

The Trustees who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2015. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

#### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

**Registered Company number**  
3307407 (England and Wales)

**Registered Charity number**  
1060714

**Registered office**  
c/o The Old Court House  
New Road Avenue  
Chatham  
Kent  
ME4 6BE

#### Trustees

Mrs V A Cooper	
Mrs D C Cutler	Chair
Mr P McGill	
Mrs S Parsons	
Mr C Hawkins	

**Company Secretary**  
Mrs V A Cooper

#### Auditors

Calcutt Matthews  
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors  
19 North Street  
Ashford  
Kent  
TN24 8LF

#### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

##### Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

##### Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

In seeking to ensure that the needs of individuals with severe learning disabilities and challenging behaviour are being met through the charity, a network of contacts with both personal and professional experience of the issues involved have been recruited to advise the Trustee Board, and to enhance the potential pool of Trustees. Trustee skills are reviewed annually to determine any training needs, and should specific skills be identified which would require the recruitment of new or replacement members to the Trustee Board, individuals from the advisory network may be approached to offer themselves for election.

By invitation Advisers may attend Board meetings as observers and to offer input in order to further their knowledge of how the CBF is managed, thus providing both a recruitment and a training path for new Trustees.

##### Organisational structure

The Trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law and Trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page one. Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 January 2015 was 5 (2014 - 5).

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Risk management**

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Trustees have put in place a risk management strategy, comprising an annual review of the risks the charity may face, the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate risks identified, and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should any of these risks materialise.

Day to day management of the charity's activities is delegated by the Trustees to the Chief Executive Officer. The Trustee Board meets quarterly to review achievements and performance, finances and future plans.

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## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Objectives and aims**

#### **Foreword from the Chair of Trustees**

Getting the right support, in the right place, at the right time has always been the aim of the CBF and this year we have taken some great steps forward in providing that support and enabling others to do so.

This year has seen us increase our network of volunteers across the country and provide information and support online, by post and over the phone to more families than ever before. Our national influencing agenda has targeted not only the need to increase local services for adults with severe learning disabilities but also enabled us to produce some of the first evidence to support better early intervention services for children to reduce the impact of behaviours which may challenge later in life.

As a small charity a great deal of work has gone on to form links with other charities, Government and local and national commissioners and providers. A fantastic amount has been achieved with limited resources and a lot of hard work. The small staff team in Chatham and our networks of trainers, experts by experience and volunteers across the country go above and beyond to continue to support families and effect change nationally. I would like to extend my thanks to all of those staff, volunteers, supporters, funders and families who make the work of the charity so far reaching and powerful.

**Diana Cutler**  
**Chair of Trustees**

### **Objectives and aims**

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation (CBF) exists to enable individuals with severe learning disabilities whose behaviour is described as challenging to exercise their rights to participate in ordinary life opportunities through proper understanding of their behaviour and appropriate support.

To this end, the CBF has two main areas of work, described below as: 'information and support' and 'national influencing'. Our national influencing work is informed and directed by our daily contact with families across the UK.

### **Objectives and Activities planned for 2015/16**

We are continuing with our plans to increase the capacity of our support networks to meet the needs of the families and individuals who we support. 2015/16 is the final year of our Big Lottery Fund grant which has enabled us to recruit and support family carer volunteers to become Local Champions and Family Link Volunteers, supporting other families by visiting local carers networks, sharing information and experiences and being a listening ear for families needing support around specific issues. During 2015/16 we plan to run a further three workshops across England, recruiting a further 39 volunteers. We have also commissioned a report into the diversity of families our support networks reach and how we can improve accessibility for hard to reach groups and those currently under represented. In 2015/16 we will be particularly looking at how we can implement these and integrating. We also plan to talk to the network of professionals we work with to develop a new volunteer role to help us provide additional support to families who need more in depth casework style support.

The charity has over the past four years run a very successful internship programme offering a one year paid placement to recent graduates working four days a week. This year, we would like to extend the placements to full time positions to enable them to extend their roles in the organisation and to provide a more attractive opportunity to candidates.

Our work to support families continues to grow and develop and we are keen to maintain the quality of the support provided. This year we are aiming to secure funding to produce a new film resource around communication. This will replace our current DVD which is one of our best used resources but now desperately needs updating to reflect growing use of new technologies and tools like tablet and smart phone apps. We also want to increase the capacity in the team to maintain support to a larger number of families who require more detailed ongoing support.

