
ANNUAL
REVIEW
2020-21



Charity number:
1152621

HOUSING
ISA
HUMAN
RIGHT

Project 17 works to end destitution among migrant children. It works with families experiencing exceptional poverty to improve their access to local authority support.

We believe that all children have the right to a home and enough to eat, regardless of immigration status. To achieve our vision, we provide advice, advocacy and support for individuals. We build capacity in other organisations and we campaign for the improved implementation of statutory support.

Project 17 works towards ensuring that local authorities comply with the duties required by section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need. Section 17 enables local councils to provide accommodation and financial support to avoid children being taken into the care of the local authority.

This duty exists even if the family has no right to work, no access to welfare benefits and social housing, and no leave to remain in the UK. Project 17 exists to ensure that individuals eligible for support under section 17 are able to access it effectively.

OVERVIEW

- We worked with **260 families**
- **80%** of families benefitted from material support
- We took **456 calls** to our advice line and **delivered 12 training sessions** for professionals
- We supported **strategic litigation** and played a key role in the **national conversation** on NRPF





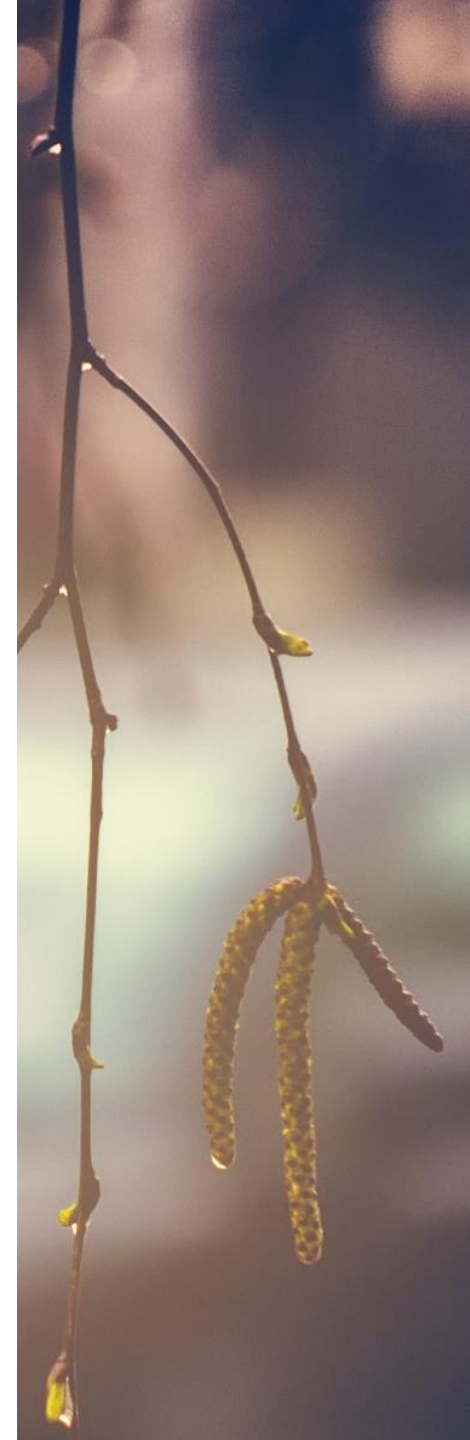
INTRODUCTION

The spread of Covid-19 has shown just how crucial safe housing and financial support is to everyone's health and wellbeing. At the start of the pandemic, Project 17, alongside many other organisations, warned the government that its hostile environment agenda would leave migrant families unable to protect themselves, and others, from the spread of the virus. We called on the government to immediately suspend the whole no recourse to public funds (NRPF) system; for local authorities to take urgent action to support people with no recourse to public funds, and undertook rapid research on the impact of Covid-19 on those we support. While the political climate remained hostile, there was a welcome focus from parliamentarians and other charities on the realities and damaging effects of NRPF which we hope to build on. And in 2020 we helped secure change through the courts, including a successful challenge to the lawfulness of the NRPF policy on the basis that it causes destitution.

