



fertilitynetworkuk

Advice

Support

Information

Annual Report 2016/17

Advocacy



Chair's report

April 2016 - March 2017

In the increasingly difficult financial climate for charities, I can only commend all our dedicated staff for once again ensuring Fertility Network UK continues to flourish. In reviewing our objectives for 2016/17, the only true failures were concerning the work delegated to certain Trustees. This was disappointing as we had hoped to assist staff in a necessary paradigm shift away from reliance on government grants which have ceased, or which are about to, towards support from corporate entities and increased volunteer fundraising. This has taken longer to germinate than predicted and will now go forward in 2017/18.

As the funding mechanisms within the NHS in England vary from those in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, it is proving impossible for the charity to make headway in England on a par with that supported elsewhere and particularly in Scotland. Sadly, IVF treatment is an easy target for cost cutting in England. This is in stark contrast to the provision in Scotland. The Scottish Government extended the criteria to allow couples where one partner has no biological child to access treatment in September 2016. In April 2017, provision was increased to offer up to three full cycles to those eligible. We commend those Clinical Commissioning Groups who have continued to support IVF treatment and will continue to protest formally at the reduction in any NHS services in the UK, and to push for all areas to follow Scotland's example.

In addition to our core business of supporting those involved in IVF treatment, we completed a successful education project in Scotland. Our aim is to encourage preventative spend within the NHS by educating students and others as to the effect of their decisions and behaviours on their long-term fertility. Details of our project are included in this report.

In March 2017, we held an away weekend for Board members, the Chief Executive and newly appointed Deputy Chief Executive. This was coordinated and led by Trustee, Rachel Duffy. The outcomes from this weekend will inform the charity's activities, objectives and direction going forward.

We welcome the support of the Scottish Trades Union movement in backing the introduction of a fertility policy by its members.

Our increased social media profile allows us increased reach and we hope to continue our work with partners in the field. Since our rebranding exercise, we have been working on actively reaching out to men whom we know are equally affected by the issues involved in IVF.

A number of Trustees have resigned this year due either to ill health or other commitments. My thanks go to them for their contribution during their tenure with us.

Sylvia D Shearer, MBA
Chair



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1. Reference and administrative information

Charity name:	Fertility Network UK
Charity number (England and Wales):	1099960
Company number:	4822073
Scottish charity number:	SC039511
Registered office:	20 Egerton Drive Greenwich London SE10 8JS
Reporting accountants:	McPhersons CFG Limited 23 St. Leonards Road Bexhill-on-Sea East Sussex TN40 1HH
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank 25 Cornhill Bridgwater Somerset TA6 3AY

2. Structure, governance and management

The charity supports all those affected by fertility issues; anyone considering their future fertility, those trying to become parents, anyone facing the challenges of childlessness (through our More to Life online community) and people successful in their efforts to have a family, either through fertility treatment, adoption, fostering or surrogacy.

The charity is widely perceived as the leading national fertility patient organisation, providing patient representation on several committees including:

- ❖ Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority
- ❖ British Fertility Society
- ❖ British Fertility Society and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Endocrinology and Assisted Conception Course
- ❖ National Infertility Group in Scotland
- ❖ All Wales Fertility Advisory Group
- ❖ National Gamete Donation Trust
- ❖ European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology Psychology Guideline Development Group
- ❖ Fertility Europe
- ❖ Reproductive Medicine Clinical Studies Group for the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- ❖ Regional Fertility Clinic Gynaecological Liaison Group
- ❖ All Party Group on Infertility, Northern Ireland
- ❖ Royal College of Nursing
- ❖ IVF Pricing Development Expert Advisory Group
- ❖ Fertility Preservation UK - a British Fertility Society Special Interest Group
- ❖ Meetings and conferences called ad-hoc during the year

The charity continues to enjoy excellent relationships with its sister organisations working in the field of infertility. The charity founded and chaired the Association of Fertility Patient Organisations, extended Association membership by including a further organisation to the group, and coordinated two meetings during this financial year.

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, and is therefore governed by Articles of Association. The number of Trustees shall not be less than four and not more than ten (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution), individuals over the age of 18, all of whom must support the Objects. The Board meets quarterly and as necessary. The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, who served during the year 2016/17, were:

Board of Trustees	
Daniel Bunting	(Appointed 7 October 2017)
Richard Broughton	(Appointed 7 October 2017)
Rachel Duffy	(Appointed 19 June 2016)
Louise Evans	Treasurer
Antonia Rodriguez-Portela	Vice Chair
Sylvia Shearer	Chair
Melissa Hillier	
Melissa Asare	(Resigned 11 April 2016)
Elizabeth Ascham	(Resigned 16 February 2016)
Jessica Hepburn	(Resigned 14 December 2016)
Carol Hulley	(Resigned 29 May 2017)
Jill Martin	(Resigned 19 October 2016)
Nicola Murray	(Resigned 10 September 2016)

The Trustees are each members of the company and have no beneficial interest therein and guarantee to contribute £1.00 in the event of a winding up.

The Chief Executive, Susan Seenan, was appointed on 1 January 2014 and remains in post. The Chief Executive is appointed by and reports to the Board of Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity and has overall responsibility for managing the charity's employees. The Chief Executive is co-chair of Fertility Fairness which is supported by a wide range of organisations involved in the field of infertility, including infertility charities such as the Donor Conception Network and the Daisy Network; healthcare professionals societies such as the British Fertility Society and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists; and the pharmaceutical industry.

The charity appointed a new Deputy Chief Executive, Leceia Gordon-Mackenzie on 1 January 2017. As of 31 March 2017 there were a total of five full-time and twelve part-time employees.

3. Our mission and objectives

Fertility Network UK aims ...

...to continue being the leading charity across the UK in the provision of a comprehensive support network for those facing fertility challenges at all stages of their journey, providing authoritative information as well as practical and emotional support.

The charity's objectives are subject to review each year to ensure it continues to deliver value to the individuals, couples, communities and entities it supports.

- ❖ To **relieve** the suffering from infertility particularly through the provision of information, advice and support.
- ❖ To **uphold** the provision of an equitable system of publicly funded fertility treatment throughout the UK for all sufferers of infertility, sub-fertility and secondary infertility.
- ❖ To **support** the needs of persons suffering from infertility through the provision of, among other things, a network of local support groups, a support line service, a website and a regular magazine and e-newsletter.
- ❖ To **advance** public education about all aspects of fertility and infertility.
- ❖ To **raise** the profile of issues concerning fertility and infertility in the media and in general, in an informed, responsible manner.
- ❖ To **encourage** and assist continuing research of the broadest nature into infertility and its various effects.