We are also aiming to build on the work already carried out on our database, website and newsletter and explore options for updating these tools to improve their reach and effectiveness in providing Information and support to families.

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

### Objectives and aims

An ongoing aim is to reach more children and younger families to help them access support earlier and reduce the impact behaviours described as challenging can have on an individual's life chances. Our Early Intervention Project funded from the Department of Health looked at where the gaps and barriers are in resource and understanding to support early intervention for challenging behaviours. This project has been very successful in uniquely bringing together families, professionals, academics and influential organisations to focus on this vulnerable group of children and families. We are keen to continue this work over the coming year to develop a resource pulling together the learning from the project, sharing good practice and developing a central point of information for families and professionals. We are also looking to secure funds to continue this much needed work beyond the Department of Health grant in 2016.

This year we have supported projects with two local authorities providing input to their learning disability and challenging behaviour strategies and helping to develop their engagement and support for family carers. This has been a useful way of providing our workshops to family carers and supports the development of embedded local services. Throughout the year these projects have been mostly responsive to demand and have been delivered by staff from across the organisation and our network of family carers who have completed our core training. In 2015/16 we plan to review this area of work and explore how it could be developed and resourced further.

As the tender process for the Care Quality Commission contract to provide Experts by Experience to inspections service has been delayed this year we continue to plan for bidding to continue our work in this area in 2015/16. We remain committed to delivering this project as an important part of our charitable objects supporting people in services and providing quality input from family carers in the inspection and regulation process.

## ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

### Charitable activities

### INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

We are continuing to see a high volume of enquiries to our support service, and particularly an increase in the intensity of support required:

- In 2013/14 we received 1594 enquiries, which is a slight increase on the previous year.
- We have provided support to 569 people this year via our telephone support service. The types of information and support requested and the complexity of our interactions continue to grow. We estimate that around 15% of people we support are experiencing complex situations and are in need of a more case work style approach.
- Aside from challenging behaviour itself, we continue to receive the most enquiries around adult social care, safeguarding, Deprivation of Liberty concerns and the Mental Capacity Act.
- This year we have seen a significant increase in the number of enquiries related to safeguarding concerns. Throughout 2014/15 we were contacted 393 times with safe guarding concerns (an 83% increase on last year). We always refer safeguarding issues on to the relevant authorities and support families to ensure they are guided through the process and that appropriate action is taken to safeguard their relative.
- We have also been providing ongoing support to several families who have serious concerns about their relatives care or sadly whose relatives have died whilst in assessment and treatment centres. These families often request support in making a complaint, finding informed legal support, face to face support attending meetings with providers and commissioners.

*"I was listened to and the adviser understood the problems perfectly. I felt the CBF could support me to advocate for my relative. I had been advised by other organisations that I needed to take legal advice but the CBF was the first organisation who was saying they could help point me in the direction of a legal adviser. I knew what had been going on was serious neglect and bad practice.*

*For the first time I felt confident there was close support"*

**Family Carer speaking about accessing the CBF family support service**

An integral part of our support service is the production of information resources in hard copy and online. We now provide 29 printed resources and 4 DVDs for families and professionals covering everything from understanding challenging behaviour to the impact of caring. In 2014/15 we sent 2340 resources to 439 people across the UK. Whilst this is a decrease in the number of hard copy resource sent we continue to see more visits to our website where all our information sheets are available in summary form and for download. In 2014/15 we have had over 137,000 visitors to the site, a 47% increase on the previous year.

In order to ensure our resources remain relevant we regularly review resources, to ensure they are up to date and accessible. We also identify any gaps in our resources by analysing the common concerns raised by families who contact the support service.

During this year we have made updates to seven existing resources. This has enabled us to include; more up to date information about transition from child to adult services and community care assessments in our planning for the future guide, signposting to useful equipment loans and phone and tablet applications in our specialist equipment resource and clarify information around applying for a Deputyship in our getting legal authority resource.

We have also produced new information for carers about creating a circle of support around an individual. This is a new resource drawing on our recent DVD Everybody Matters. It focuses on practical information to support families in building a group of friends and professionals around a person to help them make decisions and plans for the future and support them to live a full and active life. The CBF resource features frequently asked questions, and a video clip and stories told from a family and professional who have set up a circle of support successfully for their son.

