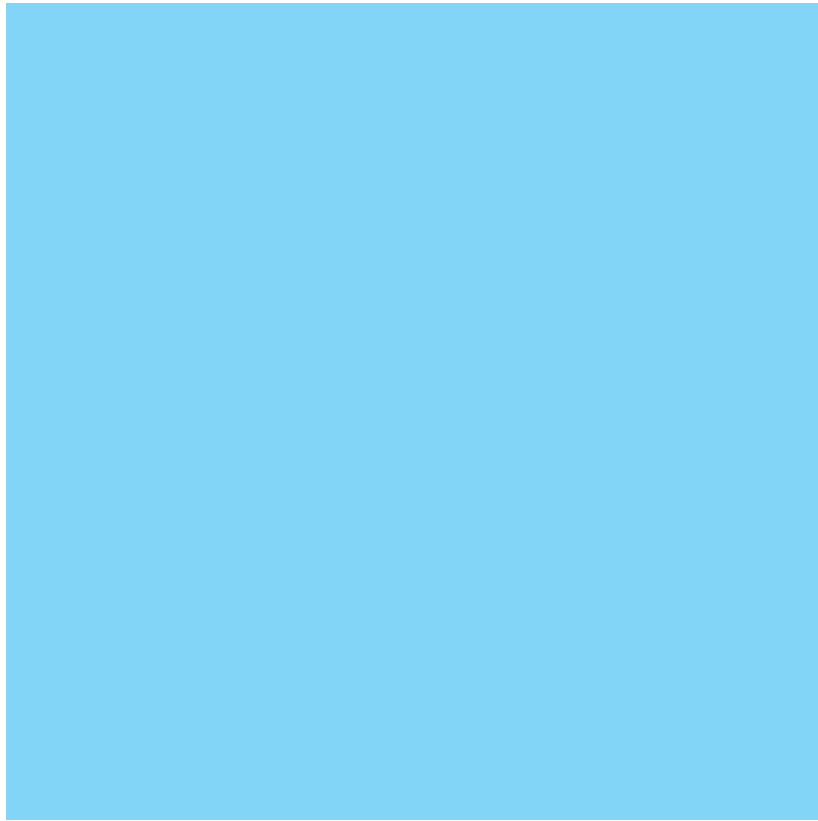


**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE GENERAL
SERVICE BOARD OF
ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS
GREAT BRITAIN
2017**





THE PREAMBLE

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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CONTENTS

The Preamble of Alcoholics Anonymous

Introduction – Chairperson of the Board

Personnel – Retirements; resignations; appointments

Report of the Trustees

Financial Statements

Members of the General Service Board

Auditors; Bankers; Solicitors; Investment Managers

The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous

Annual Report of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain) Limited - 1 OCTOBER 2016 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

Introduction

Chairperson's Introduction to Annual Report

It is my pleasure and privilege to present the annual report on behalf of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Great Britain.

The main purpose of the General Service Board is to support the Fellowship in carrying out its primary purpose of carrying the message of recovery from alcoholism to all who seek its help, to those who are associated in some way with people with alcohol problems, and to the public at large. The charity is also concerned with the proper governance of its affairs and the most effective use of its finances. In this we adhere to the requirements of the Charity Commission, the Twelve Traditions, and Concepts for World Service. This annual report sets out to show how the charity has worked towards realising its aims during the last year.

Even though the Board has had vacancies for trustees throughout the year, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, all of our service disciplines have been supported and external events attended, despite the increased workload for individual trustees. The Nominations Committee has been very busy interviewing potential trustees, and by Conference 2018 we should be almost back to our full strength, although we still need more non-alcoholic trustees.

We have supported a total of 21 professional conferences up and down the country. There has also been a unique exhibition in the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow, which was put together by AA archivists and depicts the beginnings of AA in Scotland. This is running for a period of three months and was opened by the daughter and granddaughter of the founding member of AA in Scotland. We have also held events in the House of Commons, Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly. These are annual events and attract a broad range of professional people. Our cooperation with Public Health England and the Ministry of Justice continues.