4. Operating highlights and achievements

Fertility Network UK set a number of objectives during the year, with our main focus being on finalising the rebrand and launching the new website.

We succeeded in accomplishing our objectives in a number of ways. The charity is proud to highlight and précis some of these below, with more detailed descriptions and statistics on each in the Appendices at the end of the report. We have captured these under three major themes:



4.1 Income

The most significant and far-reaching operating highlight in terms of the life of Fertility Network UK and our ability to continue providing the vital support and services we offer remains our income generation.

In order to decrease our dependence on grant funding, we followed an income generation strategy with particular focus on growing non-governmental revenue across the UK. Our services are in demand, often providing a lifeline to those experiencing fertility challenges. Our research shows around one in six couples in the UK will experience difficulties in conceiving - currently this translates to around three and a half million people.

We successfully encouraged individual supporters of the charity to fundraise for us and our general fundraising income grew by almost 40 per cent. The loss of four partners from our partnership programme: Clinic Eugin, Create, IVI and My HealthCare Clinic over the course of the year was offset by gaining an additional eight organisations that invested in our partnership programme; an increase in income of 38 per cent from the previous year.

Income from the successful expansion of our corporate supporters during the year will be reinvested in our services. (See Section 7, looking ahead, for more details of our income generation strategy for the upcoming financial year).

4.2 Reach

Fertility Network UK has continued to work proactively with the media to raise the profile of issues concerning fertility and infertility including sustaining our positive work with the BBC, this time on a storyline for the television series, River City. Many of our staff members took part in media interviews and similarly our volunteers continued to help raise awareness of these issues by sharing their personal stories. (See Media activity summary in Appendix 9.1).

Our proactive approach to using social media and our website continued and allowed us to target and attract visitors from a much wider and more diverse area and demographic. (See the activity numbers in expanding our reach summary in Appendix 9.2).

Our trained nurse ran our professional support line again this year, offering support to anyone experiencing fertility issues at any stage of their journey. Over 4,100 enquiries from patients were handled during 2016/17, a 46 per cent increase on the previous year, including an almost 90 per cent increase in responses to posts on our HealthUnlocked forums. Our head office diligently supports patients and individual callers to our information line. Again, having considered the changing way in which people seek support, we continued to increase the amount of information we make available online to ensure as much information as possible is accessible at the point of initial contact. (See actual numbers in the Support line and help line summary in Appendix 9.3).

We continued support to those facing involuntary childlessness through our More to Life online community, as well as to those who have been successful following fertility issues through our ACeBabes support groups.

Fertility Network UK has continued to distribute information to as many patients and professionals throughout the UK as possible, through printed literature and via our website. We expanded our social networking efforts and our active groups for Fertility Network UK, Fertility Network Scotland and Fertility Network Northern Ireland with separate groups for More To Life and ACeBabes on Facebook and Twitter as well as a growing community on HealthUnlocked. (See the statistics under Information dissemination in Appendix 9.4).

We continued to work with Intuitive Events Ltd at The Fertility Show events that took place in London on 5 and 6 November 2016, and a new venue of Manchester on 25 and 26 March 2017. This show continues to be the largest and most publicised annual fertility event in the United Kingdom. Once more, our involvement included topic guidance, media promotion and the provision of speakers.

Our fourth National Fertility Awareness Week in 2016, continued to serve as a platform for the charity to raise awareness and generate income. During the week, we published the results of our major new survey on the impact of fertility struggles. We also launched our #HiddenFaces campaign, highlighting the real people behind fertility struggles. Our #HiddenFaces videos were widely shared and we would like to extend our thanks to our volunteers who shared their stories on this platform for us. Our other initiatives included our Fertility Cycle events in Glasgow and in London, our #Fertilityin5 social media campaign where we asked people to describe their fertility reality in five words, and of course a repeat of our successful cake bake initiative.

The week is about providing support to all those struggling with fertility problems (and hopefully raising funds for the charity to help us continue with our support). Many people suffer in silence: there is still stigma or shame surrounding fertility issues and people can find themselves very socially isolated, so the awareness week is important to show people that there is help, support and advice in many different forms. You are not alone. More details can be found at www.nfaw.org.uk

We ran a successful study day for Acorn Fertility and Pregnancy Centre, and plan more of these initiatives in the coming year.

Our new online support group, set up by our England Coordinator continues to grow allowing us to reach those who are either unable to attend a local group or prefer to access support online.

In Wales, we held a second successful Fertility Options Day, reaching out and informing over 100 visitors on treatment options, support and other services. Other initiatives in Wales included directly contacting over 50 GP practices with information and resources to inform their patients. We also took the first steps to set up a new support group to focus specifically on the needs of BME women and our Wales Coordinator gave presentations to over 80 health professionals, including those attending the All Wales IVF Audit Day.

In Northern Ireland we received funding through a joint initiative with the Clear Project and the Public Health Agency to run a series of 15 Think Positive workshops across Northern Ireland. The workshops were linked to improving one's emotional and mental health through the following five ways of wellbeing:

- ❖ Connect - Relationships with partner, friends, family, and colleagues
- ❖ Be active - Fertility yoga
- ❖ Take notice - Mindfulness
- ❖ Keep learning - Fertility nutrition
- ❖ Giving - To oneself; resilience and coping strategies

We undertook a short survey of our service users in Northern Ireland to provide a snapshot evaluation for our Fertility Network UK services to use as evidence for our contract application to the Health and Social Care Board of Northern Ireland for our core services. We are proud that 100 per cent of respondents rated our regional, head office and support line staff as excellent or very good.

'I think Fertility Network UK do a fantastic job and are to be commended. I don't know how my wife or I would have coped without their support.'

Our education project funded by the Scottish Government that originally commenced in July 2012 with the appointment of two part-time development workers, based in the North East and South West of Scotland, received renewed funding for the fifth consecutive year from July 2016. We are proud to report that an external evaluation of the project was extremely positive, confirming the huge value this project has in addressing the need for fertility education amongst young people.

The success of the project is also evidenced by the positive comments received from GPs, nursing staff and young people alike. (See Feedback, comments and ratings in Appendix 9.5).

Fertility Network UK staff again attended numerous patient evenings and days during the year, held at clinics throughout Scotland.