Sadly, we continue to support families whose relatives have been abused or experienced traumatic incidents. Throughout the year we have been working in partnership with Respond, a charity aiming to lessen the effect of trauma and abuse on people with learning disabilities to produce a trauma resource for professionals and family carers. The resource was supported by the Department of Health especially to support people who were resident at Winterbourne View private hospital and gives information on how to recognise trauma support is needed, how to access it and what it might offer to their relative.

Our early intervention project has also produced new resources for families caring for children with learning disabilities. These have been produced following consultation with families and professionals. Following the introduction of combined Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP) we have produced two guides one for professionals and one for families outlining what should be included in an EHCP and how to develop one.

We continue to receive enquiries about our workshops focused on Understanding Challenging Behaviour and Supporting Behaviour Change. During 2014/15 we worked with four organisations to deliver workshops independently. We have also developed several projects to work with Local Authorities and other organisations to deliver workshops affordably to carer groups and we have continued to offer workshops similar to our "core training" for organisations looking to train volunteers in their projects. In 2014/15 we have:

- Delivered eight workshops for families in Scotland in partnership with Dundee charity PAMIS, training 2 new CBF trainers to increase capacity for future projects in Scotland. We are grateful to a number of Scottish funders for supporting this work.
- In partnership with Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucestershire Carers we have delivered a series of 7 workshops around the county with a further 5 planned before July 2015. This has been an excellent way of reaching family carers in the county.
- In partnership with Southwark Council and Southwark Carers we have also been using our tailored volunteer training package to provide 3 workshops to help develop a family linking scheme in the borough.

*"The workshops helped me think about triggers for behaviours and gave me tools and strategies to support my relative"  
"The way the presenters spoke to us all was balanced, informative and friendly. It was good to hear examples of behaviour of other children. We aren't alone!"*

**Family Carers' comments from workshop feedback**

Our Local Champion and Family Linking schemes continue to grow to help us extend support options to more families across the UK. During the year we have recruited and trained another 26 volunteers to take on roles supporting other carers and reaching new families. We now have 28 volunteers taking on the role of Local Champion, and 18 Family Link volunteers. Local Champions are helping us to have more of a local presence, reaching families in their local communities through speaking engagements, attending events and providing information stands. Family Link Volunteers will be matched with other family carers to provide telephone support and a listening ear around particular concerns or issues they are experiencing. The volunteers have been an incredibly important part of our support to families and throughout the year have helped us reach an estimated 526 new families through local events and activities and provide Family Links to 17 families.

*"Speaking to some people, who feel down, and say to me, I don't think I can carry on anymore, I share my experiences and they turn around and say to me so I can still do this if I do this or that.*

*When I get this reaction like this, I feel that I have achieved something as it has given them hope to carry on and made them think about other options that they can explore"*

**CBF Family Link Volunteer talking about how their work benefits other families.**

As part of our information and support service we also facilitate parents' and a professionals' email network. These provide a forum for families and professionals to share experiences, ask questions and receive support. This year we have added an option for families to ask questions to the professional's network. During the year 250 people were part of the families' network and an evaluation of the service showed that the email network continues to be a positive support system for family carers. The majority of family carers use the network to find advice/stories/experiences from other family carers. Since using the email network, family carers reported feeling more calm, hopeful and listened to. The data also shows they feel less anxious, frustrated, guilt, isolated, stressed, worried and have a more positive mood overall.

*"It is so helpful to my family. Without it, I don't know how my life and my son would be. I gain lot of tips of support, training and networking with good relationship, better communication with other parent. They are friendly without any discrimination"*

Our Challenge newsletter continues to provide information support and a means of sharing experiences for family carers and professionals. Acting on feedback from readers in last year's review we have launched an electronic version of the publication and hope this will be a useful and effective way of reaching more families and professionals with information and support. Currently we reach over 5,450 people via our newsletter, 600 of whom subscribe to the electronic version. We have also updated the content of the newsletter slightly to include more direct information and support to families and provide more platforms for different family and professional voices to be heard in the publication.

