Counsel and Care for the Elderly

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2016

Charity Registration Number 203429
Company Registration Number 645708

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Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2016. The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 including the exemptions relating to small companies.

Objectives and activities

Counsel and Care is the working name of Counsel and Care for the Elderly. Counsel and Care was operationally merged with The Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association, operating as Independent Age, a registered charity number 210729, on 26 October 2011. From that date Counsel and Care's activities and related assets were transferred to Independent Age as a going concern and all of Counsel and Care's staff transferred to Independent Age's employment.

Constitutionally, Counsel and Care continues to exist for the time being as a separate charity to collect all donations made to it. These donations are transferred to Independent Age and may be used by its Trustees to fund the services previously provided by Counsel and Care but now delivered in the name of Independent Age.

Public benefit

The Board of Trustees confirms that it has had due regard for the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission and so fulfilled its obligation under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

Achievements and performance including the financial review

The charity continues to receive funds to assist Independent Age to develop and expand the merged services. The coming together of the two charities has provided a unique opportunity to develop a broader range of services for older people than either of them could provide separately and has given a platform for expansion to support even more older people in the future.

Against this background, in the year to 31 December 2016 total income was £322,899 (£433,987 in the year to 31 December 2015), all being voluntary income. Total expenditure was £438,442 (£413,591 in 2015). Net expenditure for the period was £115,543 (£20,396 net income in 2015). As at 31 December 2016 the total reserves, all of which are unrestricted, were £277,833 (£393,376 at 31 December 2015).

Reserves

Counsel and Care seeks to pass on 100% of the income it receives in order to further the charitable objectives of Independent Age. The net funds of the charity will vary year on year according to the payment profile of the charity's legacy debtors. At the end of 2016 the charity held free reserves of £277,833 which will be paid over to Independent Age upon recovery of the debtor balances. The level of reserves held is in accordance with the Reserves Policy adopted by Trustees.

Governance and management

Counsel and Care is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. The constitution of the company is given in its Articles of Association adopted on 14 October 2011.

The Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association, operating as Independent Age, is the sole legal member of Counsel and Care. Three Independent Age Trustees are appointed as directors and Trustees of the charitable company. Day-to-day management of Counsel and Care is ultimately undertaken by the Chief Executive of Independent Age with the support of the Senior Management Team and the Company Secretary.

Risk review

The Board of Trustees regularly reviews the major risks to which Counsel and Care is exposed, particularly those relating to the operations and finances of the charity, and is satisfied that systems and insurances are in place to mitigate the effects of exposure to those major risks.

Future plans

Counsel and Care will continue to receive donations and legacies made in its name and ensure that these carry on providing support and services to older people.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Counsel and Care for the Elderly for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report 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 reporting period 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 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 2015 (FRS102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable 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.

Disclosure of information to Auditors

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

(1) so far as the trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors is unaware; and

(2) each trustee has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s418 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 24 May 2017 and signed on its behalf by:

Dr Justine Frain
Chairman
Date: 7 June 2017

Administrative information

The Trustees of the charity, who are the directors of the company, in office during the reporting period and up to the date of signing the financial statements were:

List of Trustees
Dr J M Frain
N D Broadhead (Resigned January 2016)
Professor M L Green OBE (Appointed April 2016)
His Honour Judge M D Dight (Appointed April 2016)

Company Secretary
Philip Charles Brown
c/o Independent Age
18 Avonmore Road
London W14 8RR

Sole legal member
It was agreed on 25 July 2011 that The Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association (registered charity number 210729), operating as Independent Age, would become the sole legal member of Counsel and Care.

Counsel and Care is the operating name of Counsel and Care for the Elderly, charity registration number 203429.

Company registration number
00645708

Registered office
18 Avonmore Road
London W14 8RR

Independent Auditors
MHA MacIntyre Hudson LLP
New Bridge Street House
30-34 New Bridge Street
London EC4V 6BJ

Principal Bankers
Royal Bank of Scotland
Camden Town Branch
189-191 Camden High Street
London NW1 7BP

Solicitors
Bates Wells & Braithwaite London LLP
10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1BE

Independent Auditor's Report to the member of Counsel and Care for the Elderly

We have audited the financial statements of Counsel and Care for the Elderly for the year ended 31 December 2016 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, including an Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet 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) including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"

This report is made solely to the charitable company's member, in accordance with 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 member 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 the charitable company's member, 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 Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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.

