets in the course of construction are transferred to the relevant category of asset and depreciated when practical completion is achieved. The threshold for capitalisation is £1,000.

Depreciation is charged on the following basis: In the case of freehold buildings the acquisition cost of buildings, together with any adaptation costs that add value to the property, is capitalised and depreciated over the estimated useful life of the property. No depreciation is provided on freehold land.

For the purposes of depreciation, 999 year leasehold buildings are treated as if they were freehold buildings. Capital expenditure on other leasehold buildings will normally be regarded as a depreciating cost and as such is written off over the estimated useful life (see below).

Other tangible assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their useful lives which are estimated to be:

Assets in the course of construction	no depreciation
Freehold buildings	50 years
Leasehold land and buildings	10 years or lease period if shorter
Equipment	4 years
Computer software	4 years
Computer software (major)	5 years
Furniture and fittings	5 years
Motor vehicles	4-6 years

When the currently expected useful life of individual assets is considered to be less than these periods, shorter periods are used.

Where capital grants have been received from the Sure Start Unit to purchase or build properties, those properties are treated as fixed assets of the charity and depreciated in line with the policy set out above. A provision has been set up to reflect the liability to transfer these properties to local authorities, or repay the capital grant, in line with the conditions of the Children Act 2004. Further details are included in notes 6 and 11.

Investments.

Action for Children holds investments both in order to generate income for the support of charitable activities over a long-term period and to provide assets to meet the needs of reserves, identified in the reserves policy. Investments are stated at current market value on the balance sheet date unless there is evidence of a different fair value.

Investment properties are revalued at the end of each year on the basis of open market value. The valuations have been prepared by external firms of chartered surveyors.

Gains or losses arising during the year are disclosed in the consolidated statement of financial activities within other recognised gains and losses in the year and in note 7.

Liquid resources.

Liquid resources are represented by cash balances held on a short term basis.

Overages.

The group retains under certain sale agreements the right to an element of overage on subsequent increases in the value of land or property being sold. The right to a future profit is inherently uncertain until the exchange, or in some cases, completion of a property sale. Recognising as well that some arrangements are dependent on the completion of all sale units within a development, the policy is to recognise such sales when there is virtual certainty over receipt and the amount can be reliably measured. Given the nature of such agreements, this is not expected to be until close to (or at the same time as) the completion of the final sales of the properties within the development.

2 Incoming resources.

Incoming resources from charitable activities are analysed across the main activities of Action for Children on the face of the statement of financial activities. This income is mostly derived from work with local authorities, health trusts and central government sources, providing services to children, young people and their families.

Subsidiaries and associated charities.

Action for Children Services Limited and Action for Children Trading Limited are wholly owned trading subsidiaries of Action for Children, the charity. They are engaged in delivering welfare and educational services on behalf of the charity and fundraising respectively. All profits are gift aided to the charity. National Children's Home (NCH), the unincorporated charity, and Nicholas Galperin Trust are associated charities that share common trustees and management. Action for Children also wholly owns a company called Action for Children Developments Limited that has not traded.

A summary of the results for the year ended 31 March 2015 is given below:

	Trading subsidiaries		Associated charities		Total 2015	Total 2014
	Services	Trading	NCH	Nicholas Galperin		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Turnover	31,635	254	-	-	31,889	38,644
Cost of sales	(29,051)	5	-	-	(29,046)	(35,273)
Gross profit	2,584	259	-	-	2,843	3,371
Charitable activities	-	-	(157)	(102)	(259)	(438)
Administration costs	(12)	(3)	-	(1)	(16)	(25)
Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities before investment income	2,572	256	(157)	(103)	2,568	2,908
Investment income	6	4	157	90	257	270
Net gains on fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	3,045
Net gains on investment assets	-	-	304	175	479	605
Surplus on ordinary activities before gift aid	2,578	260	304	162	3,304	6,828

The net assets of the subsidiaries and associated charities are set out below:

	Trading subsidiaries		Associated charities		Total 2015	Total 2014
	Services	Trading	NCH	Nicholas Galperin		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets	-	-	5,817	3,333	9,150	8,682
Current assets	5,991	754	35	20	6,800	8,099
Creditors	(5,991)	(754)	(35)	(1)	(6,781)	(8,078)
Net assets	-	-	5,817	3,352	9,169	8,703

Charity statement of financial activities.

Total incoming resources of the charity were £173,131,000 (2014 £179,736,000) and the net movement in funds was a surplus of £5,380,000 (2014 £2,985,000). Incoming resources include a management fee of £29,110,000 (2014 £35,178,000) from Action for Children Services Limited in respect of social work undertaken on behalf of the company, and £2,000 (2014 £1,000) from Nicholas Galperin Trust in respect of administration assistance undertaken for the trust.

Investment and other income.

	2015	2014
	£'000	£'000
Unlisted equities	2	8
CFB funds - UK	489	484
CFB funds - Overseas	100	93
Interest income	116	130
Income from securities	707	715
Rental income from investment properties	126	136
	833	851

3 Resources expended.

	Direct costs £'000	Support costs £'000	2015 Total £'000	2014 Total £'000
Costs of generating funds				
<i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>				
Donations and gifts	6,155	965	7,120	5,485
Legacies	99	13	112	179
<i>Investment management costs</i>	33	-	33	30
	6,287	978	7,265	5,694
Resources expended on charitable activities				
Children in care	24,933	1,298	26,231	25,237
Disability	29,072	4,323	33,395	34,633
Early years & family support	63,589	15,263	78,852	86,873
Youth	11,002	2,638	13,640	14,796
	128,596	23,522	152,118	161,539
Governance costs	499	5	504	547
Pension finance charge	-	-	-	704
Total resources expended	135,382	24,505	159,887	168,484

Support costs allocation.