## **NATIONAL INFLUENCING**

We continue to chair the Challenging Behaviour National Strategy Group (CB-NSG), a group we founded in 2008 to bring together a variety of stakeholders including Government, charities, family carers, people with learning disabilities, clinicians, professional bodies and others to work collaboratively on issues of concern to children and adults with learning disabilities whose behaviour is described as challenging. The CB-NSG meets twice a year. The theme of each meeting is chosen by a steering group representative of the membership and following each meeting the learning is shared with a wider email network of associate members. Our meetings this year have included:

- **March 2014 – “Children First”.** Speakers included Lanre, the mother of Kinton, a 10 year old boy who has severe learning disabilities and behaviour that challenges, Amanda Allard (Council for Disabled Children) and Dominic Slowie (NHS England) who spoke about a new publication for commissioners Ensuring Quality Services - Core principles, which identifies Positive Behaviour Support as the key framework for delivering a range of evidence based supports to increase quality of life and reduce the occurrence, severity or impact of behaviours that challenge. Ann Gross (Department for Education) discussed the Special Educational Needs and Disability reforms in the Children and Families Bill and Rosey Singh & Corinne Davies (Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust) shared their experiences of setting up and running The Sussex Family Intensive Support Service. Alongside several workshops throughout the day inviting people to input their views and develop action plans in group work sessions, Professor Martin Knapp from the London School of Economics led a workshop to involve members in research on the economic case for intensive support teams.
- **October 2013 – “Skills, leadership and development”.** Speakers included Jenny and Robert Steeples who spoke about how their daughter and sister Claire has found support, Christine Rose from the Association for Real Change who presented on interactive training and active support for staff and Julie Smith from Getta Life who spoke about how they develop and support a staff team around an individual. Workshops were held to discuss core competencies and training on Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) and following the meeting a survey was developed and circulated to members to shape the proposals for the Positive Behaviour Support Academy. Over 300 responses were received in a short time frame and the responses were summarised and fed back to members and wider contacts.

In partnership with Mencap we have continued our work on the Winterbourne View Campaign. The campaign was prompted by the promises made by the Government following the uncovering of abuse at private hospital Winterbourne View in 2011 and aims to end the inappropriate use of out of area Assessment and Treatment Units for people with a learning disability and ensure the availability of good local support. This year we reached the 3 year deadline that the Government set itself as part of the Transforming Care Programme to move people with a learning disability out of inappropriate assessment and treatment placements. This deadline was not met and we were keen to ensure that this did not mean that the issues facing people in secure settings and their families would become less of a priority. During 2014/15 we:

- Continued to work across stakeholders through a difficult period of change in the structure of the Transforming Care programme securing representation on the new Department of Health Assurance Board and engaging with the NHS group led by Sir Stephen Bubb to investigate how a new national framework of support might be delivered locally. We supported this group in particular to engage with families in their work and ensure they were informed about the issues facing families and the learning disabilities sector.
- Successfully called for a National Audit Office investigation in to the Government action on the transforming care objectives and provided evidence to support the report and its referral to the Public Accounts Committee. We hope this will promote further action and the development of a new plan to improve on the disappointing progress to date.
- Organised regular meetings between families and the care and support minister Norman Lamb and other key stakeholders to highlight the need for change and the impact of poor quality placements and inappropriate usage of Assessment and Treatment Units on individuals and their families. This has involved supporting families at individual meetings, attending All Party Parliamentary Group meetings and staging our own regular families' day meetings with leading figures at NHS England, Department of Health, Local Government Authority and Care Quality Commission.
- Continued to monitor, question and highlight the importance of the NHS data reports on people with a learning disability in ATU placements and how this relates to the experience of people in services and their families. This has resulted in several high profile pieces in national media papers including coverage by the BBC, The Sunday Times, The Guardian and Telegraph. The support of families working with us in this project has been incredible and we are very grateful for their input and strength in sharing their stories. In particular the families of some of those who were resident at Winterbourne View who have worked with us to respond jointly to the missed deadline with blog posts and letters to the editors of national newspapers.
- Produced a resource for families explaining their rights to challenge assessment and treatment places and a guide to questions they can ask locally to find out about how the Transforming Care Programme is being implemented locally
- Together with partner organisations supported two families to set up and promote petitions to raise awareness of their