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 Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustees' Report to identify material misstatements and material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2016, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;

- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to smaller entities; and

- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

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 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and 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; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Report and take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Sudhir Singh

Sudhir Singh FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of MHA MacIntyre Hudson
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
New Bridge Street House
30-34 New Bridge Street
London
EC4V 6BJ

Date: 7 June 2017

Statement of Financial Activities (including an Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 December 2016

	Note	**Total 2016 £**	Total 2015 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	3	**322,899**	433,987
Total income		**322,899**	**433,987**
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities:			
Advice services to older people		**438,442**	413,591
Total expenditure	4	**438,442**	**413,591**
Net (expenditure)/income		**(115,543)**	20,396
Fund balances brought forward		**393,376**	372,980
Fund balances carried forward		**277,833**	**393,376**

All operations of the charitable company continued throughout the year and no operations were acquired or discontinued. The charitable company has no other recognised gains and losses other than those stated above. The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements. There is no material difference between the net income stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

Balance Sheet

	Note	**As at 31 December 2016 £**	As at 31 December 2015 £
Current assets			
Debtors	5	**244,253**	**370,958**
Cash at bank and in hand		**33,580**	**22,418**
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**277,833**	**393,376**
The Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted income funds	6	**277,833**	**393,376**
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		**277,833**	**393,376**

The financial statements and supporting notes on pages 9 to 11 were prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue, on 24 May 2017 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr Justine Frain
Chairman

Date: 7 June 2017

Company number: 645708

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016

1 CONSTITUTION

Counsel and Care for the Elderly (Counsel and Care), is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. It is licensed by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business Innovation & Skills to omit the word "limited". Independent Age became the sole legal member on 25 July 2011. In the event of the charity being wound up, the member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued on 16 July 2014) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Companies Act 2006, taking advantage of the small company provisions, and the Charities Act 2011. The charity has also taken advantage of early adoption of the Charities SORP (FRS102) Update Bulletin 1 issued on 2 February 2016 and has not prepared a Statement of Cash Flows.

Fund accounting

General unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of Independent Age in furtherance of the general charitable objectives formerly pursued by Counsel and Care.

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific conditions imposed by the donors.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the estimated amount and probable settlement date or on a receipts basis if earlier. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the granting of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measurable with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title to the asset having been transferred to the charity. Reversionary legacies are not recognised during the lifetime of the original beneficiary under the will.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis inclusive of VAT. The charity is not registered for VAT so is unable to recover any of the tax paid.

Charitable expenditure in the reporting period comprises grants to Independent Age to facilitate the delivery of services, directly relating to the objects of Counsel and Care, alongside its own matched services.

Costs incurred in supporting the charity and its governance, including an audit fee of £2,000, were borne by Independent Age and are included in the consolidated group Statement of Financial Activities of Independent Age. These have not been included as Gifts in Kind as they are immaterial.

Statement of cash flows

A statement of cash flows has not been prepared as the charitable company has taken advantage of the early adoption of the Charities SORP (FRS102) Update Bulletin 1 which allows charities of this size not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

3 INCOME

	Total 2016 £	Total 2015 £
Donations	**11,162**	24,373
Legacies	**311,737**	409,614
	322,899	433,987

4 EXPENDITURE

The expenditure in the year £438,442 (£413,591 in 2015) represents grants to Independent Age in accordance with the Deed of Merger dated 25 July 2011.

There are no staff and Trustees are not remunerated hence there were no amounts paid to Key Management Personnel of the charity.

The Trustees neither received nor waived any emoluments during the current or prior reporting periods. The Trustees did not receive any reimbursements for expenses.

5 DEBTORS

	2016 £	2015 £
Accrued legacy income	**244,253**	370,958
	244,253	370,958

6 MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS

	As at 1 January 2016	Income	Expenditure	**As at 31 December 2016**
	£	£	£	**£**
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	393,376	322,899	438,442	**277,833**
Total funds	**393,376**	**322,889**	**438,442**	**277,833**

7 TAXATION

Counsel and Care is a registered charity and therefore is not liable to income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to registered charities.

8 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The charity had no related party transactions during the year other than those with The Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association as described in Note 9 below.

9 ULTIMATE PARENT UNDERTAKING AND CONTROLLING PARTY

The ultimate parent undertaking and controlling party is The Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association, operating as Independent Age, a registered charity (210729) incorporated in the United Kingdom by Royal Charter.

The consolidated financial statements of Independent Age for the year to 31 December 2016 are available from the Director of Resources, Independent Age, 18 Avonmore Road, London, W14 8RR.

10 2015 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2015
	£	£	£
Income			
Donations and legacies	427,987	6,000	433,987
Total income	**427,987**	**6,000**	**433,987**
Expenditure			
Charitable activities:			
Advice services to older people	407,591	6,000	**413,591**
Total expenditure	**47,591**	**6,000**	**413,591**
Net income	20,396	-	20,396
Fund balances brought forward	372,980	-	372,980
Fund balances carried forward	**393,376**	**-**	**393,376**