	HR, training & policy costs £'000	Strategy, premises, finance & IT costs £'000	2015 Total £'000	2014 Total £'000
Costs of generating funds				
<i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>				
Donations and gifts	153	812	965	840
Legacies	3	10	13	14
<i>Investment management costs</i>	-	-	-	-
	156	822	978	854
Resources expended on charitable activities				
Children in care	759	539	1,298	1,277
Disability	2,132	2,191	4,323	4,103
Early years & family support	5,185	10,078	15,263	15,251
Youth	662	1,976	2,638	2,500
	8,738	14,784	23,522	23,131
Governance costs	5	-	5	5
Pension finance charge	-	-	-	-
Total support costs	8,899	15,606	24,505	23,990

HR, training and policy costs are allocated on the basis of the number of employees across the different activities.
Strategy, premises, finance and IT costs are allocated on the basis of the numbers of projects, departments or business units across the different activities.

3 Resources expended (continued).

Trustee costs.

9 trustees were reimbursed travel expenses totalling £5,000 (2014 14 recipients of £9,000). Trustees are not entitled to and did not receive any remuneration.

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Fees payable to the auditors of Action for Children		
In respect of the charity audit	82	88
In respect of subsidiary and associated trust audits	15	13
	97	101
In respect of certificates for project partners	44	42
In respect of tax advice	23	49
	164	192
Value added tax		
As stated in the accounting policy, Action for Children is unable to reclaim all the value added tax which it suffers on its purchases of goods and services. During the year the cost of irrecoverable value added tax amounted to:	4,259	4,357
Rentals under operating leases		
Plant and machinery	25	55
Land and buildings	2,389	3,112
	2,414	3,167
Depreciation		
Governance costs - direct		
Wages, salaries and related costs	175	182
Internal and external audit fees	158	173
Legal fees	123	82
Other costs	43	105
	499	542

4 Employees' emoluments.

Staff costs comprise:	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Wages and salaries	89,775	94,425
Temporary staff costs	7,396	9,317
Social security costs	7,146	7,656
Action for Children Pension Fund - defined benefit current service cost	993	940
Action for Children Pension Fund - defined contribution cost	3,500	3,352
Teachers', Local Government Pension Schemes and NHS Pension Fund contributions	820	924
	<u>109,630</u>	<u>116,614</u>

Average staff numbers:	Full time equivalent		Employees	
	2015 No.	2014 No.	2015 No.	2014 No.
Full-time	2,184	2,373	2,184	2,373
Part-time and sessional	1,294	1,408	3,179	2,336
	<u>3,478</u>	<u>3,781</u>	<u>5,363</u>	<u>4,709</u>

The number of staff whose emoluments fell within each of the following bands was:

£60,001 to £70,000	25	28
£70,001 to £80,000	10	7
£80,001 to £90,000	7	4
£90,001 to £100,000	-	1
£110,001 to £120,000	1	1
£120,001 to £130,000	2	2
£130,001 to £140,000	-	1
£150,001 to £160,000	1	-

Of the staff listed above, 42 were accruing benefits under the Action for Children Pension Fund defined contribution section (2014 41). The amount of contribution paid in respect of these staff to the scheme was £211,000 (2014 £190,000).

The highest paid employee in 2014/15 was employed for 1 week during 2013/14.

The total emoluments, which include pension contributions, paid in 2014/15 and the current salaries of existing members of the Executive Leadership Team, who are included in the bandings above, are:

	Total emoluments 2014/15 £	Current annual salary £	Contribution to pension scheme %
Chief Executive Officer – Sir Tony Hawkhead	163,952	150,000	7%
Managing Director Commercial and Shared Services - Charles Scott	127,785	121,700	5%
Managing Director Fundraising Communications and Policy - Sherine Krause	120,549	120,000	5%
Managing Director Operations - Jan Leightley	132,395	120,000	7%
Managing Director People and Organisation ¹ - Graham Charsley	53,468	120,000	5%

¹ The Managing Director of People and Organisation was appointed on 29 October 2014 from another role within Action for Children. The total emoluments in the table above relate to the payments made since that date.

5 Pensions.

Action for Children provides pension benefits mainly through the Action for Children Pension Fund. The assets of the Pension Fund are held in a separate trustee administered fund.

Until 30 April 2010 benefits were provided to employees through a number of defined benefit sections and a hybrid scheme combining career average revalued earnings and defined contribution arrangements.

On 1 May 2010, following a review of benefits and consultation with members of the Pension Fund, staff of Action for Children and Unions, all sections of the Pension Fund were closed, with one exception, for both new and existing members. Staff who transfer to Action for Children under Fair Deal TUPE arrangements are eligible to join a defined benefit section of the Pension Fund comparable to the local government pension scheme. A new defined contribution section was created for all other staff.

Action for Children has used this defined contribution section of the Pension Fund to provide pension benefits under the auto-enrolment arrangements, which applied to the charity from May 2013.

The Pension Fund is subject to triennial valuations by an independent actuary. The last valuation as at 31 March 2012 showed a deficit of £108m, a funding level of 78%, comparing the market value of the assets of the Pension Fund to the estimated value of liabilities to members. In conjunction with the actuarial valuation a recovery plan and schedule of contributions was agreed with the trustees of the Pension Fund. Work is in progress on the full actuarial valuation as at 31 March 2015.

Action for Children is paying deficit contributions of £7.5m per annum for a period of 17 years commencing from 1 April 2012. The recovery plan has been accepted by the Pensions Regulator. It is underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding to regularly communicate and share information between the employer and the Pension Fund, and supported by a charge in favour of the Pension Fund over assets of £40m owned by Action for Children in the event of default. The Memorandum of Understanding includes agreement that up to 50% of the receipt from property sales, less any investment in property, is paid to the Pension Fund.

Action for Children pays a 2% contribution for all active members into the defined benefit section to cover death in service and to meet the administration costs of the Pension Fund.

Contribution rates for the Fair Deal TUPE section range from 5.5% to 8.5% for the employee and are 20.7% for the employer.

The total employer contribution to the defined benefits section of the Action for Children Pension Fund for the year was £10,719,000 (2014 £9,696,000).