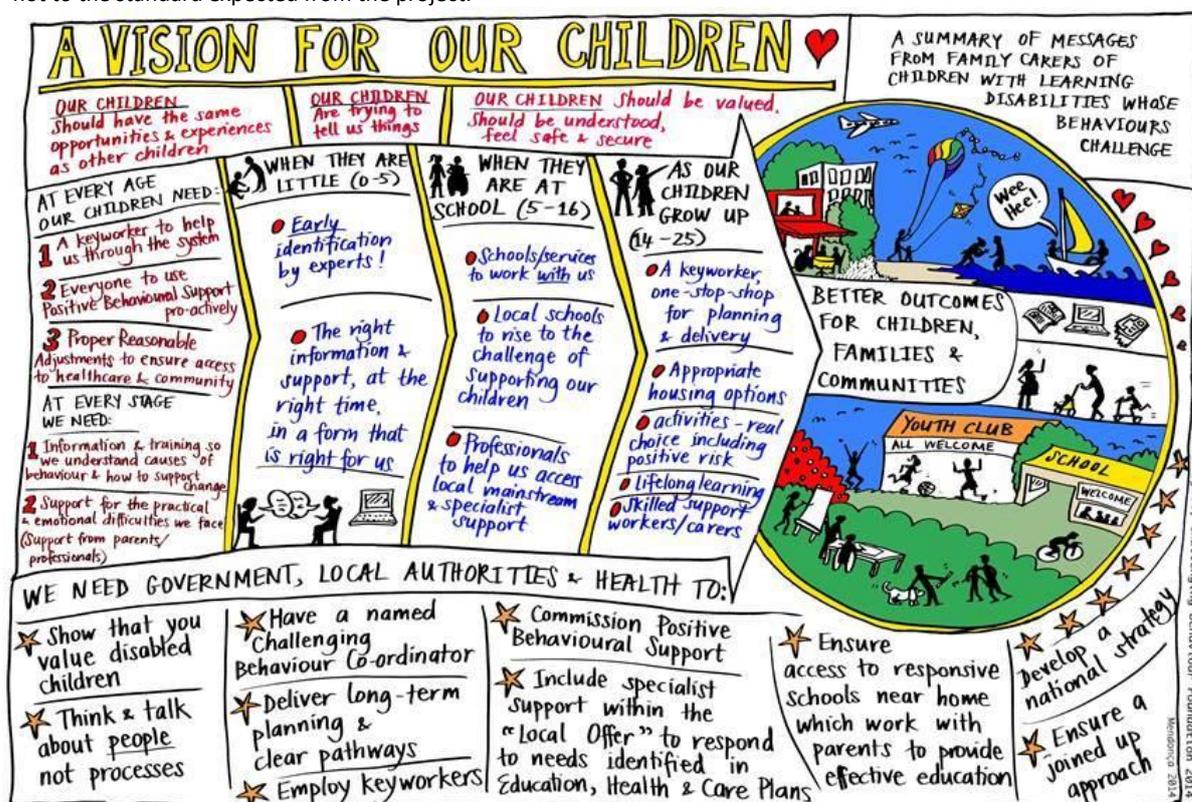
children's placement in an ATU and put pressure on the local authorities involved to put plans in place for a move to local support close to home.

Alongside the Winterbourne View Campaign, we have continued to play a role engaging with several bodies as members of steering committees and responding to consultations. We consider this a vital part of our work bringing the voices and experience of family carers to influence best practice and policy development. During the year we have:

- Produced the 3 lives report in partnership with CQC and followed up with several events engaging families in conversation with CQC around the regulation of services and the impact of the Transforming Care programme on outcomes for people with learning disabilities.
- Contributed to the development of the NICE guidelines on challenging behaviour and the use of antipsychotic medication.

Our Early Intervention Project working in partnership with the Council for Disabled Children has completed its first year of scoping the gaps or barriers to early intervention for children with learning disabilities and behaviours described as challenging. The project has consulted with families, children and young people, professionals, commissioners and academics to produce a vision of what good early intervention looks like in terms of outcomes for children. The project has also produced a briefing paper with the first academic consensus on the number of children in the UK and documenting the existing evidence base for early intervention to inform the national context for the project. The first year evaluation of the project saw the project's strengths as:

- Gaining support from key stakeholders: creating a unified and authoritative voice to ensure key opportunities to make a difference aren't missed
- Redefining the concept of evidence base: combining research/expert opinion with families and children lived experiences
- Creating a clear vision of who needs to be influenced and how: influencing work is very well placed to maximise impact.
- Being visible among national stakeholders and seen as having potential to make a real difference
- Providing evidence/resources for policy makers and commissioners which may not be developed without the project or not to the standard expected from the project.