To assist in the development of AA in other countries we have made a contribution to the International Literature Fund, given financial assistance from our Development Fund, and attended as sponsors to the biennial Sub-Saharan Africa Service Meeting in Johannesburg. We also attended as delegates the European Service Meeting in York, to which we also provide the administrative and secretarial support. Our trustees have also attended as observers the annual general service conferences of a number of European countries, and invited observers to our own Conference upon a reciprocal basis.

We have produced a suite of short videos for various professionals, which we hope will be approved by Conference 2018, are planning for a celebratory convention in 2022 to mark 75 years of AA in Great Britain and, in cooperation with the Borthwick Institute in York, planning to catalogue our extensive archives collection and digitise some parts.

Geoff Hopkinson
Chairperson

GSB PERSONNEL

The following trustees retired from the Board this year:

William Innes
Clive Davy
Judy Fowler
Carol Holland
James Fraser
Tom Hood
Ashraf Kahn

The following trustees were appointed to the Board:

Sandi Aarvold
Jeff Berliner
Patrick McGuire
Dr Mani Mehdikhani
Jonathan Pope
Amanda Stocks
Peter Sivewright
Maxine Wilson

Report of the Trustees

The primary purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is to pass the message of recovery from alcoholism to those who seek help, making that information available to professionals, the media and the public. The General Service Board (GSB) of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain works to support the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and to raise awareness of AA's message of recovery.

Our Tradition of Self Support, underpinned by the Alcoholics Anonymous (Dispositions) Act of 1986, ensures that AA is supported solely through the voluntary contributions of members. The charity continues to achieve a stable financial position and has been able to undertake initiatives that the Fellowship of AA has requested.

Each trustee takes responsibility for a particular area of work within the Board activities, all of which are geared towards raising awareness of all that AA can offer those who seek help. The trustees stay abreast of developments and co-operate with the authorities in these professional areas by communicating on a regular basis, attending conferences and exhibitions and by developing projects for each professional body.

The Archives have been subject to a lot of attention and will soon to enter a new phase of work to catalogue them to full archival standards and also to digitise those records which are of major significance to the Fellowship in Great Britain

AA Service News continues to be published quarterly, carrying details of Conference Questions, Parliamentary events in England, Scotland and Wales and news of other notable service events. Thanks to all contributors. A detailed review has been conducted in conjunction with Roundabout and Share to evaluate the publications' future development, and how to raise awareness and interest.

The Armed Services Sub-Committee (ASSC) held their fourth full meeting in Feb 2017. We continue to work with service providers dealing with serving personnel and veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and abusing alcohol and are in contact with the HIVE organisation giving presentations to their members on AA's message. The newly produced PTSD poster is now complete and awaiting conference approval. Contact has been established with the Director General's Office with regard to having an AA presence at all the Army Health Fairs around the country. This will allow us to increase our capability to pass the AA message to the serving personnel whilst also giving us access to the welfare community within the Army structure. We continue to place adverts in several services publications that have direct impact. The ASSC members are actively pursuing contacts with the rehabilitation community to explore possibilities of gaining access to any ex-service clients. Progress has been made in the North West & Midlands Regions.

Electronic Communications: AA's website, www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk, continues to attract a large number of users. Existing members of AA use the site to discover information about meeting-places and times; to be told about what is happening in our various branches of service; and to buy AA-related material, particularly literature, through our on-line shop. Many newcomers first get in touch with AA through this site. Many of them who have further questions will use the email Helpline help@aamail.org where our Online Response Team will answer their queries. In addition, we will be initiating a website based service called 'Chat Now', through which newcomers can be in direct contact with a member of the Fellowship.

The Employment discipline held their four quarterly Sub Committee meetings for 2017. Each meeting proved to be successful and productive. There was quite a large change of Committee members throughout the year. Employment Liaison officers continue to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous within the Regions and Intergroups. Overall it was another successful year.