Contributions for the defined contribution section are variable with the following matching rates:

Employee	Employer
3%	5%
4%	5%
5%	5%
6%	6%
7%	7%
above 7%	7%

Membership of the Pension Fund at 31 March 2015 was:

	2015	2014
Active members		
- defined benefit section	41	46
- defined contribution section	2,693	2,948
	<u>2,734</u>	<u>2,994</u>
Deferred members	4,695	4,321
Pensioner members	2,232	2,129
	<u>9,661</u>	<u>9,444</u>

Pension funds are valued in different ways for different purposes. The triennial valuation noted above is carried out to establish an appropriate funding level, and uses different financial assumptions from the FRS 17 valuation detailed below, which is carried out for accounting disclosure purposes. At 31 March 2015, on the ongoing valuation basis used for the triennial valuation, rolling forward the 2012 funding assumptions, the deficit was £94m, a funding level of 84%. The FRS 17 position shown on the next page is a deficit of £48m, a funding level of 91%.

Whilst the settlement of pension liabilities is a very long-term process, with costs spread over many years, the funding level is volatile. Valuations are snapshots on one day and are sensitive to changes in financial market factors. The actuary provides a regular report on the funding position of the Pension Fund and this is closely monitored by the Pension Fund and charity.

5 Pensions (continued).

FRS 17 valuation.

These financial statements have been prepared in line with the requirements of FRS 17 on Retirement Benefits. The FRS 17 valuation is only in respect of the defined benefit sections of the Action for Children Pension Fund and the following analysis only covers that element of the Pension Fund. The principal FRS 17 actuarial assumptions determined by financial markets and demographic conditions are shown below. A later table shows the sensitivity of the liability to these assumptions.

Financial assumptions.

	2015	2014
Inflation - RPI	3.05% pa	3.40% pa
Inflation - CPI	2.05% pa	2.40% pa
Rate of increase in salaries	3.55% pa	3.90% pa
Rate of increase in pensions in payment	3.05% pa	3.40% pa
Rate of increase in deferred pensions	2.15% pa	2.25% pa
Discount rate	3.20% pa	4.30% pa

Financial reporting standard, FRS 102 will apply to the charity's accounts from next year. This requires that the expected return on assets be set equal to the discount rate, for 2015/16 that is 3.20%, whereas previously additional return was allowed for in line with the actual assets held. This is shown in the balance sheet position table below. The expected impact of this in next year's financial statements is to increase the pension finance charge, offset by the movement in the actuarial gain or loss on pension liability.

Demographic assumptions.

	2015		2014	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Average life expectancy in years:				
Member currently aged 60	88.3	90.8	88.1	90.7
Member currently aged 40, aged 60 in 2034	90.8	93.3	90.7	93.1

Action for Children Pension Fund subscribes to ClubVita (a subsidiary of Hymans Robertson), which provides demographic and longevity analysis based on pooled experience from occupational pension schemes. The mortality base tables are a suite of bespoke assumptions that reflect the characteristics of each individual member within the Pension Fund that are known to affect life expectancy. Future improvement in longevity is assumed to be in line with the core assumptions of the 2011 CMI model with a long term improvement rate of 1.5% pa for males and females.

Balance sheet position.

	2015			2014		
	Value	Asset allocation	Expected return	Value	Asset allocation	Expected return
	£'000	%	%	£'000	%	%
Corporate bonds	124,475	24	7.00	106,307	24	4.10
Government bonds	114,044	22	4.30	87,215	20	3.20
Equities	111,192	22	3.60	110,954	26	6.50
Diversified growth funds	56,395	11	3.60	39,220	9	5.50
Liability driven investment fixed interest	48,625	10	6.00	38,361	9	3.20
Property	36,246	7	5.00	31,752	7	4.50
Net current assets	17,814	4	0.50	23,153	5	0.50
		100	4.81		100	4.41
Total fair value of assets	508,791			436,962		
Actuarial value of liabilities	(557,234)			(485,876)		
Deficit recognised in the balance sheet	(48,443)			(48,914)		

Analysis of amounts charged to the statement of financial activities.

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Current service cost	(993)	(940)
Gain on curtailments and settlements (net transfers out of the Pension Fund)	96	253
Charged to resources expended	(897)	(687)
Expected return on the Pension Fund assets	20,857	20,273
Interest cost on the Pension Fund liabilities	(20,613)	(20,977)
Pension finance credit/(charge)	244	(704)
Experience gain on liabilities	9,730	7
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of the Pension Fund liabilities	(74,432)	(9,018)
Actuarial (loss) on liabilities	(64,702)	(9,011)
Actual return less expected return on the Pension Fund assets		
- actuarial gain/(loss) on assets	55,107	(651)
Total recognised actuarial (loss)	(9,595)	(9,662)
Cumulative amount of recognised actuarial gains and losses since April 2002	(126,611)	(117,016)

Reconciliation of the fair value of the Pension Fund assets and liabilities.

	Assets 2015 £'000	Liabilities 2015 £'000	Fund 2015 £'000	Assets 2014 £'000	Liabilities 2014 £'000	Fund 2014 £'000
Assets/(liabilities) at the start of the year	436,962	(485,876)	(48,914)	426,343	(473,900)	(47,557)
Expected return on assets/(interest cost)	20,857	(20,613)	244	20,273	(20,977)	(704)
Current service cost	-	(993)	(993)	-	(940)	(940)
Contributions by members	44	(44)	-	42	(42)	-
Contributions by the employer	10,719	-	10,719	9,696	-	9,696
Actuarial gain/(loss)	55,107	(64,702)	(9,595)	(651)	(9,011)	(9,662)
Net transfers out of the Pension Fund	(864)	960	96	(2,272)	2,525	253
Benefits and expenses paid	(14,034)	14,034	-	(16,469)	16,469	-

The estimated Action for Children contributions to the defined benefit sections of the Pension Fund for the year to 31 March 2016 are £8,900,000.

5 Pensions (continued).

History of the Pension Fund valuations and experience gains and losses.

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fair value of the Pension Fund assets	508,791	436,962	426,343	375,149	347,010
Actuarial value of liabilities	(557,234)	(485,876)	(473,900)	(430,700)	(386,800)
Pension Fund deficit	(48,443)	(48,914)	(47,557)	(55,551)	(39,790)
Actuarial gain/(loss) on the Pension Fund assets	55,107	(651)	10,410	2,018	59,282
Percentage of Pension Fund assets	10.83%	(0.15%)	2.77%	0.58%	18.00%
Experience gain/(loss) on the Pension Fund liabilities	9,730	7	8,845	1,942	(2,592)
Percentage of Pension Fund liabilities	1.75%	0.00%	2.05%	0.50%	(0.65%)
Total actuarial (loss)/gain recognised on the Pension Fund liabilities	(64,702)	(9,011)	(38,979)	(36,255)	20,542
Percentage of Pension Fund liabilities	(11.61%)	(1.85%)	(8.23%)	(8.42%)	5.31%

Sensitivity of the Pension Fund liabilities.

