

Counsel and Care for the Elderly
Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2019

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 2019. The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 including the exemptions relating to small companies, and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2015 (FRS102).

Objectives and activities

Counsel and Care is the working name of Counsel and Care for the Elderly, established to assist, by means deemed by law to be charitable, elderly invalids who are in need of financial or other help which they are unable to provide out of their own resources; and to alleviate distress and suffering among elderly invalids by means considered necessary from time to time and deemed by law to be charitable. 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 2019 total income was £47,525 (£219,656 in the year to 31 December 2018), all being voluntary income. Total expenditure was £41,804 (£299,962 in 2018). The result for the period was a net income of £5,721 compared to net expenditure of £80,306 in 2018. As at 31 December 2019 the total reserves, all of which are unrestricted, were £111,277 (£105,556 at 31 December 2018).

During the year, Counsel and Care for the Elderly made a grant of £41,804 to Independent Age. As a result of this grant, Independent Age helpline answered nearly 644 enquiries, resulting in completing 24 benefits checks for older people as part of checks conducted to help tackle unclaimed Pension Credit. It also helped distributing 4,800 information guides.

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 2019 the charity held free reserves of £111,277 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. There are now two Independent Age Trustees 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.

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 14 May 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Dews', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Vivienne Dews
Chair

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

Professor M L Green OBE
Ms Vivienne Dews
Mr John Hannaford
Dr J M Frain (until 15 October 2019)

Company Secretary

Aga Szafran

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 Examiner

MHA MacIntyre Hudson
6th Floor
2 London Wall Place
London EC2Y 5AU

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 Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Counsel and Care for the Elderly

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2019 which are set out on pages 6 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

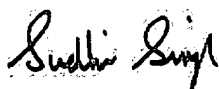
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Sudhir Singh FCA DChA
For and on behalf of MHA MacIntyre Hudson

6th Floor
2 London Wall Place
London EC2Y 5AU

Date: 6 June 2020

Statement of Financial Activities (including an Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	3	47,525	219,656
Total income		47,525	219,656
Expenditure on:			
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Advice services to older people		41,804	299,962
Total expenditure	4	41,804	299,962
Net (expenditure)/income		5,721	(80,306)
Fund balances brought forward		105,556	185,862
Fund balances carried forward		111,277	105,556

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.

The notes on pages 8 to 10 form part of the financial statements.

Balance Sheet

	Note	As at 31 December 2019 £	As at 31 December 2018 £
Current assets			
Debtors	5	51,198	51,198
Cash at bank and in hand		60,079	54,358
TOTAL NET ASSETS		111,277	105,556
The Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted income funds	6	111,277	105,556
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		111,277	105,556

The Charity's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The Trustees consider that, for the financial year in question, the Charity is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the Charity to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 14 May 2020 and signed on their behalf, by:



Vivienne Dews
Chair

Company number: 645708

The notes on pages 8 to 10 form part of the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019

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) – (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 £2,400, were borne by 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

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Donations	5,025	-	5,025	4,805
Legacies	42,500	-	42,500	214,851
	47,525	-	47,525	219,656

In 2019 all income was for unrestricted funds.

4 EXPENDITURE

The expenditure in the year £41,804 (£299,962 in 2018) represents grants to Independent Age in accordance with the Deed of Merger dated 25 July 2011.

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

	2019 £	2018 £
Accrued legacy income	51,198	51,198
	51,198	51,198

6 MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS

	As at 1 January 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 December 2019 £
Unrestricted funds General funds	105,556	47,525	41,804	111,277
Total funds	105,556	47,525	41,804	111,277

Comparatives for 2018 of movements in funds are shown below:

	As at 1 January 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 December 2018 £
Unrestricted funds General funds	185,862	219,656	299,962	105,556
Total funds	185,862	219,656	299,962	105,556

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. Independent Age appoints the Trustees of the charity and is its sole legal member.

The objects of the charity as set out in the Royal Charter are primarily to assist and provide relief to older people in need by reason of ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage. The charity may also assist and provide relief to others in need by reason of ill-health, disability, social or financial hardship. The Financial statements of Independent Age for the year to 31 December 2019 are available from the Director of Resources, Independent Age, 18 Avonmore Road, London, W14 8RR.

10 2019 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2019
	£	£	£
Income			
Donations and legacies	47,525	-	47,525
Total income	47,525	-	47,525
Expenditure			
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Advice services to older people	41,804	-	41,804
Total expenditure	41,804	-	41,804
Net results	5,721	-	5,721
Fund balances brought forward	105,556	-	105,556
Fund balances carried forward	111,277	-	111,277

The comparative Statement of Financial Activities for 2018 is shown below:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2018
	£	£	£
Income			
Donations and legacies	219,656	-	219,656
Total income	219,656	-	219,656
Expenditure			
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Advice services to older people	299,962	-	299,962
Total expenditure	299,962	-	299,962
Net results	(80,306)	-	(80,306)
Fund balances brought forward	185,862	-	185,862
Fund balances carried forward	105,556	-	105,556