Health Liaison: This year has seen the Fellowship continue to work with various public and private establishments to ensure that those members of the public seeking help with a drinking problem are made aware of the assistance that is available. This has been done by attendance at various conferences and seminars held for health professionals, as well as the more direct approach of talking to patients in hospitals and providing meetings on site.

The Literature sub-committee produced three new pieces of work in response to Conference 2017 recommendations which are now available: Hard of Hearing Leaflet, Table Top Card for Hard of Hearing and the 'Business Meetings, the Group Conscience and Group Conscience Meetings Leaflet'. We have also been working on the following new pieces of literature in time for submission for Conference 2018: 'Your AA Group', and 'AA in Treatment Settings – How We Can Help'.

Our Magazines; Share and Roundabout: Share will be hosting a workshop in November, attended by Intergroup and Region LOs. General discussion indicates that, although SHARE is still very popular, particularly for individuals and as an important Public Information tool, members are not stepping forward when SHARE vacancies appear in Groups, at Intergroups and Regions. Although there is a SHARE Sub Committee which produces the magazine each month, it is the SHARE Liaison Officer – at every level of our Fellowship - who inspires articles and encourages subscriptions. Please help SHARE to carry our message of Recovery! Roundabout is AA's magazine in Scotland. It is published monthly by a team of AA members who work mostly from home, but who meet three or four times a year in Glasgow. It contains articles from members concerning their experiences, strengths and hopes. It also contains a pull-out section containing topical information about changes to Group Meetings in Scotland, together with announcements about certain Service Meetings. This section is for internal use only - it is removed when magazines are passed on to members of the public.

Our National Conventions: Northern, Scottish, Southern and Welsh continue to be well attended enjoyable events. An Anniversary Convention to mark 75 years of AA in Great Britain is being organized by the GSB and will take place in 2022 - the sub committee are about to finalise the decision regarding which venue will hold the event. To encourage as wide as possible participation of the Fellowship a Logo competition has been organised, a great number of entries have been received and the winning Logo will be used on all the Convention material.

The Prison sub-committee has been very understaffed all year. We have just about managed to keep abreast of ongoing projects. From November we will be back to our optimum capacity. We have rolled out the new Criminal Justice Meetings held throughout the country. These meetings are designed to stimulate cooperation between Prison and Probation disciplines and encourage Fellowship participation in both. The security clearance problems have generally been eradicated but a few pop up in individual prisons. Prison Sponsorship by mail is high on the agenda for the coming year.

Probation/Criminal Justice Social Work Services is entering a new phase. This involves a 'partnership' with the discipline in Prisons, working in closer co-operation to help carry the AA message more effectively to offenders and professionals in the community and within prison. It is not a merger of the two disciplines. Four joint meetings for Intergroup and Regional Liaison Officers of both disciplines have been held – three covering England and Wales, one in Scotland. Members of a restructured sub-committee are in the process of being appointed. It is hoped to attract a member with experience of Criminal Justice Social Work Services under the different legal system in Scotland.

The Public Information discipline had two successful National Television documentaries shown earlier this year which increased awareness of the fellowship. We organised a successful Public Information Seminar for Regional and Intergroup Liaison Officers in York in early September which was very well attended. Intergroups have been very active running Awareness events during AA's own Alcohol Awareness month of November. These events and many others are well reported in the Monthly Public Information newsletter. The Public Information Sub Committee gave considerable help and practical input into the making of the new AA G.B. Video due for launch in 2018.

We supported this year, Parliamentary Public Information events at Westminster, Holyrood and Cardiff.