The sensitivity of the liabilities (in both percentage and £ terms) to changes in the key assumptions used to measure the Pension Fund's liabilities is shown in the table below.

Assumption	Change in assumption	Impact on Pension Fund liabilities %	Impact on Pension Fund liabilities £m
Discount rate	+/- 0.1%	-/+ 2.0%	-/+ £10.0m
Rate of inflation	+/- 0.1%	+/- 2.0%	+/- £10.0m
Rate of salary growth	+/- 0.1%	+/- 0.2%	+/- £1.0m
Life expectancy	+/- 1 year	+/- 2.0%	+/- £10.0m

6 Tangible fixed assets.

Group and Charity	Assets in the course of construction	Freehold land and buildings	Leasehold land and buildings	Computers and equipment	Furniture and fittings	Motor vehicles	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost							
At 1 April 2014	128	41,585	7,135	17,155	3,435	3,613	73,051
Additions	2,771	-	-	34	-	345	3,150
Transfers	(2,516)	-	-	2,378	23	115	-
Disposals	-	(3,868)	(170)	(626)	(50)	(1,021)	(5,735)
At 31 March 2015	383	37,717	6,965	18,941	3,408	3,052	70,466
Depreciation							
At 1 April 2014	-	13,678	5,081	14,653	3,226	2,455	39,093
Charges for year	-	513	388	1,234	145	510	2,790
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	(1,804)	(170)	(570)	(50)	(990)	(3,584)
At 31 March 2015	-	12,387	5,299	15,317	3,321	1,975	38,299
Net book value:							
At 31 March 2015	383	25,330	1,666	3,624	87	1,077	32,167
At 31 March 2014	128	27,907	2,054	2,502	209	1,158	33,958

Assets in the course of construction comprise incomplete building, major refurbishment and capital project work, and are not depreciated.

The cost of land, which is not depreciated, was £7,512,000 (2014 £7,766,000).

Freehold and leasehold land and buildings include properties funded by the Sure Start Unit with a net book value of £515,000 (2014 £750,000). To reflect changes introduced through the Children Act 2004, Action for Children is transferring these properties to local authorities. The assets will transfer out of Action for Children's ownership and balance sheet, matched by a release of the provision included in the balance sheet, referred to in note 11.

Of the total cost or valuation of leasehold land and buildings £5,241,000 (2014 £6,078,000) relates to leases due to expire within 50 years or less.

It is not considered that any assets have suffered permanent impairment to their value.

Capital commitments for contracts placed in respect of capital expenditure less amounts incurred to 31 March 2015 amounted to £nil (2014 £nil).

Commitments to operating lease payments due within the next year were:

	Land and buildings	Plant and equipment	2015	2014
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Leases that expire:				
Within one year	157	3	160	73
Within two to five years	716	-	716	644
After five years	428	-	428	297
	1,301	3	1,304	1,014

7 Investments.

Value at 31 March		Group		Charity	
		2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Securities					
Units in funds managed by the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church:	Action for Children share of funds				
CFB UK equity fund	1.9%	6,884	5,761	6,884	5,761
CFB overseas fund	3.9%	6,786	6,347	6,786	6,347
CFB gilt fund	0.3%	114	247	114	247
CFB corporate bond fund	0.4%	417	430	417	430
CFB short fixed interest fund	5.8%	601	482	601	482
CFB managed fund	17.5%	9,150	8,682	-	-
CFB inflation linked	0.4%	121	210	121	210
CFB deposit fund	0.3%	1,012	869	1,012	869
		25,085	23,028	15,935	14,346
Listed fixed interest securities		-	3	-	3
Unlisted equities		5	30	5	30
		25,090	23,061	15,940	14,379
Investments in subsidiaries		-	-	-	-
		25,090	23,061	15,940	14,379
Investment in properties		6,986	6,769	6,986	6,769
Total investments		32,076	29,830	22,926	21,148

All investments are held in the UK.

Investments are valued at current market value, but where listed shares have a limited market their fair value is reviewed.

Unlisted investments are valued at cost or, if donated to Action for Children, at valuation at the time of donation.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at the higher of cost and estimated value at the time of acquisition less any diminution in value.

Investment properties are valued at the end of each year on the basis of open market value by external firms of chartered surveyors.

The historical cost or earliest known valuations of investments held at 31 March 2015 were:

Securities £17,987,000 (2014 £17,312,000)

Investment properties £222,000 (2014 £222,000)

Investment gains and losses.

	Group		Charity	
	2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Securities				
Market value at 1 April	23,061	21,875	14,379	13,633
Acquisitions during the year	1,708	1,194	1,708	1,193
Sale proceeds of disposals during the year	(1,720)	(1,358)	(1,708)	(1,193)
Net investment gains in SOFA	2,041	1,350	1,561	746
Market value at 31 March	25,090	23,061	15,940	14,379
Investment properties				
Market value at 1 April	6,769	6,240	6,769	6,240
Net investment gains in SOFA	217	529	217	529
Market value at 31 March	6,986	6,769	6,986	6,769

7 Investments (continued).

Investments in subsidiaries.

- (i) Action for Children Services Limited is a wholly owned company registered in England and Wales handling the primary purpose trading activities of Action for Children. The investment comprises shares at a cost of £100 (2014 £100).
- (ii) Action for Children Trading Limited is a wholly owned company registered in England and Wales handling fundraising trading activities of Action for Children. The investment comprises shares at a cost of £100 (2014 £100).
- (iii) Action for Children Developments Limited is a wholly owned company registered in England and Wales. It is limited by guarantee and has not traded.

8 Debtors: amounts falling due after more than one year.

	Group		Charity	
	2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Local authority partnership agreement	98	123	-	-
	98	123	-	-

9 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year.