4.3 Influence

Our change of name to Fertility Network UK on 1 August 2016 supported our objective to better reflect our role in providing support and information for everyone, whatever their experience of fertility issues and stage of fertility journey. The word infertility is often seen as very negative, and the more positive image built from the rebrand highlighted that the help and support we offer does not focus on negatives, despite the fact that fertility treatment is often stressful and a successful outcome is not guaranteed.

We continue to highlight that we are here:

- ❖ for anyone considering their future fertility;
- ❖ for those trying to become parents;
- ❖ for anyone facing the challenges of childlessness; and
- ❖ for people who have been successful after fertility issues.

Many have described our services as a lifeline, providing support and a listening ear when no one else is there. Our hope is that our new name and our new brand will continue to make us more accessible and will enable us to widen and enrich the quality of care and support we offer.

In October 2016, we launched the results of our major new research project with Middlesex University. This project, the first of its kind in over 20 years, looked at the overall impact of fertility problems on individuals. The results will not only inform the ongoing work of Fertility Network UK, but will also provide accurate and up-to-date data to influence policy and decision making across a wide range of areas. This will be followed in 2017 by a study with Dr Esmee Hanna at Leeds Beckett University, looking at male fertility.

We kept up our campaigning initiatives during the year in an ongoing effort to improve the equality of access to NHS funded fertility treatment, including numerous approaches to MPs in England, approaches to MSPs in Scotland, to AMs in Wales and to MLAs in Northern Ireland. During the year we represented patients at a back bench debate in Westminster on decommissioning of in vitro fertilisation and other NHS fertility services. Following this we launched our first campaign day in England, #TheRighttoTry. The campaign secured huge support from patients, health professionals and politicians and we would like to thank all who supported this, particularly our patient volunteers who attended the debate or contributed their support over social media.

We have also continued our work on the Health Board Project, funded by the Scottish Government. As part of our role in this initiative, we were asked to carry out a short treatment quality survey to provide a snapshot evaluation as part of our Health Board Project of service users' experiences in Scotland from primary care through to tertiary care.

A major success of our campaigning in Scotland was the announcement by the Scottish Government that the access criteria for NHS fertility treatment in Scotland would be widened to allow couples where one partner had no biological child to access treatment. This was followed by an increase in the number of funded NHS cycles across Scotland to three full cycles for all new referrals, giving patients in Scotland the best access to NHS treatment in the UK. (For detailed summaries of the campaigning initiatives undertaken by geographical region see Appendix 9.6).

Fertility Network UK was asked to represent patients on the IVF Pricing Development Expert Advisory Group. This group was set up by NHS England to provide expert advice on the development of a benchmark price, outcome based currencies and/or outcome based payment approach for IVF treatment. We hope this work will lead to improvements in NHS funded fertility treatment across England.

Our staff in Wales continued to represent patients on the All Wales Fertility Advisory Group, and to push for more NHS cycles to be available to those eligible through our presence at the Welsh Health Specialist Services Committee.

Our role providing representation on the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Reproductive Medicine Clinical Study Group continues, as does our involvement with a number of other research studies. We continue to represent patients on the multi-centre Hyaluronic Acid Binding Sperm Selection (HABSelect) and E-Freeze clinical studies, and we are co-applicants on the Endometrial Scratch trial. We took part in a symposium at De Montfort University entitled Postponing childbirth, extending fertility? Biotechnologies and the transformations of reproductive life.

We continued to support the Key Stakeholder Board of the Cohorts on Health in Assisted Reproduction Technology (CohART). This is a programme to standardise Assisted Reproduction Technology follow-up studies across Europe.

We were invited by Newcastle University to join the committee on a new trial of egg recovery rates for IVF. The Eggcell Trial uses a collection chamber that protects eggs from environmental variations, hopefully improving the chances of the eggs developing normally.

We were also invited by the Royal College of Nursing to collaborate on a project to produce a new publication with guidance for all nurses and healthcare professionals engaged with men, women and children who may have their fertility compromised due to illness or treatment or who may choose to defer fertility for non-medical reasons.

We contributed to a health economic review on the cost of multiple births, a project coordinated by the Multiple Births Foundation. A report on this project, produced by the National Guideline Alliance, is due to be published during 2017.

As part of our collaboration on a project led by Cardiff University to develop a software application for individuals and couples unsuccessful in becoming parents, we participated in a workshop at the Cardiff School of Psychology, and we continue to support this project. Fertility Network UK continues to be a stakeholder partner on the University of Adelaide project into whether Metformin improves fertility and pregnancy outcomes in women with polycystic ovary syndrome based infertility for Patient-Centred Outcomes Research Institute which is still seeking funding. We continue to support researchers at Oxford University on their Taking Part and Prolonged Effects of Assisted Reproductive Treatment for women and their children: a Record Linkage project for England (PEARL) through their patient and public advisory group.

We also worked with Fertility Europe, advising on and contributing to their Policy Audit on Fertility - Analysis of Nine EU Countries, which was published in March 2017 with a launch at the European Parliament.

Our contribution to the Time Lapse Imaging research, which analyses the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of time lapse systems was recognised with our Chief Executive listed as co-author on a paper published in the journal, Human Fertility.

We continue to actively support many PhD and masters students by helping them with their research projects and enabling access to patients.

5. Financial review

Faced with unrelenting reductions in grant funding year on year, the 2016/17 financial year once again found us continuing to look for ways to diversify our income generation. Although our efforts helped us to retain funding from The Health and Social Care Board in Northern Ireland and from the Scottish Government, fertility issues continue not to be seen as a priority for the government in Westminster. Accordingly, we have been unable to secure any funding from them over the past five years. As such, we will persevere with our income diversification initiatives to safeguard against this trend in decreasing government funding for fertility-related charitable work, especially in England where the funding gap is most pronounced.

We are extremely grateful for, and would like to acknowledge, the support of the following organisations and funders. These entities provided us with new or continued grant and project funding during 2016/17, an invaluable lifeline enabling us to sustain and develop the services we offer. (See our funding sources in Funders, Appendix 9.7).

Funders

- ❖ Clear Projects, Public Health Agency
- ❖ Enkalon Foundation
- ❖ Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland
- ❖ Health and Social Care Board, Northern Ireland
- ❖ Robertson Trust
- ❖ Scottish Government
- ❖ The Cathedral Church of St Anne, Sit Out Grant
- ❖ The Big Lottery Fund
- ❖ Merck Serono

We are equally grateful to our corporate and clinic partners who have supported us during the year.