We continue to work with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) recruiting, training and supporting Experts by Experience (ExEs) to provide family carer viewpoint on service inspections. CBF ExEs have significant experience of caring for an adult relative who has a learning disability and behaviour described as challenging and/or mental health needs or profound and mental learning disabilities, summarised as complex/high support needs. ExEs join CQC inspection teams and spend time talking to people who use the service and observing the environment. Their findings are used to support the inspector's judgment on the service and can also be included in the inspection report. The anticipated retender for delivery of this contract has been delayed this year and we expect a full tender process to take place next year. We are committed to this project as another way for the CBF to contribute to improving the standard of services for people with a learning disability. During the year we have completed a series of recruitment days and we now manage a network of 39 ExEs across the country, who are matched by experience to inspections. This year, CBF ExEs have been involved in over 300 inspections covering Adult Social Care, Domiciliary Care Agencies, Primary Medical services and NHS Acute Trust Hospitals. ExEs also attend events, consultations and staff training

events and take part in activities that develop CQC processes. This year ExEs have also been involved giving input to how CQC uses experts in registrations and in training resources for the inspectors.

This year we have completed the Medway Advocacy Project. There is currently a critical lack of available independent advocacy for people with learning disabilities nationally. This project recruited, trained and supported advocates to work with six people with a learning disability in the Medway towns. Alongside the project we produced an advocacy resource over 400 copies of which has been sent to families and professionals through our information service. We have now planned how to share the knowledge from the project and build on the resource to help others develop services nationally. We have recruited an independent evaluator for the project who will produce a report to be shared with other advocacy organisations and develop a resource to support them in developing their own service.

We are committed to supporting evidence based practice and therefore support a number of research projects through input to steering groups. During the year we have:

- Continued to provide steering group input to E-Pats (Early Intervention project) This project has been linked up with several early intervention projects nationally including our own project in partnership with the Council for Disabled Children. We plan to look at how further links can be developed to take both projects forward.
- Formed part of the steering group of the Tizard prevention research which has been completed this year concluding that some challenging behaviour in social care settings may be prevented by relatively simple interventions which attend to the quality of social care support, especially with respect to communication, health, activities, relationships and the wider social and physical environment.
- Continued to support work at UCL participating in a steering group of a randomised control trial of Positive Behaviour Support.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves policy**

The Trustees seek to hold six months in free reserves to secure the Charity against a downturn in income. Last year the Trustees agreed the need to breach this policy for a temporary drop in the levels of free reserves held by the charity. This is due in part to the restructure of the organisation, the demands on the organisation to respond to a fast changing policy environment, increased demand on its services and the alteration to its funding sources.

Last year we worked hard to manage expenditure to build reserves back up to agreed levels and we have been successful in securing an additional £55,982, equivalent to one month's running costs. This is a step towards our target of growing to full reserves by 2018.

Current levels of free reserves are £194,448 which represents just under four months total running costs. As part of the fundraising strategy we aim to increase sustainability of funding for charity by diversifying our funding sources and seeking longer term commitments from a range of funders. During the year we have been successful at securing funding relationships with several charitable and statutory bodies. These funding relationships secure a significant part of our running costs however they are given as restricted funds. With these commitments in mind, the current level of reserves actually reflects six months of the running costs that would need to be met from unrestricted sources. This is viewed by the Trustees to be a reasonable minimum level though we continue to seek to bring the level back to the desired level of six months of all running costs over the next four years.

### **Review**

As noted above, the charity continues to undergo a period of change and development and we would like to extend our thanks to those volunteers and supporters, who have made this possible, and those organisations and individuals who have participated in partnership working to help achieve common goals effectively and efficiently.

We have begun to slowly but steadily grow opportunities for fundraising from individuals with a growth in income from challenge events and from initiatives enabling supporters to fundraise for free. Whilst growth is slow we continue to maintain levels of income in this area whilst laying the ground work for increasing our interactions with supporters in the future. The long term hope is that this will become a sustainable source of income for the charity in the future.