	Group		Charity	
	2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Local authority and other government contracts	13,882	13,917	9,210	8,811
Prepayments	1,511	1,278	1,511	1,277
Accrued income	5,007	3,253	4,205	2,787
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	-	-	3,096	4,090
Other	463	431	686	643
	20,863	18,879	18,708	17,608

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year.

	Group		Charity	
	2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Bank overdraft	-	-	295	1,211
Trade creditors	4,114	3,901	4,112	3,901
Tax and Social Security	3,127	3,611	2,014	2,160
Other creditors	4,057	3,112	3,699	2,380
Accruals	4,767	2,859	4,754	2,848
Deferred income	5,770	5,047	4,301	3,907
	21,835	18,530	19,175	16,407

11 Provisions for liabilities.

Group and Charity	Fixed asset capital grants	Onerous leases	Lease dilapidations	Redundancies	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1 April	750	619	535	477	2,381
Additional provision in the year	-	330	77	328	735
Provision utilised	(235)	(67)	(6)	(477)	(785)
At 31 March	515	882	606	328	2,331

Fixed asset capital grants of £515,000 represent the net book value of Sure Start properties that have been funded by capital grants (2014 £750,000). As also described in note 6, to reflect changes introduced through the Children Act 2004, Action for Children is transferring these properties to local authorities. These changes have resulted in the capital grant being shown as a liability. The balance is being depreciated and is released against the transfer of the properties and is not anticipated to incur any cash flow.

12 Analysis of group net assets between funds.

Fund balances at 31 March 2015 are represented by:	Restricted		Unrestricted			Group balance sheet total
	Endowment funds	Specific purpose funds	Designated funds	General fund and revaluation reserve	Pension reserve	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	32,167	-	-	32,167
Investments	8,936	-	-	23,140	-	32,076
Debtors	35	-	-	20,926	-	20,961
Cash and short term deposits	-	3,910	-	20,420	-	24,330
Other liabilities and provisions	(35)	-	(515)	(23,616)	-	(24,166)
Pension liability	-	-	-	-	(48,443)	(48,443)
Total funds	8,936	3,910	31,652	40,870	(48,443)	36,925

Further analysis of the funds and movements during the year are given in note 13. The purposes of the main funds are noted below.

Endowment funds are monies received which must be retained as a capital fund for the benefit of the charity. The Annual Income fund provides income for general purposes. The Nicholas Galperin Trust operates for the relief of young persons under the age of 25 who are in need, hardship or distress. St Leonard's Convalescent Home Trust provides the advantages of a temporary home to children who require the benefit of sea air.

Specific purpose funds represent legacies, donations and other income that can only be used for particular purposes.

Designated funds are part of the charity's unrestricted funds that are earmarked by the trustees for a particular purpose and currently comprises the capital fund.

The capital fund is the amount invested in fixed assets used in the charity's operational work, net of capital grants and associated financing. The transfers out of designated funds reflect the net amounts released to the general fund in the current year. For the capital fund this is principally depreciation, offset by new purchases, and the release of the provision for capital grants.

The revaluation reserve represents the difference between the historic costs of investment fixed assets and the revalued amount included in the balance sheet, excluding investments that are part of endowment funds.

The FRS 17 valuation detailed in note 5 gives rise to an asset or liability being recognised by the charity. The recognition of the pension asset or liability results in the creation of a pension reserve, as included above.

13 Group statement of fund movements.

Note	Brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and losses	Carried forward
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Annual Income fund	2,404	-	-	-	133	2,537
Lincoln City & County Home	72	-	-	-	4	76
Nicholas Galperin Trust	2,956	-	-	-	163	3,119
Scholarship fund	349	-	-	-	19	368
Sheila Mildred Gage	13	-	-	-	-	13
Sidney Charles Salter	294	-	-	-	17	311
St Leonard's Convalescent Home	2,381	-	-	-	131	2,512
Endowment funds	8,469	-	-	-	467	8,936
Balfour Beatty (Play Equipment)	123	-	(9)	-	-	114
Barclaycard	-	240	(52)	-	-	188
Barclays	15	389	(528)	-	-	227
Big Lottery Fund	15	426	(2,273)	27	-	352
Byte Nite Board	249	250	(237)	-	-	262
Chevron (Energy for Learning)	23	-	-	-	-	23
Dell (Inspire IT)	155	148	(178)	-	-	125
Fedex (Delivering Change)	147	1	(33)	-	-	115
Football Association	75	-	-	-	-	75
Go Play Foundation (Two of a Kind)	91	-	(81)	-	-	10
HBOS Foundation (Housing Matters)	24	-	-	-	-	24
Health & Social Care Board (Waterside Surestart)	-	537	(537)	-	-	-
Herbal Life (Healthy Lifestyles)	23	9	(9)	-	-	23
Home Sense	81	248	(85)	-	-	244
Inspiring Scotland (Roots of Empathy)	24	-	(24)	-	-	-
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council (Dewsbury West Children's Centre)	-	10	(10)	-	-	-
Les Hutchison (Silverton Short Breaks)	48	1	(26)	-	-	23
My Action for Children	161	6	(28)	2	-	141
Nestle	39	-	(14)	-	-	25
Northern Ireland Housing Executive (Sperrin & Lakeland Floating Support)	-	335	(334)	-	-	1
Northern Rock Foundation	24	9	(31)	-	-	2
Stavros Niarchos Foundation (Wigan FIP)	-	50	(18)	-	-	32
St Leonard's Convalescent Home	-	68	(68)	-	-	-
STV (Hunter Young Carers)	24	-	(2)	-	-	22
Vodafone (Digital Voices)	8	-	(2)	-	-	6
Other projects under £50,000	1,429	1,432	(995)	10	-	1,876
Specific purpose funds	3,563	5,882	(5,574)	39	-	3,910
Capital fund	33,208	-	-	(1,556)	-	31,652
Designated funds	33,208	-	-	(1,556)	-	31,652
General fund	24,822	167,188	(164,379)	1,517	697	29,845
Revaluation reserve	9,931	-	-	-	1,094	11,025
General fund and revaluation reserve	34,753	167,188	(164,379)	1,517	1,791	40,870
Pension reserve	(48,914)	-	10,066	-	(9,595)	(48,443)
Total - unrestricted	19,047	167,188	(154,313)	(39)	(7,804)	24,079
Total funds	31,079	173,070	(159,887)	-	(7,337)	36,925