- ❖ Access Fertility
- ❖ Biomaternity
- ❖ CARE Fertility
- ❖ Casmed International Ltd
- ❖ Clínica Barcelona IVF
- ❖ Clínica Eugin
- ❖ Clínica Tambre
- ❖ Create
- ❖ CRGH
- ❖ Embryolab
- ❖ Ferring Pharmaceuticals Ltd
- ❖ Ferticentro
- ❖ Fertility Clinics Abroad
- ❖ Fertility Road Magazine
- ❖ IVF Matters
- ❖ IVF Spain
- ❖ IVI Group
- ❖ IVI UK
- ❖ LogixX Pharma Solutions Ltd
- ❖ London and IVF Genetics Centre
- ❖ Merck
- ❖ Merck Fertility Technologies
- ❖ My Healthcare Clinic
- ❖ Newlife IVF Greece
- ❖ OvaScience
- ❖ OvuSense
- ❖ Pharmasure Limited
- ❖ The Fertility Show
- ❖ The Lister Fertility Clinic
- ❖ The Stork
- ❖ Vitabiotics Ltd

Additional financial support was kindly provided by Rippon Patel & French LLP and the London IVF and Genetics Centre

We extend our gratitude to all those who have made donations and raised much-needed funds for the charity during the past year. This includes our fundraisers who raised almost £32,000 for the charity during 2016/17.

6. Our reserve policy

In order to continue supporting those with fertility issues it is key that the charity has a reserves policy that can support the organisation in the eventuality of its use. It was agreed this year by the Board of Trustees that the charity would increase funds to be held at a level equivalent to nine months of fixed costs.

The justification for this increase from six to nine months is twofold:

- (1) due to the minimum cost of closure of the charity that has been estimated at around three months fixed costs, assuming it pays the statutory minimum in redundancy costs.
- (2) In the event of a severe financial shock not dissimilar to that experienced during the financial crisis of 2008, Fertility Network UK would require a minimum of six months to assess whether the situation could be turned round, whether it could merge with another charity to maintain its services or whether it would need to close down in an orderly manner.
- (3) The current heavy reliance by the charity on grants, which is an income stream acknowledged to be diminishing and ever harder to secure funds through.

It was agreed that those reserves should be held in cash with UK institutions and spread so that the charity does not hold more than the Financial Services Compensation Scheme government guaranteed balance in any individual institution. The reserves policy will continue to be reviewed annually.

7. Looking ahead

Our future plans for 2017/18 fall under the following main areas of focus:

- ❖ Operating activities
- ❖ Funding and business development
- ❖ Campaigning work
- ❖ Staffing and recruitment
- ❖ Our service
- ❖ Media and communication
- ❖ Business planning

7.1 Operating activities

Our awareness week initiative will once again be a focus for us, providing support, raising awareness and funds, and changing perceptions. We will use #tags to highlight some key themes during the week:

- ❖ #IVFis40 - marks the 40th anniversary of IVF being successful and we will highlight stories of IVF over the decades.
- ❖ #100FertilityFaces - our fundraising which will include our #FertilityCycle bike ride, to help us continue to provide much needed support for all those who struggle with infertility.
- ❖ #TalkFertility - at the heart of National Fertility Awareness Week 2017, raising awareness, breaking down taboos and shattering myths. We will use this to highlight that only around one-third of treatment cycles are successful, and raise awareness of the impact of childlessness.
- ❖ #FertilityFellas - men are half of the fertility equation and need access to fertility support and advice too.
- ❖ #IVFGoldStandard - after 40 years, it's time all areas of the UK followed Scotland's example and offered three full cycles to those eligible.

Our research project with Middlesex University looking into the overall impact of fertility problems on individuals was published during 2016, and highlighted six key issues:

- ❖ high levels of emotional distress, including suicidal thoughts and deterioration of core relationships;
- ❖ lack of NHS-funded treatment;
- ❖ lack of sufficient information from GPs;
- ❖ lack of affordable counselling;
- ❖ lack of accessible local peer support services; and
- ❖ lack of support in the workplace.

We will use these six key issues as the focus for our charitable objectives in 2017/18, working in partnership with other professional organisations to inform and educate policy makers, GPs and other health professionals. We will target employers with information and resources to enable them to better support their employees. We will also continue with our campaigning work to improve access to NHS funded treatment for those eligible.

Fertility Network UK will continue to assist the organisers of the annual Fertility Show in November 2017 with communication, media, promotion and the provision of speakers. This highly successful exhibition has now been expanded to include a further two-day event in Manchester, held initially in March 2017 and planned again for March 2018. Fertility Network UK will have a prominent stand at both exhibitions.

We will also hold a Fertility Options Day in Scotland and a further one in Wales during the forthcoming year, supporting, informing and empowering individuals in those areas.

7.2 Funding and new business development

Our new website will offer us more opportunities to generate income by working closely with existing partners, and recruiting new partners and advertisers. We will work together to ensure our partnerships enhance and expand the good quality information and support we offer our service users. We will also look at expanding our successful fundraising work engaging with our supporters across the UK.

7.3 Campaigning work

We will continue to co-chair Fertility Fairness, lobbying for increased funding for NHS fertility treatment in Wales and Northern Ireland. We believe our work in these regions is essential to keeping fertility on the public agenda and the channels for effective dialogue with government and parliamentary representatives open. We will also continue our campaign to end the unfair postcode lottery across England, working with Clinical Commissioning Groups to inform and educate them on the importance of providing the recommended number of cycles to those eligible. A key focus of this will be our role as patient representatives on the IVF Pricing Development Advisory Group set up by NHS England.

We are proud that our work with the Scottish Government as part of the National Infertility Group has resulted in extensions to the access criteria, as well as the increase to three full cycles of IVF to those eligible. We will continue to work with the Health Boards and National Infertility Group to ensure patients benefit from the smooth implementation of the increases in provision across Scotland.

7.4 Staffing and recruitment

As part of our objective to increase our reach and impact, we will again focus on seeking funding to expand our regional network, particularly in areas where we currently have no representation, namely the North East, North West, Midlands and South West of England.

We will also continue to reinvest income from our corporate and clinic partnerships to extend the services we provide. We will prioritise the provision of support for those facing the challenges of childlessness and to achieve this objective we are recruiting a new Project Coordinator funded for one year from a legacy recently left to the charity from a childless couple. Working with clinics to increase the support they offer to those unsuccessful after treatment, the Coordinator will also expand and increase the number of peer support groups run by the charity. We hope to secure funding to continue with this post beyond the first year.

7.5 Our service

Using the results of our survey into the impact of fertility issues, we will focus this year on the six key issues highlighted by the survey to increase recognition of the charity as a leading voice and resource for information and support by both patients and health professionals. We will build on those key issues to increase engagement in educating, influencing and changing attitudes and behaviours so that patients have better quality information and access to the services they need.