Telephone sub-committee (NTSC): During the first 3 quarters of the year there were 66,226 calls to the national AA helplines. This represents a rise compared to last year's figures. Quarter 3 showed an increase of 4.5%. The NTSC had 3 new members during the year and we will have 3 more new members to join us shortly. 4 members rotated off the Sub-Committee and one rotates out in February. New technology is appearing all the time in this modern age. Both Hull and East Riding (HERI) and Sunderland Intergroups have started using app based texting 12 step services and report them successful. The Coventry area telephone service is planning to start an iCloud based 12 step service. The regional TLO meeting was very well attended and a good sharing session was had by all. We were treated to a very comprehensive PowerPoint presentation about the HERI app texting service. The NTSC have decided to produce two newsletters, winter and summer.

The Young Peoples Sub Committee has been busy finding its feet as a new discipline but across the UK we are encouraged by the positive response from the fellowship. As a new discipline the Young Peoples Sub Committee has produced some service cards to encourage liaison officers into post, these include tips to do the job to help those taking up the role. These have now been sent to all Intergroups and Regions and we hope they will assist in the recruitment of new officers. We have also organised our first ever seminar this will be held on March 10th at The Park Inn, York, and it is hoped that as many YPLO's from across the UK will attend. As a new discipline we have realised the need for constant rotation as all current sub-committee members were appointed at the same time. We are actively seeking new members of our sub-committee.

Our two Non - Alcoholic Trustees have had a busy year in addition to attending Board meetings (4 per year) and a workshop in July they have attended sub-committee meetings and a number of events around the Country, made contacts with the media, been involved with appointing members to sub-committees, spoken at our Conference and conventions. They have participated in the production of videos for use in attracting to AA people who want to stop drinking. And have attended and spoken at events abroad.

The ongoing purpose behind all of AA's activities, to carry the AA message of recovery from alcoholism, continues. Our principle of personal anonymity is of vital importance to us and especially to a newcomer to the Fellowship as it offers the assurance that personal confidences remain just that. Trustees have worked tirelessly over the last year to ensure that the message of recovery is available and to thereby keep Alcoholics Anonymous 'anonymous but not invisible'.

Financial Statement

Procedures to ensure robust budgetary setting, its controls and ongoing reviews of expenditure have been developed further during the year to ensure good practise and the best use of funds to support the business of the General Service Board in achieving the primary purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous.

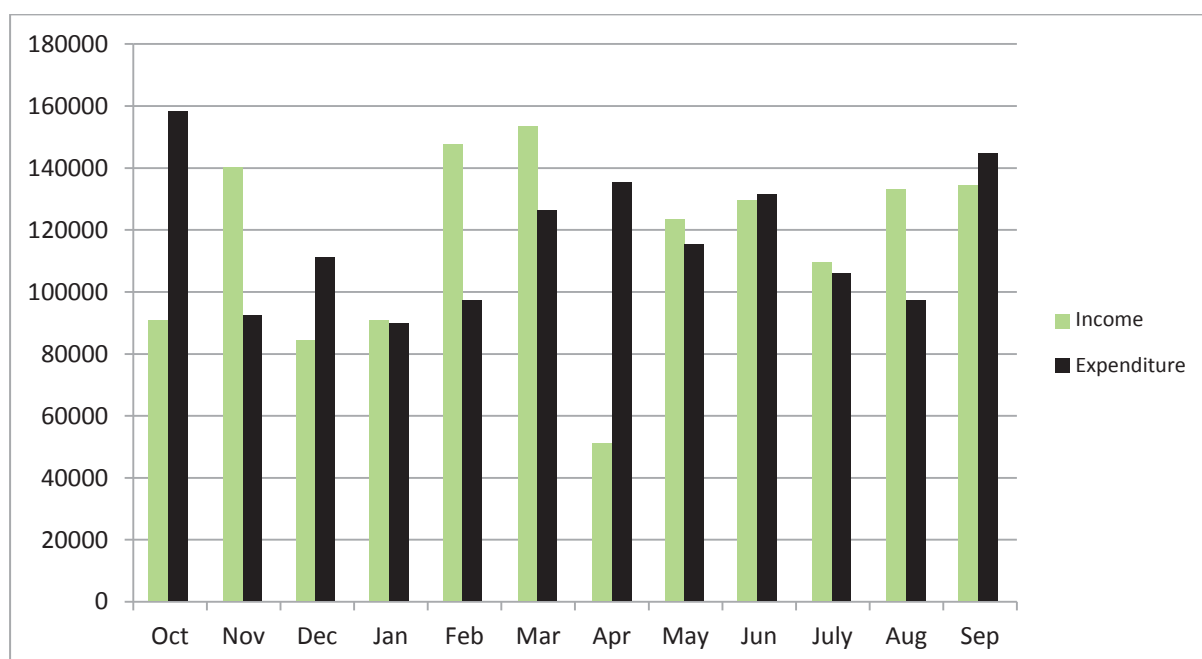
The General Service Office and the two satellite offices in Glasgow and London continue to operate efficiently and provide services to members, professionals and those seeking help.