14 Charity statement of fund movements.

	Note	Brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and losses	Carried forward
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balfour Beatty (Play Equipment)		123	-	(9)	-	-	114
Barclaycard		-	240	(52)	-	-	188
Barclays	15	389	366	(528)	-	-	227
Big Lottery Fund	15	426	2,172	(2,273)	27	-	352
Byte Nite Board		249	250	(237)	-	-	262
Chevron (Energy for Learning)		23	-	-	-	-	23
Dell (Inspire IT)		155	148	(178)	-	-	125
Fedex (Delivering Change)		147	1	(33)	-	-	115
Football Association		75	-	-	-	-	75
Go Play Foundation (Two of a Kind)		91	-	(81)	-	-	10
HBOS Foundation (Housing Matters)		24	-	-	-	-	24
Health & Social Care Board (Waterside Surestart)		-	537	(537)	-	-	-
Herbal Life (Healthy Lifestyles)		23	9	(9)	-	-	23
Home Sense		81	248	(85)	-	-	244
Inspiring Scotland (Roots of Empathy)		24	-	(24)	-	-	-
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council (Dewsbury West Children's Centre)		-	10	(10)	-	-	-
Les Hutchison (Silverton Short Breaks)		48	1	(26)	-	-	23
My Action for Children		161	6	(28)	2	-	141
Nestle		39	-	(14)	-	-	25
Northern Ireland Housing Executive (Sperrin & Lakeland Floating Support)		-	335	(334)	-	-	-
Northern Rock Foundation		24	9	(31)	-	-	2
Stavros Niarchos foundation (Wigan FIP)		-	50	(18)	-	-	32
STV (Hunter Young Carers)		24	-	(2)	-	-	22
Vodafone (Digital Voices)		8	-	(2)	-	-	6
Other projects under £50,000		1,429	1,432	(995)	10	-	1,876
Specific purpose funds		3,563	5,814	(5,506)	39	-	3,910
Capital fund		33,208	-	-	(1,556)	-	31,652
Designated funds		33,208	-	-	(1,556)	-	31,652
General fund		24,588	167,317	(164,494)	1,517	684	29,612
Revaluation reserve		9,931	-	-	-	1,094	11,025
General fund and revaluation reserve		34,519	167,317	(164,494)	1,517	1,778	40,637
Pension reserve	5	(48,914)	-	10,066	-	(9,595)	(48,443)
Total - unrestricted		18,813	167,317	(154,428)	(39)	(7,817)	23,846
Total funds		22,376	173,131	(159,934)	-	(7,817)	27,756

15 Group and Charity statement of fund movements, further detail.

Funds received from the following trusts and organisations have been granted towards expenditure on the following projects:

	Brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Carried forward
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Barclays					
2012-13	332	-	(368)	55	19
Money Skills	57	-	(2)	(55)	-
Skills for Success	-	366	(158)	-	208
	389	366	(528)	-	227
Big Lottery Fund					
Caerphilly Parent Counselling Service	38	-	(38)	-	-
Connecting Families Bridgend	16	324	(262)	-	78
Denbighshire Bridge	46	304	(329)	-	21
Family Support Volunteers	19	114	(133)	-	-
Functional Family Therapy	22	529	(550)	-	1
Glasgow Schools Challenge	2	47	(49)	-	-
Little Steps Big Steps	59	221	(244)	-	36
Monmouthshire Parent Network	-	46	(37)	-	9
Moray Care Farming	-	55	(31)	-	24
Roots of Empathy (England & Wales)	111	285	(326)	-	70
Silverton Short Breaks (Awards For All)	-	10	(10)	-	-
Skills For Living	73	-	(73)	-	-
Skills For Living (The Hub)	-	83	(62)	-	21
Uplands Outdoor Play Area	-	10	-	-	10
Upper Nithsdale Family Service	-	6	(5)	-	1
Young Adult Carers Voice	-	47	(47)	-	-
Young Fathers' Network (Clackmannanshire & Perth)	-	117	(59)	-	58
Young Fathers' Network (Devon)	40	1	(18)	-	23
	426	2,172	(2,273)	27	352

16 Taxation.

Action for Children, as a charity, is exempt from taxation of income and gains falling within Section 478 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent they are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charge arises in any of the subsidiary entities included in the group accounts due to their policy of gifting all taxable profits to Action for Children each year.

17 Contingent liabilities.

Certain grants received in respect of property alterations and improvements and equipment attach conditions whereby amounts could be repayable in the event of the relevant property or equipment being sold or ceasing to be used for the stated purpose. At 31 March 2015 these grants amounted to £551,000 (2014 £551,000). This relates to property and equipment where the conditions of the grant continued to be fulfilled.

Action for Children has agreed a recovery plan with the Action for Children Pension Fund for clearing the pension fund deficit. To support the recovery plan there are security agreements creating a first legal charge to Action for Children Pension Fund of £32m over freehold properties and of £8m over CFB investment units. The charge becomes enforceable in the event of default, including Action for Children becoming insolvent, ceasing business or failing to pay contributions in line with the schedule of contributions or Pensions Regulator direction.

There is a contingent liability that, in the event of Parklands Campus (formerly Bessels Leigh School Trust Limited) ceasing to be an Approved Special School, the managing trustees shall be liable to repay to the Department for Education and Science up to the greater of the total grants received of £265,000 and the value of those assets for which the grants were received.

18 Related parties.

All transactions with subsidiaries, associated charities and trustees are disclosed in the financial statements. Further details can be found in notes 2, 3 and 9.

Legal and administrative details.

Our legal status.

Action for Children is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1097940 and with the Office for the Scottish Charity Regulator under number SC038092. Our company number is 4764232.

Bankers.

HSBC Bank plc

333 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London
SW1V 1EJ

External Auditors.