Like so many other small charities, Project 17 had to rapidly adapt how we worked so that we could safeguard the health of staff and volunteers, comply with government restrictions and continue support our clients. While remote working brought its challenges, it also helped to improve the accessibility of our advice and allowed us to support clients from across England. We grew our team and supported families in a more holistic way than in previous years. We also worked with more professionals through second tier advice and training than ever before. We reviewed our Board and developed our staff team to ensure we have the skills, structure and wellbeing support in place to be as effective as possible. We were also really pleased to secure funding to work with people with personal experience of destitution caused by NRPF to develop a Solidarity Action Group - part of our ongoing efforts to ensure those with lived experience of NRPF are at the heart of all of Project 17's work.

As we look to the future, EU nationals' loss of rights in the wake of Brexit and the government's commitment to make the asylum system less accessible and more punitive are likely to result in yet more families facing extreme poverty and homelessness. But Project 17 ended the year in a strong position and we remain committed to doing all we can to end destitution among migrant children.

Kamena Dorling, Chair





STAFF

Abi Brunswick, Director: Abi is one of the founders of Project 17, and has overall responsibility for the organisation's operations. She has 13 years' experience in the migrants' rights sector, and is a trustee of The Unity Project.

Amy Murtagh, Advice Supervisor (May-October 2020): Amy joined Project 17 as an adviser in 2014, and left in October 2019. She came back temporarily this year to support the advice team through the transition to home working, and increase our capacity at a time of acute need. Amy also works at All People All Places, and since leaving Project 17 she has been serving as Interim Director at Hackney Migrant Centre.

Blessing Emeribe, Administrator (September 2020-January 2021): Blessing joined Project 17 as Administrator in September 2020, taking responsibility for our training admin and supporting the smooth running of the organisation. She previously worked at Queen Mary University promoting volunteering opportunities, and left us after a short time to return to that line of work.

Claire Kaleab McGuinness, Development Coordinator: Claire joined Project 17 as a staff member in November 2020 having previously been a trustee for a number of years. She also works for Refugee Action as an Advice Co-ordinator and previously worked for five years for The Children's Society providing advice and support to migrant families and delivering training to professionals on section 17. She has worked in the refugee and migrant sector for over 11 years

Eve Dickson, Policy Officer (until October 2020): Eve joined Project 17 as a volunteer in 2016 and started working as Policy Officer in 2017. Eve was responsible for Project 17's policy and research work. She previously coordinated Akwaaba's children's project and helped set up NELMA's accompanying scheme. She has a PhD from Queen Mary University of London, and has gone on to work as a research assistant at UCL.

Hannah Hoseyni, Advocacy and Communications Officer: Hannah joined Project 17 in 2019 as an Adviser, and took on the role of Advocacy and Communications Officer in March 2020. Hannah previously worked at The British Red Cross as a casework coordinator, providing advocacy for asylum seekers and refugees. She has an MA in Human Rights.

Kris Harris, Policy Coordinator: Kris is responsible for Project 17's policy, parliamentary and research work. Kris has been working and volunteering in the migrant right's sector for a decade and is currently a volunteer with Akwaaba Community Project. She has a PhD from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Leah Cowan, Adviser: Leah is a member of Project 17's Advice team. She also works on capacity-building and develops and delivers trainings for professionals. Leah previously worked in policy and communications at Imkaan, a Black feminist organisation dedicated to addressing gender-based violence. She has also coordinated a group working in solidarity with people held in immigration detention. Leah is also a writer and editor, and in 2021 published her first book with Pluto Press about Britain's border regime.





Oluwatosin Kuforiji, Advice Support Officer:

Oluwatosin joined Project 17 in 2019 as a Trustee. In September 2020 she took on the role of Advice Support Officer. Oluwatosin has got over seven years experience working with various charities. This includes the British Red Cross, Hackney Migrant Centre and RAMFEL in various capacities. She has an CIPD Level 5 in Human Resource Management.

Shadin Dowson-Zeidan, Advice Supervisor:

Shadin joined Project 17 as a full time Advisor in August 2019, and has been Advice Supervisor since November 2020. She has previously done casework support with young asylum seekers and survivors of abuse, and has been involved in organising against border violence, immigration raids and immigration detention. She has an MSc in Migration, Mobility and Development from SOAS.

Sydney Shea, Adviser: Sydney began volunteering with Project 17 in late 2018 after completing an undergraduate degree in History at SOAS. In May 2019 she took on the role of Administrative Officer and in August 2020, she became an adviser.