Our work will include working with counsellors, employers and GPs to increase awareness of the issues impacting those affected by fertility issues and improve the support offered. We will also engage with policy makers within the NHS to highlight the need for more NHS treatment, and standard access criteria across England in particular.

Our recently recruited Volunteer Coordinator will help us increase the number of volunteer-led peer support groups, particularly in areas where none exist.

We will continue our work with clinics and all professional organisations including the British Fertility Society (BFS), the British Infertility Counselling Society (BICA) the Association of Clinical Embryologists (ACE), and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), to highlight the emotional impact, and promote the services offered by the charity.

We will hold our newly branded Fertility Options Days in Scotland and in Wales, and will use the learning from the marketing review to inform how we market our events and increase our reach across the UK.

7.6 Media and communications

The Fertility Network UK press office continues to deal with an increasing number of enquiries and we will build on the excellent relationships we have with the media to educate and influence professionals, policy makers and individuals. We will develop presentations to engage with employers, informing them of the need to better support their employees. Talks and information sharing with clinics will continue to be undertaken by regional staff in areas where we have coverage.

7.7 Business planning

Our business plan is updated annually to ensure it accurately reflects the changing needs of those we support, and we will regularly review our business plan at each board meeting. We will also continue to look for ways to work creatively with organisations both within and outside with the fertility sector, raising awareness of fertility issues, highlighting the need to support those who remain childless, as well as tackling the need for more fertility education particularly for young people.

8. Trustee responsibilities

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so, the Trustees are required to:

- ❖ select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ❖ make sound judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- ❖ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Reporting accountants

McPhersons CFG Limited were appointed reporting accountants to the company.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

9. Appendices

9.1 Media activity

Our continued positive engagement with the media continued, and throughout the year the press office worked with numerous media outlets on various projects: TV and radio documentaries, print supplements, magazines and newspapers, theatre groups, all with the aim of raising awareness of fertility issues. This culminated in an overall 65 per cent increase in enquiries to our press office and almost 100 per cent increase in high profile TV and radio interviews undertaken by our staff.

Media activity	
Press releases	40
Press comments	48
Media requests	436
TV/radio interviews	92

2016/17 kicked off with a new campaign encouraging patients to write to their MPs about the NHS fertility funding situation in the UK. Letter templates encouraging patients to add their own experiences are available on the website and were shared on social media.

The last 12 months have been characterised by sustained disinvestment in NHS fertility services in England. Media coverage of this has been strong across TV, radio and print media and at a national and local level. Our Chief Executive supported by volunteers, appeared on national TV on BBC Breakfast, as well as on Good Morning Britain, Radio 4's Today programme and lots more.

The news that the Scottish Government is to allow access to three funded cycles of IVF for eligible women under 40 and for couples where there is a child from a previous relationship generated extensive media coverage.

During National Fertility Awareness Week, we launched our major new fertility impact survey. Our #HiddenFaces and #Fertilityin5 campaigns, and our Fertility Cycle events made the headlines in the newspapers, on TV and radio, online and across social media. Each #HiddenFaces video addressed a core fertility issue and the stories told direct to camera were powerful, painful and heartfelt. The #HiddenFaces videos are on our Facebook pages and on our new National Fertility Awareness Week YouTube channel.

In December 2016, the publication of the annual Fertility Fairness freedom of information audit of England's 209 clinical commissioning groups received extensive media coverage on national and regional radio and TV and national and regional print media. Our press release included a comment from the Minister for Public Health, Nicola Blackwood. We highlighted the four best and four worst regions in England to live in if you are hoping to access NHS fertility funding.

The start of 2017 saw the first ever digital debate on fertility funding, as well as a back bench debate at the House of Commons. Both these events were supported by Fertility Network UK media volunteers.

We worked with BICA on a press release looking at the findings of our fertility impact survey regarding the need for and lack of emotional counselling before, during and after fertility treatment. We collaborated with Fertility Clinics Abroad on a survey looking at travelling overseas for fertility treatment.

Social media plays an increasing role in how we engage with, inform and support our community. At year-end 31st March 2017 we had 9,329 followers on Twitter - an increase of 1,803 followers over the year period. We also received 5,804 likes on our Facebook page, up over 40 per cent on the previous year. Our social media reach continued to grow reaching an average of over 35,000, and peaked at 60,156 during our Fertility Awareness Week.

The number of Fertility Network UK media volunteers has also increased and we are experiencing rising numbers of requests to the press office for media volunteers to comment on fertility issues.

9.2 Expanding our reach

We launched our new website during the 2016, with no requirement for users to register to receive information or support. Initial statistics confirm that the number of unique visitors to the site continues to grow, and during 2017/18 we will implement a plan to ensure the number of service users we reach continues to increase. 2,429 people signed up to receive Fertility Network UK's free e-newsletter.

Our reach, however, extends far beyond our registered membership, with social media playing an increasing role in how we inform, educate and support a broader segment of the population as has already been detailed in Appendix 9.1, Media activity. Our HealthUnlocked community grew by almost 50 per cent during the year reaching 6,751 people via this platform alone. Our new HealthUnlocked community for those facing the challenges of childlessness grew from 61 registered individual members to 320 members.

9.3 Support line and help line

Our trained nurse on our professional support line again handled 546 calls during the year. And in continuing to reflect the changes in the way people seek support, she dealt with 764 enquiries via email and through our website. This is a slight drop on the previous year but is a reflection of the growing number of enquiries she dealt with through our growing HealthUnlocked forum which at 2,823 showed an 88 per cent increase on the previous year. So, 3,587 enquires were dealt with by our support line via email, forums and through the charity's HealthUnlocked community.

Enquiries, including telephone calls and email enquiries, not covered by our regional team, continued to be dealt with by our staff at head office who also supported many more patients through social networking.

9.4 Information dissemination

- ❖ The new Fertility Network UK website offers a more interactive way to seek information, but we continue to have almost 30 comprehensive factsheets covering fertility, infertility and related topics available to download, including the patient factsheet on single embryo transfer recently updated in conjunction with the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. Additional factsheets will be uploaded over the coming year.