Contributions have as usual fluctuated month to month; overall, they have decreased by £5,397 (0.6%) compared with last year.

Literature sales have increased by £21,970 (4.1%) on last year, which is in line with the upward financial trend over the past 10 years. This is a result of the introduction of new literature, increased online sales and bulk sales to other charities where there is a cross-over between alcoholism and other addictions.

Expenditure for the year has increased by £116,461 (8.9%) and includes new and ongoing initiatives. There has been a considerable increase in attendance at professional conferences and awareness raising events have been held at national and local levels, hence the £13,871 increase in public information expenditure. New initiatives to carry the AA message into places of work have been undertaken with a Public Information video having been produced in the year, costing £32,427, covering five AA service disciplines.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2016/2017



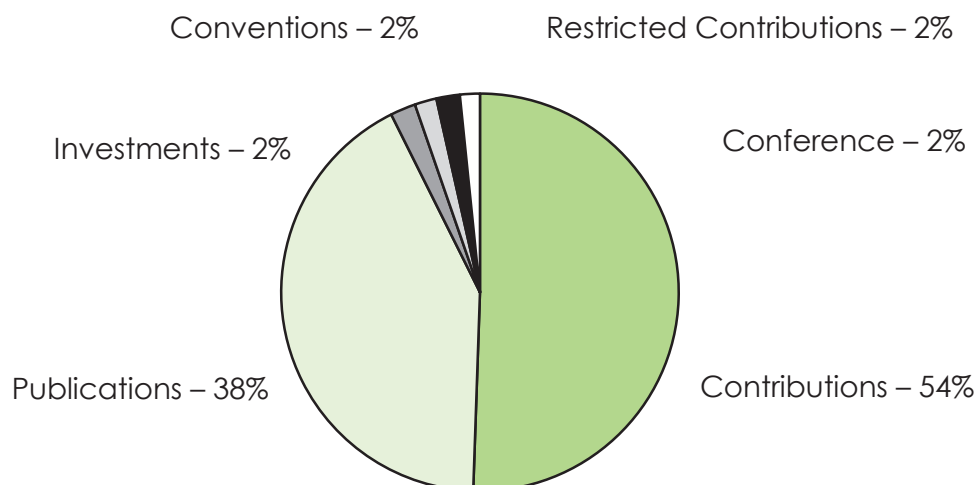
AAGB, the AA European Service Centre, plans to hold another European Service Meeting in York October 2017. This will be funded via the European Service Meeting restricted fund, which has a balance of £83,504 as at 30 September 2017. The Board supported the worldwide Fellowship through contributions to the AA International Literature fund, sponsoring developing countries to attend the World Service Meeting in New York 2016, plus other funding initiatives including visits by GB Trustees to other countries to share experience. Expenditure by the Development restricted fund totalled £22,459 in the year ended 30 September 2017.

Overall the picture is positive. The Board keeps members informed about the financial position of the Fellowship through various avenues, including quarterly financial reports, copies of the quarterly accounts and discussions on strategic implications for our primary purpose.