TRUSTEES

We saw significant change in the make up of our Board of Trustees this year, with some Board members stepping down to take on paid roles within the organisation. Others stepped back to make room for new perspectives, with a particular focus on inclusion and improving opportunities for people with personal experience of NRPF.

Our Trustees are:

- Kamena Dorling, Chair (from 22 August 2020)
- Timothy Bull, Treasurer (from 27 March 2021)
- Clare Jennings
- Gwawr Thomas
- Carol Lubale-Buluba (from 27 March 2021)
- Elizabeth Fry (from 27 March 2021)
- Rebecca Aoude (from 25 April 2020)
- Rupinder Parhar (until 11 July 2020)
- Oluwatosin Kuforiji (until 11 July 2020)
- Sue Causton (until 11 July 2020)
- Claire Kaleab McGuinness (until 21 November 2020)

We paused our volunteering opportunities this year because we couldn't adequately support volunteers during the pandemic. We hope to re-start them soon.



THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Our clients have been particularly hard hit by Covid-19. As people already experiencing poverty and homelessness with no welfare safety net, the pandemic and accompanying restrictions exacerbated the problems they were already experiencing. At the end of April 2020, we conducted a survey of 39 recent clients, asking about any problems they were experiencing. We continued to monitor these issues, asking all new clients throughout the year. Responses included:

- Families who were 'sofa surfing' struggled to stay home, self-isolate and maintain hygiene.
- Those working in low-paid, often zero-hour contracts, ineligible for the job retention scheme and excluded from benefits lost all their income. Similarly, people reliant on friends and family have lost support as those they rely on have lost their own incomes.
- People already accommodated by local authorities in poor quality hostels or homes of multiple occupancy shared facilities with several other households, making self-isolation impossible and putting themselves and others at risk.
- Most local authorities did not increase the rate of subsistence support, despite living costs increasing. At best, families generally receive £35 per person, per week, making it impossible to buy in bulk. Our clients continue to go hungry on a regular basis.





COVID-19

Local councils are under increased pressure. While some authorities worked quickly to acknowledge and meet the needs of this client group, others failed to change the way they work. Some councils have reverted to unlawful ‘gatekeeping’ to protect budgets by avoiding statutory duties.

OUR RESPONSE

- Taking on clients remotely, over the phone, Zoom and WhatsApp
- Removing geographical restrictions to accessing our services
- Delivering training and capacity building support online
- Pivoting our strategic response to focus on the impact of the pandemic, without losing sight of endemic issues
- Working from home and adjusting our procedures
- Focusing on staff wellbeing and embedding structures to support staff welfare within the organisation.



ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

Project 17's advice and advocacy service works directly with families experiencing homelessness and severe poverty because they have no recourse to public funds. Our advice centres on housing and financial support that can be provided by local authorities under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, but we also provide additional and related support, including emergency destitution support (cash, foodbank vouchers and small grants); advice on related matters such as free school meals, health access and child maintenance; and referrals to other specialists, such as immigration advisers, domestic abuse advocates and immigration specialists.