- ❖ The charity received funding from the Scottish Government to continue to produce and distribute information in Scotland including 2,050 information packs to all fertility clinics in Scotland, 3,070 information leaflets, and 2,030 patient factsheets on single embryo transfer.
- ❖ As part of the Health and Social Care Board Contract in Northern Ireland, 600 information packs containing a Fertility Network UK poster and leaflet, information card on NHS access criteria and local patient support group posters, along with a covering letter, were posted to all GP practice managers, fertility clinics, Healthy Living Centres and professionals with an interest in infertility.
- ❖ During 2016/17, the charity's head office distributed 13,709 pieces of literature in total, including leaflets, posters and information cards to clinics across the UK, a 25 per cent increase over the previous year.
- ❖ The charity and its volunteers continued to distribute literature at infertility related conferences and on an ad-hoc basis.
- ❖ 3,770 Fertility Network UK magazines were printed and circulated during the year.
- ❖ The electronic Fertility Network UK magazine continued to grow in circulation, with three editions reaching 7,155 subscribers at year-end.
- ❖ At 31 March 2017 we had 2,528 subscribers to our free e-newsletters and during the year we published seven editions of the Fertility Network UK e-newsletter. This included our special Fertility Show editions. These were circulated to 16,607 subscribers.
- ❖ Our social media engagement continues to grow and we now regularly reach over 35,000 regular followers each week. As this figure continues to grow it provides us with a platform to share informative and educational information, as well as to raise awareness of the support we provide.

9.5 An education project in Scotland

The Scottish Government-funded education project, Your Future Fertility, began in 2012 and is the first of its kind in the country. The project creates awareness by providing information to a range of organisations including colleges, universities, voluntary organisations, GPs, sexual health clinics and many more.

During 2016/17 the project distributed 6,480 Your Future Fertility leaflets which are aimed at giving an informative overview of fertility information including lifestyle, eating disorders, age, weight, smoking, age and so on.

The charity attended 31 university or college fresher's and health event weeks across Scotland giving presentations and supplying information. The project also attended the fresher's event at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre where 12,000 students attended the two-day festival.

The analysis of evaluation forms distributed at these events confirms that very few students are aware of the impact of age, BMI and lifestyle factors on fertility, highlighting the need for projects such as this to continue to engage with young people and deliver information in an appropriate way.

During the year we also presented to GP surgeries, midwives, student nurses, mental health nurses, voluntary organisations and numerous universities.

Testimonials include:

'I was delighted to welcome [the staff] from Fertility Network Scotland to speak with our Year 2 midwifery students on our Paisley Campus. This session formed part of our mental health module where we explore the emotional and psychological impact of both mental health difficulties and challenges that may arise during pregnancy and childbirth. The session was recorded so that it could be shared with our students on our Hamilton campus. The opportunity for my students to hear from two such passionate knowledgeable advocates for infertility care and support is not only inspiring but prepares these future midwives for the realities and complexities of clinical practice.'

Tom McEwan MSc, Lecturer in Midwifery, University of West of Scotland

The West of Scotland University filmed the presentations given to the students and requested permission to share this with other students throughout the year.

During the year we attended clinic patient evenings and days, as well as many events with other voluntary organisations, family planning clinics, The Gathering, health weeks, science café and sexual health events.

Through our continued work with Unison and local authorities, 18 local authorities have implemented a fertility policy within their current medical policy with the remaining 14 boards agreeing at the Scottish Trades Union Congress conference to have this implemented by July 2017.

During 2016/17 the project was externally evaluated by Graeme Reekie, of Wren and Greyhound Limited. The evaluation assessed the project's outcomes and processes, and made recommendations for its future efficiency and effectiveness. The evaluation was highly positive and the full evaluation can be found on the [future fertility](#) section of the Fertility Network UK website

We are grateful to the Scottish Government for their support.

9.6 Campaigning initiatives

We continued to co-chair Fertility Fairness, an umbrella body aimed at supporting the provision of an equitable system of publicly funded fertility treatment throughout the UK and to provide the press office for their campaign.

England and Wales

With Fertility Fairness, we have engaged with numerous MPs in areas where services have been threatened, often without consultation. We also continued to work with a core group of around seven MPs who are actively working for better infertility provision. A key feature of this work has been extensive discussions with the Department of Health (including the Minister), NHS England at various levels and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority amongst others. As a result of this activity, there is a considerably higher level of understanding at top level about the threat to tertiary infertility, together with more determination to address this issue, than has been the case in recent years.

Together with Fertility Fairness we helped to conduct a further in-depth survey on the level of funding for fertility treatment across England, and built on the previous year's work by investigating issues of cost and oversight. The results of this information were made freely available to the general public, and were used heavily to drive engagement with local Clinical Commissioning Groups and MPs.

We again secured a meeting the Minister for Public Health, who is responsible for reproductive health policy. Following the decision to hold a snap election, this meeting has been postponed and will be secured with the new Minister as soon as practical after the election. Fertility Network UK continues to be actively engaged in a comprehensive campaign to try to protect and enhance funding for services, which is directed at all of the major national institutions with an interest in fertility, as well as many local and third sector bodies.

Lastly, through our work with Fertility Fairness, we have continued to feed into local consultations run by Clinical Commissioning Groups on the provision of fertility services. This work is particularly important as a number of areas have disinvested in services or are threatening to do so. We are working hard to try to stem the flow of these and to reverse decisions where they have been made.

In Wales, we represented patients at the All Wales Fertility Advisory Group, attending meetings to revive and amend the CP38 document. We continue with our outreach to Welsh politicians, and contacted the new Head of Service for Wales Fertility Institute to discuss the need for better support for everyone struggling to conceive by improving access to counselling services during treatment.

Scotland

The National Infertility Group in Scotland, first established in 2010 by the Scottish government to address the inequities in NHS funding for fertility treatment and which was re-convened in 2016, continued to meet during the year. Our Chief Executive, Head of Business Development and Scottish Branch Coordinator continue as patient representatives on the Group and have successfully advocated for: (1) the implementation of three full cycles of treatment within the NHS in Scotland, and (2) the reconsideration of the criteria, which excludes couples from accessing treatment when 'a child is living in the home'. Both these changes have now been implemented and patients in Scotland now benefit from the best provision of NHS fertility treatment in the UK.

The Scottish Branch Coordinator also continued to represent patient views on several working groups to ensure the smooth implementation of the enhanced provision.

Northern Ireland

Our Northern Ireland Coordinator leads on the campaign in the region. Northern Ireland currently only commissions one cycle of IVF treatment for eligible patients, this only allows for the transfer of one frozen embryo, contravening the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence's definition of a full cycle.