Grant Thornton UK LLP

Grant Thornton House
Melton Street
London
NW1 2EP

Internal Auditors.

BDO LLP

55 Baker Street
London
W1U 7EU

Investment Managers.

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

9 Bonhill Street
London
EC2A 4PE

Principal Solicitors.

Bevan Brittan LLP

Kings Orchard
1 Queen Street
Bristol
BS2 0HQ

Burness Paull & Williamsons & Co

120 Bothwell Street
Glasgow
G2 7JL

Cleaver Fulton Rankin

50 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7FW

Douglas Jones Mercer

16 Axis Court Mallard Way
Swansea Vale
Swansea
SA7 0AJ

Registered office.

Action for Children
3 The Boulevard
Ascot Road
Watford
WD18 8AG
Telephone: 0300 123 2112

Officers and advisors.

Council.

Trustees

Chair

John O'Brien

Vice-Chair

Catherine Dugmore (to 22 October 2014)
Heather Schroeder CBE

Joe Barrell

Ruby Beech (Methodist Church appointee to 17 July 2014)

Allan Burns CBE (to 10 June 2014)

Les Clifford

Richard Cryer (from 15 July 2015)

Helena Feltham

Stanley Goudie CBE

Tracy Griffin (from 15 July 2015)

Catherine Guthrie (from 21 October 2014)

The Reverend John Howard

Keith Ingham (from 16 July 2014)

Andrew McDonald (to 22 October 2014)

Dr Daleep Mukarji OBE (Methodist Church appointee from 17 July 2014)

Markus Ruetimann (from 15 July 2015)

Paul Snell CBE

Yvette Stanley (from 15 July 2015)

Executive Leadership Team.

Chief Executive

Sir Tony Hawkhead

Acting Executive Director Operations

Jan Leightley (to 12 Nov 2014)

Managing Director Operations

Jan Leightley (from 13 Nov 2014)

Managing Director Commercial and Shared Services

Charles Scott

Managing Director Fundraising, Communications and Policy

Sherine Krause (to 30 June 2015)

Managing Director People and Organisation

Graham Charsley (from 29 Oct 2014)

Principal committees of Action for Children.

Finance Committee

Les Clifford (Chair)
Stephen Musgrave
John O'Brien
Christopher Sexton

Audit Committee

Catherine Dugmore (Chair to 22 Oct 2014)
Paul Snell (Chair from 22 Jan 2015)
Stanley Goudie CBE
Alan Pateman-Jones

Fundraising, Communications and Campaigns Committee

Joe Barrell (Chair)
Flora Martin
Kerry Moscogiuri (from 1 April 2014)
John O'Brien
Fiona Thorne

Operations Committee

Andrew McDonald (Chair to 22 Oct 2014)
Ruby Beech (to 17 July 2014)
Allan Burns CBE (to 10 June 2014)
Catherine Dugmore (to 27 May 2014)
Stanley Goudie CBE
Robert Green CBE
Catherine Guthrie (from 21 Oct 2014)
The Reverend John Howard
Keith Ingham (from 5 June 2014)
Emran Mian (to 13 March 2015)
Dr Daleep Mukarji OBE (from 22 Jan 2015)
John O'Brien

Northern Ireland Committee

Brian Dornan (from 26 March 2015)
Stanley Goudie CBE (Chair)
Gerard Campbell (to 2 June 2014)
Patricia Gordon
The Reverend Samuel McGuffin
John O'Brien

Scotland Committee

Catherine Guthrie (Chair from 21 Oct 2014)
Allan Burns CBE (to 10 June 2014)
Shona Cotterill (from 26 March 2015)
Catherine Dugmore (to 22 October 2014)
Isobel Freeman
Flora Martin
John O'Brien
Paul Renz
Lesleyann Russell (from 26 March 2015)
Mary Smith (from 26 March 2015)

Wales Committee

Paul Bulpin
Keith Ingham (Chair from 5 June 2014)
Robin Jones (to 12 March 2015)
Debbie Morgan
John O'Brien
Derek Walker
Mary Williams

Remuneration Committee

John O'Brien (Chair)
Les Clifford
Catherine Dugmore (to 22 October 2014)
Helena Feltham
Heather Schroeder (from 22 Jan 2015)

Nominations Committee

John O'Brien (Chair)
Catherine Dugmore (to 22 Oct 2014)
Heather Schroeder (from 22 Jan 2015)

Charity Investment Sub-group

Christopher Sexton (Chair)
Peter Davies
Pryesh Emrith

Thanks to you.

We are immensely grateful to everyone who has supported the charity and taken action for children over the past year. Every pound given really does help us to reach out and help children who need us the most.

Your commitment and energy have made a real difference. Unfortunately, we cannot list everyone but our thanks go out to all, and to the following supporters:

Our Patron.

Her Majesty The Queen

Our Ambassadors.

Jenny Agutter OBE	Emily Maitlis
Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top OBE	Rt Hon the Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale
James Bennet MBE	Sir Trevor McDonald OBE
Bill Bottrill	Dermot Murnaghan
Michael Buerk	Mary Nightingale
Gordon Bullock	Fay Presto
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Ken Deeks MBE	Rt Hon the Rev Baroness Richardson of Calow, OBE
Gordon Edington CBE	Angela Rippon OBE
Shirley Anne Field	Neville Shulman CBE
Nerys Hughes	Alastair Stewart OBE
Dr Owain Arwel Hughes CBE	Lady Henrietta St. George
Jessica Hynes	Sway
Martha Kearney	Lynda Myles Till MBE
Diane Keen	Mike Tobin OBE
Diane Louise Jordan	Kevin Whately
Matthew Lewis	Sister Eluned Williams MBE
Siân Lloyd	

Our Supporters.