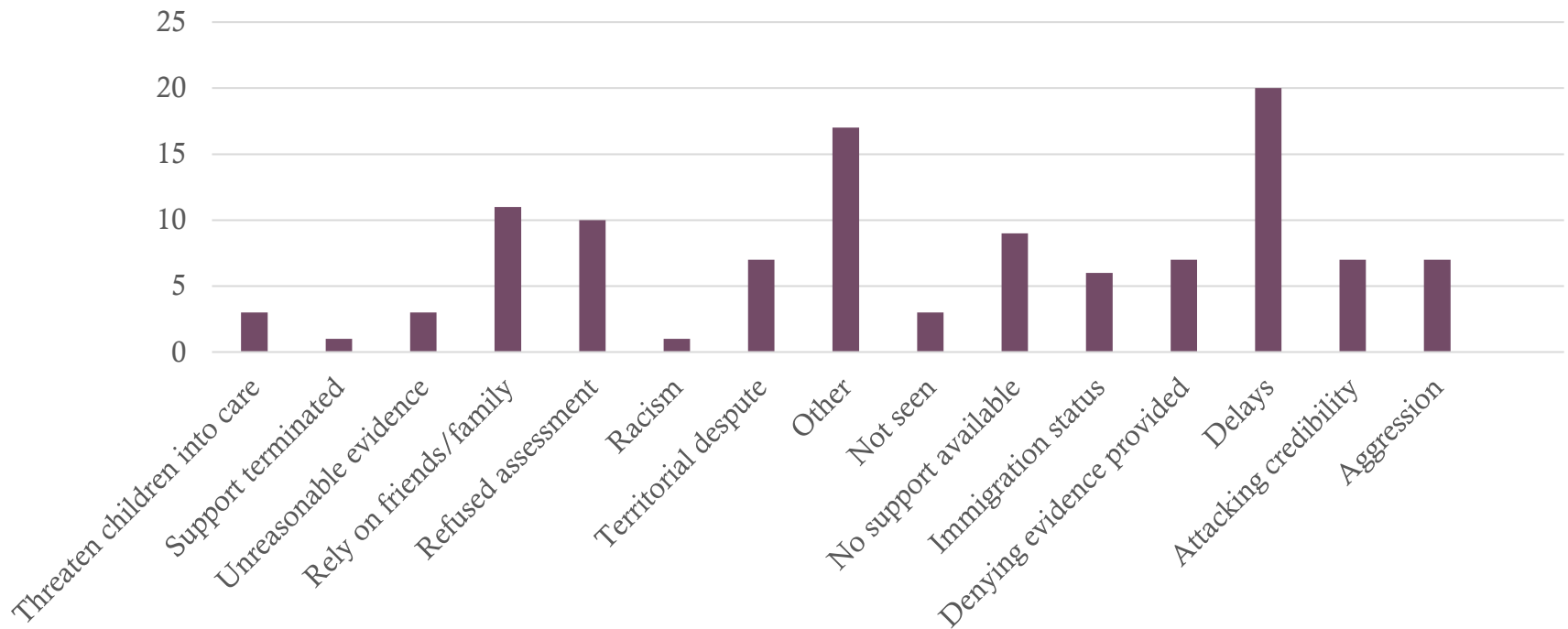
OUR CLIENTS

We worked with 260 families, including 159 new clients.

- 87% were women
- 65% were lone parents
- 97% were Black or from other minoritised ethnic groups
- 54% were undocumented when they approached us, and 30% had limited leave to remain with NRPF
- Families lived across 45 local authorities in England, mostly in London

PROBLEMS ACCESSING SUPPORT

Many families face unlawful barriers or ‘gatekeeping’ when they try to access support under section 17. Below is a breakdown of the issues our clients experienced when approaching local authorities for support following our referral.



When requesting support on their own, families tend to encounter even higher rates of gatekeeping. In particular, parents are more likely to be told their children will be taken into care; that they are ineligible because of immigration status; or told there is no support available at all.

OUTCOMES

Asylum support	4
Baby bank items	26
Benefits	5
Charitable grant	14
Declaration of parentage	1
Destitution Fund	68
Destitution support in kind	14
Foodbank voucher	93
Free school meals	7
Free school meals debt write-off	2
FSM vouchers (Covid-19)	10
Granted LLR	15
Granted Pre-Settled Status	1
Granted recourse to public funds	39
Health Access	5
Hotel fund	4
Initial immigration advice from SLC	10
Internal small grant	28
NRM support	1
Nursery access	2
Other immigration outcome	8
S.17 subsistence	69
S.17 accommodation	24
S.17 interim accommodation	43

REFERRALS

Community care solicitor	20
Debt advice	1
Destitution support	16
Pre-action support: change of conditions	4
Domestic abuse services	2
Family solicitor	1
Immigration adviser/solicitor	31
NRPF lift	10
Other	3

This page summarises the change in people's circumstances. An 'outcome' refers to a positive change. A 'referral' means we supported the family to access help elsewhere.

FEEDBACK

We asked 30 clients for feedback on the frontline service:

- 73% of rated the service 10/10 (and 17% rated is as 9 or 9.5/10)
- 100% said they better understood their options after talking to us
- 97% said Project 17 made a difference to their situation

“Southwark rejected me and did not accommodate. Project 17 put me in a hotel and gave me money. I was very supported, even when the council was treating me badly. The council is now giving me the support I am entitled to.”