Throughout the year the Board has maintained all Conference requested services to the Fellowship, continuing to develop its website (with increased website costs totalling £5,235:- £3,067 more than in 2016), pamphlets and working to pass the AA message to professionals, the public and those who need help.

The final accounts show a deficit (before any unrealised revaluation gains on our investments) of £12,171 and a surplus (after unrealised gains on our investments) of £80,118, with our reserves standing at £2,525,865.

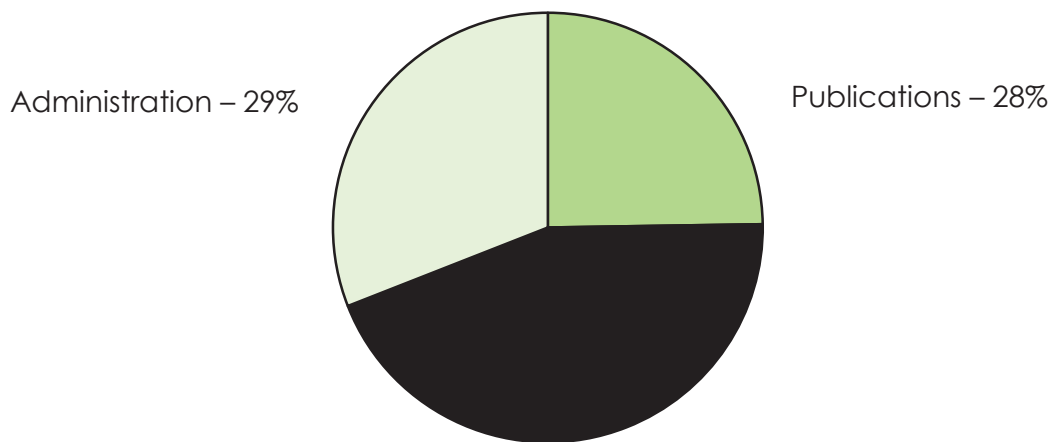
WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM (ALL FUNDS) 2016/17



| Contributions | Publications | Investments | Conventions | Conference | Restricted |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| £770,736 | £549,094 | £26,902 | £23,206 | £21,120 | £24,875 |

Total Income all Funds - £1,415,933

WHERE THE MONEY GOES (ALL FUNDS) 2016/17



| | | |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Publications | Fellowship Services | Administration |
| £396,557 | £612,875 | £418,672 |

Total Expenditure all Funds - £1,428,104

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2017
BALANCE SHEET

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | 2017 Total funds £ | 2016 Total funds £ |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| FIXED ASSETS | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 1,386 | - | 1,386 | 2,550 |
| Investments | 1,184,862 | - | 1,184,862 | 1,092,573 |
| | 1,186,248 | - | 1,186,248 | 1,095,123 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | | |
| Stocks | 146,334 | - | 146,334 | 165,834 |
| Debtors | 80,311 | - | 80,311 | 86,382 |
| Cash at bank | 1,080,040 | 94,586 | 1,174,626 | 1,176,642 |
| | 1,306,685 | 94,586 | 1,401,271 | 1,428,858 |
| CREDITORS | | | | |
| Amounts falling due with one year | (61,654) | - | (61,654) | (78,234) |
| | 1,245,031 | 94,586 | 1,339,617 | 1,350,624 |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | | | |
| | 2,431,279 | 94,586 | 2,525,865 | 2,445,747 |
| TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | | |
| | 2,431,279 | 94,586 | 2,525,865 | 2,445,747 |
| NET ASSETS | | | | |
| | 2,431,279 | 94,586 | 2,525,865 | 2,445,747 |
| FUNDS | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | | 2,431,279 | 2,355,713 |
| Restricted funds | | | 94,586 | 90,034 |
| | | | 2,525,865 | 2,445,747 |