Over the last year our Northern Ireland Coordinator has attended three political hustings events which provided the opportunity to meet with 17 MLAs in three panel Q&A sessions. Due to the election of a new Assembly in May 2016, a decision was taken not to re-form the All Party Group on Infertility. Instead we met individually with nine MLAs to try to secure an increase in funding in the region.

A meeting with the Department of Health in Northern Ireland also took place during September 2016 to discuss next steps following the May 2016 election.

We were successful in securing a date for a Motion of the Assembly on Fertility Policy in Northern Ireland, however the Northern Ireland Assembly collapsed before the motion could be heard. Voters in Northern Ireland voted a potential new Assembly in on 2 March 2017, however debates are ongoing and no Assembly has yet been established.

Finally, our Northern Ireland Coordinator has had meetings and received updates from a solicitor who is pursuing an equality case for same sex couples. This case may open up further challenges to introduce National Institute for Health and Care Excellence Guidance on Fertility Treatment (2013) in Northern Ireland.

9.7 Our funders

- ❖ Enkalon Foundation - towards the cost of Think Positive workshops for the Belfast Support Group.
- ❖ Halifax Foundation - to provide the main funding for Think Positive workshops at the Belfast support group over a five-month period.
- ❖ Health and Social Care Board - successful bid for tender to provide a part-time support coordinator, a confidential telephone helpline service, practical information services and the coordination and delivery of support to local patient groups.
- ❖ Clear Project and Public Health Agency - to provide Think Positive workshops at support groups in Craigavon and Londonderry over a five-month period.
- ❖ Belfast Cathedral Sit Out appeal to provide a workshop for More to Life group attendees and volunteer training for the ACeBabes group.
- ❖ Scottish Government Project - to work with health boards to bring about full implementation of recommendations for the provision of fertility services in Scotland and to produce patient information packs.
- ❖ Scottish Government - received to allow us to continue to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients throughout Scotland, to provide patient representation by participating in the various meetings following on from the National Groups to externally evaluate our education project and review our marketing strategies and increase awareness of the services offered in Scotland.
- ❖ Merck Serono - to extend the regional network in Northern Ireland.
- ❖ Merck Serono - to employ a Regional Organiser for London and the South East to help patients and liaise with health professionals and commissioners in the region.
- ❖ Scottish Government Fertility Education Project - to raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility through working with universities, health professionals and employers across Scotland to introduce ways of ensuring people are better informed about how their fertility can be conserved.
- ❖ Scottish Government - to match funding to employ a Volunteer Coordinator.
- ❖ The Robertson Trust - to match funding to employ a Volunteer Coordinator.
- ❖ The Big Lottery - received to expand our current regional network to provide support and information at a local level for infertility sufferers in Wales.

10. Contact information

Fertility Network UK
20 Egerton Drive
Greenwich
London SE10 8JS
01424 732361

See more at:

www.fertilitynetworkuk.org

Chief Executive



Susan Seenan

Email: susan@fertilitynetworkuk.org

Twitter: @SusanSeenan

11. Trustees' report and unaudited accounts

Charity Registration No. 1099960
Company Registration No.4822073
(England and Wales)

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

**THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2017, which are set out on pages 2 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees, who are also the directors of The Infertility Network (UK) trading as 'Fertility Network UK' for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination being a qualified member of Chartered accountants.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - (ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;have not been met or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Ainsley Gill BA (Hons) FCA
McPhersons CFG Limited**

23 St Leonards Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HH

Dated: 12 October 2017

**THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>						
Voluntary income	3	14,558	-	-	14,558	34,801
Charitable activities	4	48,051	-	250,768	298,819	231,358
Investments	5	5,162	-	-	5,162	4,416
Other income	6	143,520	-	-	143,520	102,320
Total income		211,291	-	250,768	462,059	372,895
<u>Expenditure on:</u>						
Charitable activities	7	217,551	10,614	196,514	424,679	343,399
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(6,260)	(10,614)	54,254	37,380	29,496
Gross transfers between funds		640	-	(640)	-	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(5,620)	(10,614)	53,614	37,380	29,496
Fund balances at 1 April 2016		195,877	109,718	63,295	368,890	339,394
Fund balances at 31 March 2017		190,257	99,104	116,909	406,270	368,890

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

**THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
BALANCE SHEET**

AS AT 31 MARCH 2017

	Notes	2017		2016	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		1,561		496
Current assets					
Debtors	13	47,661		17,622	
Cash at bank and in hand		517,925		648,436	
		<u>565,586</u>		<u>666,058</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(160,877)</u>		<u>(176,551)</u>	
Net current assets			404,709		489,507
Total assets less current liabilities			406,270		490,003
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15				(121,113)
Net assets			<u>406,270</u>		<u>368,890</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	17		116,909		64,345
Designated funds			99,104		109,718
Unrestricted funds			190,257		194,827
			<u>406,270</u>		<u>368,890</u>

**THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)**

AS AT 31 MARCH 2017

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2017. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts.

The Trustees' responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 23rd October 2017

.....
Ms L Evans
Trustee

Company Registration No. 4822073

**THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Infertility Network (UK) trading as 'Fertility Network UK' is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 20 Egerton Drive, Greenwich, London, SE10 8JS.

1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, being 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Designated funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives. Such funds are subject to certain conditions agreed by the Trustees and used in accordance with the majority decision of the Trustees from time to time.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

**THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected.

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for goods and services provided in the normal course of business, net of discounts, VAT and other sales related taxes.

1.5 Resources expended

Fundraising and publicity costs include general advertising and promotion of the charity and its objectives.

Governance costs include costs associated with the strategic as opposed to the day to day management of the charity's activities.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

A liability will arise when the charity is under an obligation to make a transfer of value to a third party. Where costs cannot be attributed to a particular heading they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	20% per annum on a straight line basis
--------------------------------	--

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

**THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

3 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 2017	Total 2016
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	14,558	-	-	14,558	16,912
Legacies receivable	-	-	-	-	17,889
	<u>14,558</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,558</u>	
For the year ended 31 March 2016	<u>16,872</u>	<u>17,889</u>	<u>40</u>		<u>34,801</u>

4 Charitable activities

	Fundraising income	Subscriptions	Grants receivable for charitable activities	Advertising income	Total 2017	Total 2016
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sales within charitable activities	31,791	13,510	-	2,750	48,051	53,638
Grants receivable for charitable activities	-	-	250,768	-	250,768	177,720
	<u>31,791</u>	<u>13,510</u>	<u>250,768</u>	<u>2,750</u>	<u>298,819</u>	<u>231,358</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	31,791	13,510	-	2,750	48,051	
Restricted funds	-	-	250,768	-	250,768	
	<u>31,791</u>	<u>13,510</u>	<u>250,768</u>	<u>2,750</u>	<u>298,819</u>	
For the year ended 31 March 2016						
Unrestricted funds	27,745	17,598	-	8,295		53,638
Restricted funds	-	-	177,720	-		177,720
	<u>27,745</u>	<u>17,598</u>	<u>177,720</u>	<u>8,295</u>		<u>231,358</u>

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
TRADING AS 'FERTILITY NETWORK UK'
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

5 Investments

	2017	2016
	£	£
Interest receivable	5,162	4,416

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2017	Total 2016
	£	£	£	£
Other income	7,543	-	7,543	3,651
Sponsorship	117,337	-	117,337	81,632
The Fertility Show income	18,640	-	18,640	17,037
	<u>143,520</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>143,520</u>	
For the year ended 31 March 2016	<u>99,105</u>	<u>3,215</u>		<u>102,320</u>

7 Charitable activities

	2017	2016
	£	£
Staff costs	274,794	235,113
Depreciation and impairment	852	266
Activities undertaken directly	132,575	14,111
	<u>408,221</u>	<u>328,515</u>
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	16,458	14,884
	<u>424,679</u>	<u>343,399</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	217,551	176,950
Designated funds	10,614	3,450
Restricted funds	196,514	162,999
	<u>424,679</u>	<u>343,399</u>

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8 Governance costs

	2017 £	2016 £
Staff costs	7,730	7,848
Legal and professional	8,728	7,036
	<u>16,458</u>	<u>14,884</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>16,458</u>	<u>14,884</u>

All costs are allocated based on estimated actual use of service provision.

9 Trustees

None of the Trustees (nor any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year.

10 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number employees (including full time and part time staff) during the year was:

	2017 Number	2016 Number
	17	16
	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>

Employment costs

	2017 £	2016 £
Wages and salaries	282,524	242,961
	<u>282,524</u>	<u>242,961</u>

There were no employees whose annual emoluments were £40,000 or more.

11 Financial Performance

During the year the charity generated a surplus (net income over expenditure) of £37,380 (2016: £29,496). This represents the charity's ongoing efforts to ensure that it remains on a sound financial footing with a robust level of reserves to protect itself from any unexpected financial downturns.

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12 Tangible fixed assets

Fixtures, fittings & equipment
£

Cost

At 1 April 2016	12,949
Additions	1,917

At 31 March 2017	14,866
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Depreciation and impairment

At 1 April 2016	12,500
Depreciation charged in the year	805

At 31 March 2017	13,305
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Carrying amount

At 31 March 2017	1,561
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At 31 March 2016	496
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13 Debtors

	2017 £	2016 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	43,640	15,580
Other debtors	1,566	1,115
Prepayments and accrued income	2,455	927
	<u>47,661</u>	<u>17,622</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2017 £	2016 £
Other taxation and social security		4,861	3,678
Deferred income	16	147,716	165,153
Trade creditors		3,758	2,007
Accruals and deferred income		4,542	5,713
		<u>160,877</u>	<u>176,551</u>

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15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2017	2016
	£	£
Other creditors	-	121,113

16 Deferred income	2017	2016
	£	£
Income received in advance	147,716	165,153

17 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1	Incoming	Resources	Transfers	Balance at 31
	April 2016	resources	expended		March 2017
	£	£	£	£	£
Merck Serono Regional Organiser London	641	12,466	(12,466)	(641)	-
Scottish Government Health Board Project & Options Packs	13,145	21,370	(21,370)	-	13,145
Scottish Government Fertility Education Project	27,094	57,125	(51,801)	-	32,418
Belfast Cathedral Sit Out appeal	117	-	(117)	-	-
Health & Social Care Board	1,998	17,816	(18,711)	-	1,103
Merck Serono N.Ireland	9,504	11,935	(11,449)	-	9,990
Scottish Government Section 16B	1,529	-	-	-	1,529
Scottish Government additional Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland	9,267	26,780	(25,785)	-	10,262
	-	2,800	(2,800)	-	-
Scottish Project Funding	-	40,000	(12,823)	-	27,177
Scottish Volunteer Project	-	23,000	(7,952)	-	15,048
Big Lottery Wales	-	29,852	(23,615)	-	6,237
Clear Project - Southern	-	3,812	(3,812)	-	-
Clear Project - Western	-	3,812	(3,812)	-	-
	<u>63,295</u>	<u>250,768</u>	<u>(196,513)</u>	<u>(641)</u>	<u>116,909</u>

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

17 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Merck Serono - To employ a Regional Organiser for London and the South East to help patients and liaise with health professionals and commissioners in the region.

Scottish Government Project - To work with Health Boards to bring about full implementation of recommendations for the provision of fertility services in Scotland and to produce patient Information Packs.

Scottish Government Fertility Education Project - To raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility through working with universities, health professionals and employers across Scotland to introduce ways of ensuring people are better informed about how their fertility can be conserved.

Belfast Cathedral Sit Out appeal - To provide a workshop for More to Life Group attendees and volunteer training for the AceBabes group.

Health & Social Care Board - Successful bid for tender to provide a part-time support coordinator, a confidential telephone helpline service, practical information services and the coordination and delivery of support to local patient groups.

Merck Serono - To extend the regional network in Northern Ireland.

Scottish Government - Received to allow us to continue to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients throughout Scotland, to provide patient representation by participating in the various meetings following on from the National Groups to externally evaluate our education project and review our marketing strategies and increase awareness of the services offered in Scotland.

Halifax Foundation - To provide the main funding for Think Positive Workshops at the Belfast Support group, over a 5 month period.

Enkalon Foundation - Towards the cost of Think Positive Workshops for the Belfast Support Group.

Scottish Government - Match funding to employ Volunteer Coordinator.

The Big Lottery - Received to expand our current regional network to provide support and information at local level for infertility sufferers in Wales.

Clear Project and Public Health Agency - To provide Think Positive Workshops at support groups in Craigavon and Londonderry over a 5 month period.

All of the above grants were received after successful application for funding by The Infertility Network (UK) trading as 'Fertility Network UK'.

All of the grants are restricted to expenditure as agreed with grant body during the application process.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2017 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	1,561	-	-	1,561
Net current assets/(liabilities)	188,696	99,104	116,909	404,709
	<u>190,257</u>	<u>99,104</u>	<u>116,909</u>	<u>406,270</u>

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19 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2017 £
Aggregate compensation	43,265