“They really had a huge impact. Because of Project 17 I am no longer where I used to be. I thought this life would end for me. Because of their help, I've come a long way.”



CASE STUDY

Bola (name has been changed) is a lone parent with two children under five, one of whom has autism. They had been staying with a friend from church, but at the start of the first Coronavirus lockdown, they were asked to leave. They moved in with someone else, the family sharing a room with one bed. When they approached Project 17 they were being asked to leave again, and had nowhere to go.

One of Bola's children was a British citizen, and she had applied for leave to remain on the basis of that relationship, but while the application was being processed, Bola had no right to work and no access to public funds. Instead, she was reliant on irregular handouts from friends and family, totalling no more than £250 per month. We worked with Bola to approach her local authority for support under section 17 of the Children Act on the basis that her children were in need because of destitution. The family was accommodated straight away and given some financial support. However, they were placed in a hostel with six other families and only one shower. Their room was dirty and the bed was infested with bed bugs. There were also delays in providing financial support, leaving the family without enough money to buy food. With advocacy, they were moved to more suitable accommodation and given regular subsistence payments.

We were able to support with access to free prescriptions and at Christmas, we provided presents for the children. Eventually Bola's immigration application was processed, and she was granted leave to remain with recourse to public funds. She was able to move out section 17 support.

TRAINING

We deliver training to support other organisations to work with families with NRPF more effectively.

We moved all our training online in response to the pandemic, and over the course of the year we delivered 12 training sessions to around 400 participants.

99% rated the training as 'excellent' or 'good', and 88% rated their knowledge after the training as 'excellent' or 'good'.

“I really enjoyed the training, very interesting and useful information, explained in an accessible way and in good timing. I particularly liked the 'real life' examples of situations, like gatekeeping phrases you could hear from the council. I was also impressed with how well the training worked in an online setting, with interesting sections and a nice variety of activities including interaction running very smoothly - one of the best online trainings I have been to, well done.”