2014 Marathon Runners	Kim Buckland MBE
2014 RideLondon Cyclists	Byte Night Boards (National Chairs: James Bennet MBE, Ken Deeks MBE, Regional Chairs: Alastair Brown, Huw Brown, Dr Alistair Forbes, Mike Gibbons, David Groombridge, Paul Hanna, Sally Hanson, Rhona Hutchon, Charles Le Strange Meakin, Andrew MacManus, Jenny Mairs, Simon Meredith, Jennifer O'Connell, Damian Pettit, Mike Rebeiro, Richard Redman, David Roots,) and all the 2014 Byte Night Board Members and sleepers
Acorn Ventures	CardMix
The John and Florence Adamson Charitable Trust	Carers Trust
Adint Charitable Trust	The Carvill Trust
The Alice Ellen Cooper-Dean Charitable Foundation	Cawston Press
R H Amar & Co Limited	CEO Sleepout Committee (Chair: Mike Tobin OBE; Members: Manny Pinnon, Nia Williams; Contributors: Martin Bartlett, Simon Bateman, Dave Chan, Melanie Forbes, Tim Griffin, Sheetal Kapoor, Michael Keegan, Philip Knatchbull, Andrew Sibbald, Matthew Sanders, Deep Toor)
The Amber Group	Chapman Charitable Trust
Ampito Group	The Chartered Institute for IT
Crawford Anderson and C Anderson & Sons Plumbers	Cinven
Catherine Balmond	Citrix
The Barbour Foundation	The Clickety Chicks Committee
Barclays	Marisa Clifford
Robert Barr Charitable Trust	Comptia UK Channel
BBC Children in Need	Copeland Community Fund
The Beatrice Laing Trust	Rory Conwell
The Benfield Motors Charitable Trust	The Lord Cozens-Hardy Trust
The Bestway Foundation	
BGC Group	
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Bill and Elizabeth Bottrill	
The Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation	
Briar Hall Estates	
The Brighter Futures Banquet Committee (Members: Jasmine Birtles, Eddie Cunningham, Bruce Langlands, Lynda Myles Till, Scott Murdoch, Mary Ross)	

Dell Corporation Limited	Neil Humphries and The Big Match Volunteer Committee
The Derby Support Group	Northwood Charitable Trust
DHL Corporation	Norton Rose Fulbright LLP
Donald Forrester Trust	NWP Creative
Dow Corning	Paternoster Square Management
Duchy Health Charity Limited	P F Charitable Trust
The Dundee Appeal Committee	Pfizer Global Shared Services Europe
ELB Securities	PG Paper
Epsom Methodist Church Book Fair Committee	Phonetic
FedEx	Dr Christine and Mr Alan Piper
Film Industry Football Event Committee (Chair: Stewart Till) and all the 2014 FIFE Board Members and players	Porcelanosa
The Lady Forester Trust	Premier League
Forteviet Charitable Trust	Puffin Books
The Foster Wood Foundation	Pulsant
Friends of Stepping Stones	Rank Foundation
Frontmedia	RBS
Fujitsu	Mike Rebeiro
Gap Inc.	Gordon Reynolds and the Billericay House to House Collection
Garfield Weston Foundation	Anne Richards
George William Young Will Trust	The Robertson Trust
The Gleneagles Golf Day Committee	Rocket Licensing
Daisy Goodwin (Chair: Women Taking Action)	Saunderson House
The Green Hall Foundation	Schuh Trust
Groupon	The Scotshill Trust
Elizabeth Hammond	Scottish Power Energy People Trust
Harney Trust	Shared Care Scotland
Herbalife	The Southgate Support Group
Hewlett-Packard Ltd	Charles Spelina
HomeSense	The Sports Dinner Committee
The Horsham Support Group	The Spring Ladies Lunch Committee (Members: Elizabeth Hammond, Ren Harman, Vanessa Hoddle, Lynda Myles Till, Seema Patel, Ciara Stewart, Elizabeth Thompson, Joanna Tye)
The Howat Foundation	Lady Henrietta St George

Strand Parishes Trust
STV Appeal
Summers Nurseries
Symantec
TelecityGroup
Terra Firma
Tesco Bank
Thistledown Trust
Ulster Garden Villages
Ultimate News Quiz Committee (Chairs: Baroness Anne Jenkin, Martha Kearney and Chris Shaw) and the 2014 Committee Members
Valero
WCVA
The Weald Committee
Willmott Dixon Group Limited
Wilmington Trust
Wider Plan
Nick Winder
The Woman of Influence Board
Women Taking Action
Wooden Spoon Society
The World of Eric Carle
The Worthing Support Group
The Yes Chef Committee
Founded by Thomas Bowman Stephenson over 145 years ago, our thanks and appreciation for the continued commitment and support we receive from our many supporters in the Methodist Church throughout the UK.

Find out more and get involved.

Visit our website.

To find out more about the work we do across the UK, and how you can support us visit actionforchildren.org.uk

Ask us questions or tell us what you think.

If you have a question or a comment about our work, get in touch. Call our supporter services team on **0300 123 2112**

Or you can find us on Twitter or Facebook:

 [actnforchildren](https://twitter.com/actnforchildren)

 [actionforchildren](https://www.facebook.com/actionforchildren)

 [actionforchildrenUK](https://www.youtube.com/actionforchildrenUK)

How you can help.

There are many different ways individuals can get involved with fundraising or volunteering. We're also always on the lookout for corporate partners and companies to sponsor events. Just visit our website to find out more.

actionforchildren.org.uk/get-involved

Legacies go a long way to ensuring we can maintain the level of services we offer across the UK. If you can find room in your will for Action for Children, your legacy will live on in the life of a vulnerable child for years to come.

actionforchildren.org.uk/legacy

Make a donation.

Regular donations help us reach out to more children who urgently need our support. You really can help children achieve their potential.

actionforchildren.org.uk/donate

Action for Children
3 The Boulevard
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Watford
WD18 8AG

0300 123 2112

Children shown in this report have been helped by Action for Children. They took part in photo shoots to help us to reach out to more children who urgently need support.

Our year in numbers.

96% reduced risk of physical, sexual or emotional abuse.

87% of children improved their emotional wellbeing.

97% of young people remained in education, employment or training after 16 years of age.

97% of children with complex health needs sustained maximum independence.

93% of carers believe we have made their job as a foster carer easier.

96% of our volunteers said they would recommend volunteering with Action for Children.

82% of parents and carers using our early years services say that their children were well prepared for school.

2014/15 data from all Action for Children services across the UK.

To read the full 2015 impact report, please visit actionforchildren.org.uk/impact



Action for Children

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