Our income from contracted and paid work continues to offer an income stream with our workshops, consultancy and work with the Care Quality Commission enabling us to progress our aims whilst delivering services to key partners. We are keen to ensure these works are self-sustaining as well as making a fair contribution to the charity's core costs. We intend to carefully select opportunities to engage in work of this nature in order to ensure it offers a good fit with our aims and object and does not stretch the capacity of the team.

In the meantime we continue to rely on the support of Trusts and Foundations to support our staff and core costs whilst we grow other forms of income. We would like to extend our grateful thanks to all supporters who have enabled us do so. In particular we wish to thank the Big Lottery Fund for supporting the development of our volunteer programme and extending our support networks, The Lloyds Foundation for supporting a full time family support worker role, the Department of Health for supporting our Early Intervention Project, the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation for supporting our work on the Winterbourne View campaign, the Henry Smith Charitable Trust for supporting our family support work and several other smaller foundations for supporting core costs. We continue to work to form meaningful alliances with funders for key pieces of the charities work whilst we focus on growing other income streams.

### **Results**

As shown on page 16, incoming resources for the year amounted to £ 663,868 (£462,246 in 2014) and resources expended were £588,319 (£533,867 in 2014), giving net incoming resources of £75,549 (£71,621 in 2014).

### **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

We are keen to develop further our work in early intervention over the coming years as we see this as a key area which will prevent families reaching crisis point. We plan to develop networks which will extend our offer of support to young families and carers. In particular we are keen to work with early intervention services to encourage shared evaluation and the development of learning networks able to share good practice and support the development of good quality services, well trained staff and better outcomes for children and young people. We are also planning to undertake a review of our organisational strategy to plan for our work to increase in this area.

As our local champion and family link volunteers continue to support us reaching and supporting more families we also want to engage more professionals in volunteering their time and expertise to support families in crisis and with more complex needs. We hope to work with our current networks to scope how this would work for development over the coming years.

We aim to continue our work with CQC dependent on the upcoming tender and continue to deliver a high quality service. This work together with our workshops, volunteer networks, consultancy offer and national influencing work demonstrates our ongoing commitment to supporting families to engage with service development and delivery and supporting the development and accessibility of local services.

In the interest of raising awareness and improving the evidence base regarding services and treatment of people with severe learning disabilities and behaviour described as challenging we continue to see research and development as a key part of our work in the future period. The dissemination of findings and the sharing of best practice we believe are crucial and we continue to see ourselves playing an important role in bring families together with stakeholders across service provision, Government and Professional bodies.

Financially, we continue to seek to grow unrestricted income from individuals and community sources. We plan to develop our consultancy offer engaging families in local support provision and we see this as a way of both fulfilling our aims and gaining funding for our work, of course our offer needs to balance with our capacity. We do not intend long term to become a service provider or replace services which should be delivered locally or via statutory sources.

### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The charity provides public benefit by providing free information and support to families caring for individuals with severe learning disabilities and behaviour described as challenging.

Someone with a severe learning disability will have little or no speech, find it difficult to learn new skills and need ongoing support to carry out daily activities such as washing and dressing. The NHS estimates that there are around 350,000 people in the UK with a severe learning disability. Around 10- 15% of people with severe learning disabilities are likely to develop behaviours described as challenging.

Challenging behaviour is a term used to describe a range of behaviours which some people with severe learning disabilities may use to communicate their needs or exert control over a situation. Behaviours can vary from hair pulling or aggression to eating inedible objects, obsessive repetition or making inappropriate noises. In many cases these behaviours are not intended to cause disruption or distress but offer a form of communication to children and adults with learning disabilities who find verbal communication difficult.

In addition to the immediate health and safety concerns becoming known as "challenging" can mean that an individual can find themselves excluded from local services and left with little control over how their support is provided. Families often find themselves isolated from their local community, unsupported by local services and separated from their relative. Without appropriate support children and adults with severe learning disabilities whose behaviour may challenge find themselves at greater risk of poor healthcare, poor life prospects and at greater risk of abuse. We believe that with good support each individual can live a happy active life in their community with access to healthcare, employment, leisure and education, as well as a fulfilling family life.

More information about the work of the charity can be found at [www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk](http://www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk).

The Trustees have paid due regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Challenging Behaviour Foundation for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

**AUDITORS**

The auditors, Calcutt Matthews, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on ..... and signed on its behalf by:

.....  
Mrs D C Cutler - Trustee