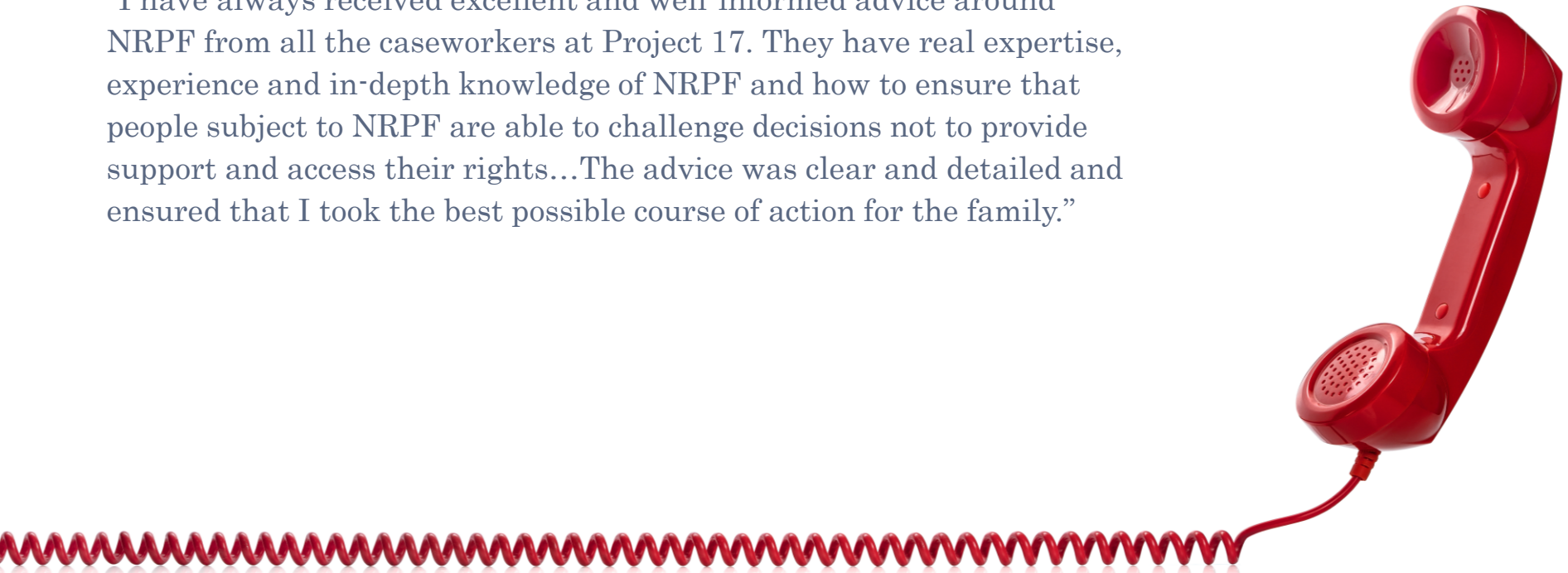
ADVICE LINE

Our telephone advice line provides advice to professionals about individual cases.

This year we took 456 calls to the advice line, which was an increase of 47% on last year.

80% said the advice line was 'very helpful', with a further 14% rating it 'a bit helpful'.

“I have always received excellent and well-informed advice around NRPF from all the caseworkers at Project 17. They have real expertise, experience and in-depth knowledge of NRPF and how to ensure that people subject to NRPF are able to challenge decisions not to provide support and access their rights...The advice was clear and detailed and ensured that I took the best possible course of action for the family.”





STRATEGIC LITIGATION

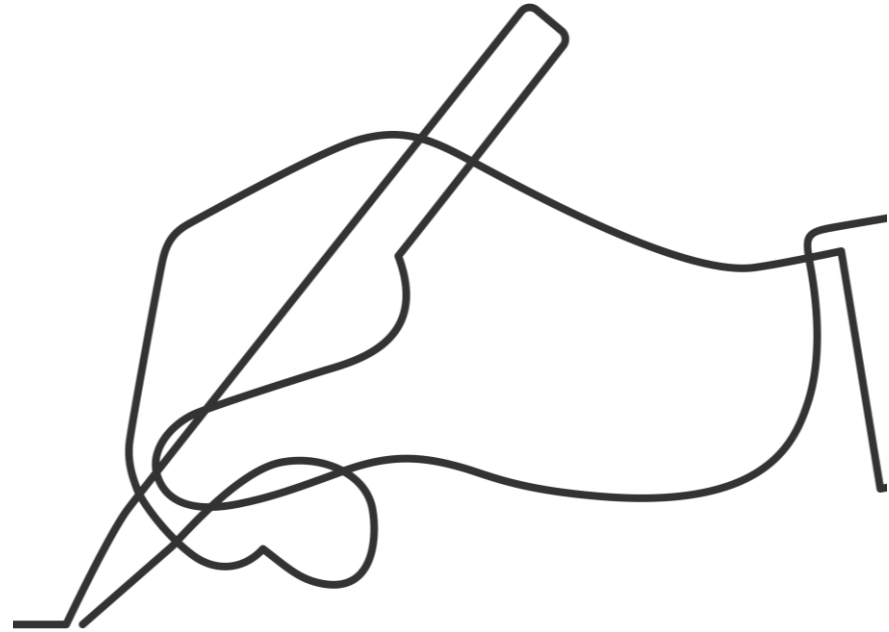
Project 17 acted as intervener on the case of *R(W, A Child By His Litigation Friend J) v SSHD & Anor* [2020] EWHC 1299. The case challenged the NRPF policy as it relates to people with leave to remain on human rights grounds, on the basis that it caused vulnerable people to become destitute. Although we do not believe the situation has been remedied, the case was successful. The court accepted that the NRPF policy did not give effect to the Home Office's obligations under Article 3 ECHR: it did not prevent destitution.

Project 17 also supported strategic litigation which has successfully extended free school meals, early nursery places and pupil premiums to most (although not all) families with NRPF, supporting clients to act as claimants and providing witness evidence.

INFLUENCING

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a new national focus to NRPF. More organisations are working on NRPF than in previous years, with Citizen's Advice, JCWI, The Children's Society and others bringing their platforms and connections to the issue. We have worked closely with these organisations, feeding in our niche expertise and experience to add depth and specificity to the sector's messaging. This has had an impact, with parliamentary questions, debates and public campaigns starting to take shape.