This information has the approval of the auditors and comprises extracts from the full accounts which have been audited by Clive Owen & Co and delivered to the Registrar of Companies. The auditors' opinion was unqualified. A copy of the complete audited accounts may be obtained on request from The General Service Office, PO Box 1, 10 Toft Green, York, YO1 7NJ

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2017**

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | 2017 Total funds £ | 2016 Total funds £ |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| INCOME RESOURCES | | | | |
| Income and Endowments from | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 814,989 | 10,550 | 825,539 | 830,936 |
| Other trading activities | 549,167 | 14,297 | 563,464 | 541,494 |
| Investment income | 26,902 | 28 | 26,930 | 5,551 |
| Total incoming resources | 1,391,058 | 24,875 | 1,415,933 | 1,377,981 |
| EXPENDITURE ON | | | | |
| Other trading activities | 225,417 | - | 225,417 | 155,925 |
| Charitable activities | | | | |
| Charitable other | 1,182,364 | 20,323 | 1,202,687 | 1,155,718 |
| Total | 1,407,781 | 20,323 | 1,428,104 | 1,311,643 |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | 92,289 | - | 92,289 | 155,842 |
| Net income | 75,566 | 4,552 | 80,118 | 222,180 |
| RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | 2,355,713 | 90,034 | 2,445,747 | 2,223,567 |
| TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD | 2,431,279 | 94,586 | 2,525,865 | 2,445,747 |

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All incoming resources and resources expended arise from continuing activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

| DONATIONS AND LEGACIES | 2017 £ | 2016 £ |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Fellowship contributions | 771,423 | 773,414 |
| Gift Aid | 9,790 | 13,367 |
| Convention contributions | 23,206 | 23,035 |
| Conference contributions | 21,120 | 21,120 |
| | 825,539 | 830,936 |

| OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES | 2017 £ | 2016 £ |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Sales of literature | 563,464 | 541,494 |
| | 563,464 | 541,494 |

Literature is sold at a surplus to assist in support of the primary purpose

| INVESTMENT INCOME | 2017 £ | 2016 £ |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Fixed asset investment income | 21,667 | - |
| Deposit account interest | 5,263 | 5,551 |
| | 26,930 | 5,551 |

| EXPENDITURE – OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES | 2017£ | 2016 £ |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| Purchases of literature | 225,417 | 155,925 |
| | 225,417 | 155,925 |

| CHARITABLE RESOURCES EXPENDED | 2017 £ | 2016 £ |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Staff costs | 225,711 | 224,832 |
| Premises costs | 91,437 | 97,921 |
| Office expenses | 121,720 | 112,465 |
| Public information and publication costs | 96,531 | 77,985 |
| Conference costs | 38,569 | 38,432 |
| Website | 5,235 | 2,168 |
| PI Video Project | 32,427 | - |
| Irrecoverable VAT | 50,391 | 46,368 |
| Financial expenses | 2,379 | 2,730 |
| General expenses | 37,300 | 43,902 |
| | 701,700 | 646,803 |

Included in charitable resources expended is £396,451 (2016: £344,270) relating to charitable activities and £305,249 (2016: £302,533) relating to support costs.

| FELLOWSHIP SERVICES | 2017 £ | 2016 £ |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Staff costs | 244,520 | 243,568 |
| Premises costs | 71,757 | 74,754 |
| Office expenses | 28,286 | 28,970 |
| General expenses | 59,590 | 71,177 |
| | 404,153 | 418,469 |

| GOVERNANCE COSTS | 2017 £ | 2016 £ |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Trustees expenses | 86,492 | 78,133 |
| Professional fees | 10,342 | 12,313 |
| | 96,834 | 90,446 |

The Twelve Traditions

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centres may employ special workers.
9. AA as such, ought never be organised; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never to be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.





**General Service Board of
Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain) Limited
P.O. Box 1, 10 Toff Green York,
YO1 7NJ Telephone 01904 644026**

**Registered Charity Nos 226745/SCO38023
Registered Company No 00587316**

www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk