



FAMILIES NEED FATHERS
SCOTLAND

Both parents matter



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For period ending 31 March 2019

Charity no. SC 042817

Charity Information for the period ended 31st March 2019

Charity Number: SC 042817

Principal Place of Business:

10 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh EH12 5AA)

Tel: 0131 557 2440

Email: scotland@fnfscotland.org

Board Members:

Andrew Whalley (resigned October 2018)

Margaret Ashman (secretary)

Sumit Ghosh (chair)

Mark Downie

Natalie Kazimierczak (appointed 31/10/18)

Gavin Watson (appointed 31/10/18)

Rod Mountford (appointed 31/10/18, resigned 4/4/19)

Banker:

TSB

Independent Examiner:

A.W. Scotland CA

10 Craighall Crescent, Edinburgh EH6 4RY

Board Report – for period ending 31st March 2019

Form and Purpose of the Charity

The charity was formed by a constitution registered by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator on 20th December 2011.

The objects of the charity are:

For the relief of parents and their children and other close family members living in Scotland or having a family member in Scotland who are suffering from the consequences of divorce or separation by providing advice, assistance and other support and, in so doing, helping parents stay in touch with their children after divorce or separation;

To further the emotional development of children in Scotland whose parents have divorced or separated by encouraging shared parenting arrangements which enable such children to have continuing and meaningful relationships with both their parents;

To conduct study and research into problems concerned with children in Scotland who are deprived of the presence of a parent in their families, and into the problems concerned with establishing good relations between parents living apart from their children, and to publish the useful results of all such study and research in order to encourage appropriate changes in professional and public opinion;

The charity was formed in association with a UK-wide charity Families Need Fathers and is licensed to use the names **Families Need Fathers** and **Both Parents Matter**. The basis of membership of FNF Scotland was changed at the October 2018 AGM. Membership is now open to any individual aged 16 or over who

applies to join Families Need Fathers Scotland, is willing to agree to our purposes and principles and who has paid the appropriate subscription.

Scottish based or involved members of Families Need Fathers UK will remain members of FNF Scotland without further payment for a transition period of 12 months from when this change was agreed.

The Board, who act as the Charity's Trustees, is elected annually at the AGM. At the 2018 AGM the maximum number of trustees was increased to eight from six, to reflect the increasing activity. The Board administers the charity and delegates day-to-day running to three staff members. Details of the Board are given on page 2.

Funding

Families Need Fathers Scotland (FNFS) gratefully acknowledges the support of the Strategic Partnership with Scottish Government which provided grant funding during 2018/19 and the ongoing support from the Tudor Trust. During the year we started to receive support from the Robertson Trust and the Volunteering Support Fund.

We have spent the last 12 months applying more widely for grants and have secured grants from a number of trusts and foundations including the Walter Craig, Peter and Teresa Harris, RKT Harris, Isabella Memorial, JTH, Leng, Nancy Massey, Alexander Moncur, Nancy Roberts, Scott Davidson, Souter, Stafford, Miss JK Stirrup, Miss ME Swinton Paterson, WM Sword, Tillyloss and Westwood Charitable Trusts, the Christadelphian Samaritan Fund and the Hugh Fraser and WM Mann Foundations.

We are also delighted to have secured a further 3 years of funding from The Tudor Trust.

We are extremely grateful to all of these trusts and foundations for supporting our work.

This funding has meant that we have maintained one full-time member of staff (Alastair Williamson, Partnership Development and Outreach) and two part-time staff (Ian Maxwell, National Manager and John Forsyth, Communication Manager).

Funding was also generated through training events organised during the year.

Advice, Assistance and Support

We ran monthly self-help support group meetings in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Paisley, Dundee and Stirling.

We have also maintained the online meetings held by Skype for people who live out of reach of the city meetings or in other countries but with children in Scotland and continue to support a parenting group for separated fathers meeting monthly in Glasgow (DNA group).

Having held a well attended meeting in Kilmarnock in January 2019, we intend to hold occasional meetings in other parts of Scotland to spread our support more widely.

ACTIVITY IN NUMBERS

30720 downloads of publications

2132 email enquiries

921 phone enquiries

375 other enquiries

761 people at group meetings

203 people on training courses

FAMILY LAW CONSULTATION

During 2018 the Scottish Government conducted a wide-ranging consultation, seeking views on what could be changed in family law and courts. FNF Scotland suggested changes designed to make decisions on child contact quicker, less costly and less stressful for parents and children.

These included adding rebuttable presumption of shared care to family law, which we suggest could work as well in Scotland as it has in Belgium and other progressive countries. Changing contact litigation to a less adversarial model could save court time, freeing money to spend on specialist services to support separated parents work together.

We look forward to new laws and other changes emerging during 2019.

PARENTING COORDINATORS

Another foreign idea which could be used in Scotland is the Parenting Coordinator, who works with separated parents to assist and guide them to carry out court ordered arrangements. Originating from the USA, these specialists now operate in Canada and South Africa.



FNF Scotland invited Felicity Shedden from Family Law in Partnership to speak in Scotland about their work in training and developing Parenting Coordinators in England.

STRESS MANAGEMENT/ COMMUNICATION SKILLS TRAINING

Alongside our legal information and campaigning on legal issues, FNF Scotland has increased the support and training we offer to parents on topics such as coping with stress, improving communication skills and coping with separated parenting.

135 parents attended our training courses and group meetings on these topics during the past year. We try to magnify the impact of this training through peer-support volunteering – linking trained parents up with others to provide help and encouragement.

INSTANT SUPPORT

Alongside this mentoring programme and our monthly group meetings throughout Scotland, we have been developing local WhatsApp forums to provide more instant support. By posting a message a parent can tap into the experience of others. Some questions are about court procedures or contact problems, but the shared know-how also covers topics such as the best places to take your kids or suggestions of good books for bedtime reading.

The Glasgow WhatsApp group now has 46 participants who have exchanged 7960 messages in four months (an average of 66 messages/day).

SHARED PARENTING RESEARCH

Our lobbying on family law changes is being supported by research and opinion polling carried out by our 2019 student intern Anna Staples.

She has been conducting interviews with parents and children about their experience of shared parenting, and also polling the general public and groups such as lawyers about views

on law changes. 81.5% of people supported a legal change to presume shared parenting unless there is good reason not to.

The results of this project will be used to lobby MSPs in Autumn 2019 when they are debating the new family law bill.

PARENTAL INCLUSION IN EDUCATION

Building on our work in this area over several years we met the Deputy First Minister, John Swinney, in December 2018 to raise several areas in which 'non-resident' parents are excluded from full information about their children in school.

Some of this is due to the design of the systems schools use for recording the details of parents but also because of decades of custom and practice in which schools decide that there will be one 'main parent' they will deal with.

FNF Scotland is specifically mentioned as a partner in the Scottish Government's National Action Plan for parental engagement and involvement. John Forsyth is a member of the working group revising the statutory guidance for schools on the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006.

For the second year John Forsyth has been a judge on the Scottish Education Awards 'Parents as Partners' class.

We have presented at cpd sessions for early years teachers teachers, covering the various issues and problems faced by separated parents trying to get fully involved in their children's education. FNF Scotland often deals with individual problems raised by individuals where schools have misunderstood the law around parental involvement.



Dundee Kiltwalkers

KILTWALKS

FNF Scotland now holds monthly meetings in all four cities where the fundraising Kiltwalks take place. In 2018 our supporters and staff took part in Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh, and we plan to take part in Aberdeen as well in 2019.

The efforts of our members in raising funds through donations and various sponsored events show their strong commitment to the organisation.

SHARED PARENTING IN STRASBOURG

FNF Scotland National Manager Ian Maxwell spoke at the 2018 conference of International Council on Shared Parenting. His presentation at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg described our work on promoting shared parenting in Scotland.

LEGAL SUPPORTERS



We now have 43 family lawyers across Scotland who take turns on the rota to provide legal information at our group meetings. This impressive support from the legal profession was recognised when FNF Scotland was

shortlisted in the Community Contribution category of the 2019 Scottish Legal Awards. Despite not winning the actual award, this recognised the efforts of all our legal supporters.

CROSS PARTY GROUP



Group convenor Fulton MacGregor MSP

As secretary to the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Shared Parenting, FNF Scotland helps to raise awareness of measures which will promote policy and practice that supports both parents in sharing parenting responsibilities and will tackle gender stereotypes head on.

Meetings during 2018-19 have included considering the gaps in UK and Scottish data on shared parenting in families, family law reform in Scotland and Australia, parental involvement in schools and parenting coordination.

BENEFITS OF CONTACT



Professor Tommy MacKay

Professor Tommy MacKay gave a very well received presentation at the 2018 AGM on the benefits and barriers of Shared Parenting. This overview overview of research on Contact and Residence, confirming that contact with both parents provides a strong protective factor against children's negative outcomes from relationship breakdown.

He reviewed the evidence for benefits including

- Better academic outcomes
- Better emotional outcomes
- Specifically, lower levels of anxiety and depression
- Contact with the non-resident father is important – but particularly important for boys
- Contact still conveys benefits even when there is conflict
- The importance of self-identity and genealogical connectedness.

In commenting about a factor which is often raised in disputes about shared parenting, Professor MacKay stated that **“the reality of parental alienation is firmly established – the only controversy is about calling it a ‘syndrome’ as it has no place in diagnostic classification systems”**.

ACCOUNTS

The Board presents the accounts for the period from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

The comparative figures cover the year ended 31st March 2018.

The accounts show a welcome surplus of £22,824 including a restricted amount of £5000 which related to activity supported by the Robertson Trust which extends into 2019/20. This improvement in our financial position is due to an increased amount of fund-raising and continued success in applying for grant funding. This presents almost three month's reserve at the current level of expenditure. The policy of the charity is to have reserves of 3 months expenditure and during the year considerable progress was made towards achieving this aim..

STATEMENT ON RISK

The Board continues to assess the major risks to which the charity is exposed and will continue to establish procedures and policies to mitigate those that are identified as a result.

STATEMENT OF THE BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board will prepare financial statements for each financial year and give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the surplus or deficit of the charity for the period. In preparing these financial statements, the Board is required to:

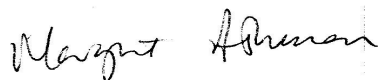
- ³⁵/₁₇ Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- ³⁵/₁₇ State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Board is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Accounts (Scotland) regulations 1992. It is responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking responsible steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective 2015).

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The management committee have appointed A.W. Scotland CA as Independent Examiner of the charity. A resolution to continue this appointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Margaret Ashman, Secretary, 13/5/19

Independent Examiner's Report to the members of Families Need Fathers Scotland SCIO
for the period ended 31st March 2019 set out in pages 8 to 10

Respective Responsibilities of the Board and Examiner

The Charity's Board are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Board considers that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

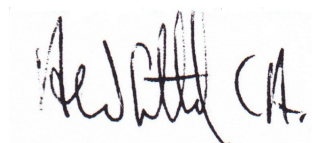
Basis of Independent Examiners Statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts represented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seek explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiners Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention.

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts RegulationsHave not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



A.W. Scotland CA
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13/5/19

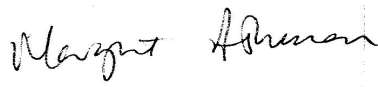
Income and Expenditure Accounts and Statement of Financial Affairs
for the year ended 31st March 2019
Incoming Resources

2017-18		2018-19	
	From Charitable Activities		
	Grants	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds TOTAL
£30,000	The Tudor Trust	£30,000	£30,000
£33,000	Scottish Government	£33,000	£33,000
-	Voluntary Action Fund	£7,500	£7,500
£10,000	Robertson Trust	£5,000	£10,000
£4,500	Corra Foundation		£15,000
£77,500		£75,500	£10,000
	From Generated Funds		
	Donations – trusts	£34,025	£34,025
£12,963	Donations – general	£8,318	£8,318
		£42,343	£42,343
£77,500	Total Incoming Resources	£117,843	£10,000
	Resources Expended		
	Charitable Expenditure		
£69,690	Staff costs	£66,839	£3,000
£7,906	Office rent	£6,438	£6,438
£1,481	Phone, stationery etc.	£1,558	£1,558
£381	Insurance	£377	£377
£2,243	IT and web site	£2,785	£2,785
£3,476	Staff travel	£1,593	£1,593
£1,135	Travel to groups	£1,385	£1,385
£512	Local group costs	£2,578	£2,578
£2,699	Events, training, subscriptions	£4,901	£2,000
£207	Bank charges	-	£0
£89,730	Total	£88,454	£5,000
	Fundraising Expenditure		
	Fund-raising costs	£11,114	£11,114
	Governance Expenses		
£37	Board expenses	£113	£113
£300	Independent Examiners Fees	£300	£300
£90,067	Total Resources Expended	£99,981	£5,000
-£12,567	Surplus for the period and net incoming resources before and after transfers	£17,862	£5,000
	Funds at 1st April 2018	-£1,038	£0
	Funds at 31st March 2019	£16,824	£5,000
			£21,824

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2019

Current Assets	2018	2019
	£2,649	£22,927
Debtors – Prepayments and other debtors	£561	£830
Cash at Bank	£3,210	£23,757
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (note 3)		
Accruals	£4,249	£1,933
Net Current Assets – Net Assets	£1,039	£21,824
Represented by		
	£1,039	£16,824
Unrestricted Funds	-	£5,000
Restricted Funds	1039	£21,824

The accounts were approved by the Board at their meeting on 13/5/19 and signed on their behalf by



Margaret Ashman, Secretary, 13th May 2015

Notes to the Accounts for the period ended 31st March 2018

1. Accounting Policies

Accounting Convention

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles FRS 106, the historical cost convention and the guidelines laid down in the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015).

Income:

Income is accounted for when received.

Expenditure:

Expenditure is accounted for on accruals basis and includes unrecoverable value added tax.

Period of accounts:

The accounts cover the year ended 31st March 2019.

The comparative figures cover the year ended 31st March 2018.

2. Board Expenses

Board members received no remuneration but the members were reimbursed a total of £113 (2017/18 £37) for travel and other expenses.

3. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year.

	2018	2019
Accruals	£582	£405
Taxation	£3667	£1528
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	£4249	£1933

4. Restricted Fund

A grant was received from the Robertson Trust during the year to pay for training and support activities. This was held in a restricted fund and the unspent balance carried forward to 2019/20.