On a local level, Newham signed up to our Children's Charter, demonstrating a commitment to centring children's needs and views in the s.17 process. Lewisham also applied but, on reviewing our cases and speaking to other organisations in the area we did not feel that they were upholding the standards in the charter. We are now meeting with them to discuss positive changes they can make.

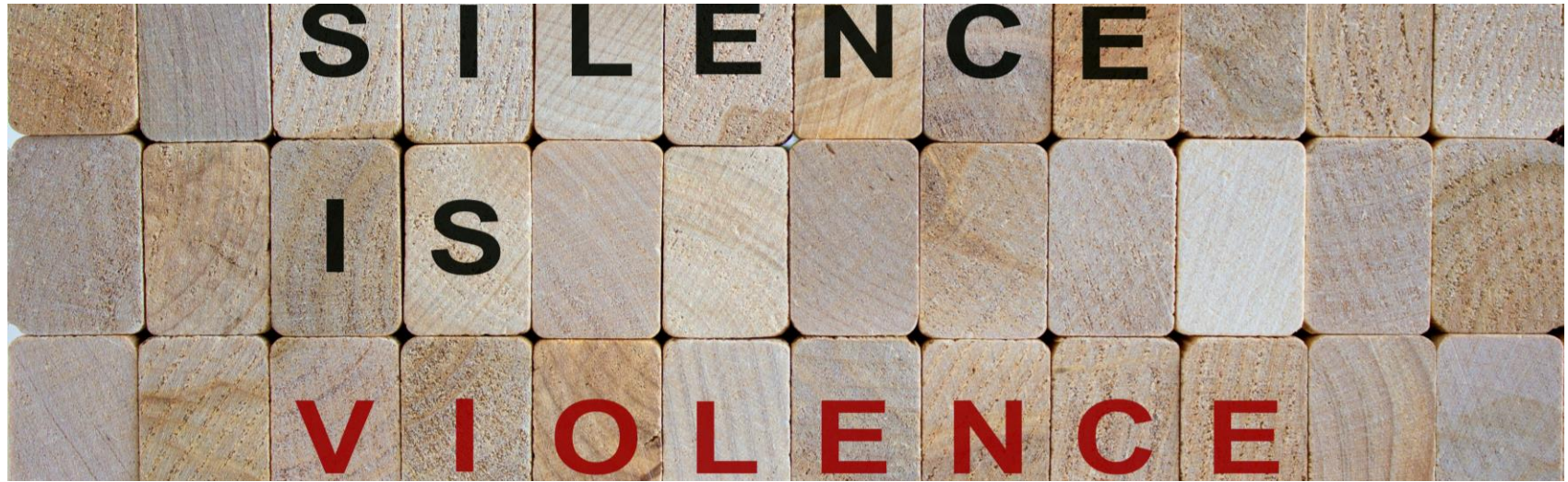




SOLIDARITY ACTION GROUP

We have just begun working with a group of people affected by NRPF who want to support each other and create strategic change. We are in the initial stages of recruiting members, but over time we hope the group will set its own policy priorities, feed into and eventually direct our wider strategic work.





INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

This year we have looked at inclusion and diversity within Project 17, thinking critically about how and when we replicate or fail to challenge racist and discriminatory structures.

We have focused on reforming our recruitment practices to make them more accessible and better able to value lived experience of NRPF.

We have looked at staff welfare and wellbeing, improving support structures and taking responsibility for workplace stress.

We continue to work towards better representation at all levels of the organisation. We aim to create more accessible pathways for career development, build a more diverse Board, and listen to the work of the Solidarity Action Group in all areas of our work.

LOOKING AHEAD

We're looking forward to meeting in person again once restrictions related to the pandemic have been lifted. We'll be learning lessons from the last year, providing a more flexible workplace and service: clients will be able to choose between face to face or remote appointments, and we'll offer a mixture of online and face to face training.

We're excited to work with the Solidarity Action Group, learning from people affected by NRPF and taking a step back to listen.

However, externally we recognise the outlook is bleak. The deadline for making applications under the European Union Settlement Scheme is in June, following which we will undoubtedly see an increase in Europeans and their family members left destitute and with NRPF because of Brexit.

The Nationality and Borders Bill will likely become law in the next year. It creates mechanisms to differentiate between different types of refugees, and will probably create new cohorts of people forced into destitution because they are excluded from public funds.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	92,637	-	92,637	43,815
Charitable activities	1,272	314,942	316,214	201,881
Total Income	93,909	314,942	408,851	245,696
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	(34,773)	(214,062)	(248,835)	(193,324)
Total Expenditure	(34,773)	(214,062)	(248,835)	(193,324)
Net movement in funds	59,136	100,880	160,016	52,372
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	61,101	139,052	200,153	147,781
Total funds carried forward	120,237	239,932	360,169	200,153

OUR FUNDERS

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Oak Foundation

Tudor Trust

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Mercers Company

Migration Exchange

LHA London

Trust for London

Blue Moon

Matrix

Social Venture Partners London

Network for Social Change Charitable Trust

Cenkos Securities plc

Metropolitan Migration Foundation

AB Charitable Trust

Blue Thread

- James Costerton for pro bono website management
- Louise Mankau for pro bono employment advice
- Kate Osamor MP for chairing the APPG on NRPF
- The Salvation Army in Catford and Hackney, for donating Christmas presents
- Hands On London for donating Giggle Bags for children
- The individuals who give regular and one-off donations to support our work

Thank You

Charity registration number: 1152621

Project Seventeen

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Community Accounting Plus
Units 1 & 2 North West
41 Talbot Street
Nottingham
NG1 5GL

Project Seventeen

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Project Seventeen

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Kamena Dorling

Timothy Bull

Clare Jennings

Gwawr Thomas

Carol Lubale-Buluba

Elizabeth Fry

Rebecca Aoude

Assiatu Jalloh

Ruvimbo Mutyambizi

Senior Management Team

Abigail Brunswick, Director

Principal Office

St Joseph's Hospice

Mare Street

London

E8 4SA

Charity Registration Number

1152621

Independent Examiner

John O'Brien, employee of
Community Accounting Plus

Units 1 & 2 North West

41 Talbot Street

Nottingham

NG1 5GL

Project Seventeen

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Trustees

Kamena Dorling, Chair (appointed 22 August 2020)

Timothy Bull, Treasurer (appointed 27 March 2021)

Clare Jennings

Gwawr Thomas

Carol Lubale-Buluba (appointed 27 March 2021)

Elizabeth Fry (appointed 27 March 2021)

Rebecca Aoude (appointed 25 April 2020)

Assiatu Jalloh (appointed 22 May 2021)

Ruvimbo Mutyambizi (appointed 22 May 2021)

Rupinder Parhar (resigned 11 July 2020)

Oluwatosin Kuforiji (resigned 11 July 2020)

Sue Causton (resigned 11 July 2020)

Claire Kaleab McGuinness (resigned 21 November 2020)

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The relief of financial hardship amongst migrants with no recourse to public funds living in the UK by the provision of free advice and assistance to such persons.

For the public benefit to advance education of the public in the needs of migrants with no recourse to public funds by providing training and advice to other relevant agencies.

Objectives, strategies and activities

Advice and advocacy: working directly with families with no recourse to public funds to improve access to accommodation and financial support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 and related support.

Capacity building: working with organisations to improve their ability to work with families with no recourse to public funds. This includes training, telephone advice for professionals; and online resources.

Systemic change: addressing systemic problems with the implementation of section 17 support and other issues affecting people with no recourse to public funds. Activities include engaging with local and national government, campaigns and litigation.

Public benefit

- a) Reducing homelessness and destitution among migrant families with no recourse to public funds.
- b) Increasing awareness of rights and entitlements among individuals, professionals and the wider public.
- c) Improving the implementation of support for migrant families with no recourse to public funds.
- d) Improving public awareness of the issues facing families with no recourse to public funds.

Project Seventeen

Trustees' Report

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Achievements and performance

Advice and advocacy

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on our frontline work. At the start of first lockdown, we began taking on clients remotely, rather than working face-to-face. This presented some logistical difficulties, made it harder to build trusting relationships, and resulted in casework taking longer. However, we found that we were able to take on clients from anywhere in England, and in some ways, it made the service more accessible as clients did not have to travel or find childcare to attend appointments.

The frontline service worked with 260 families, including taking on 159 new clients. 87% were women and 65% were lone parents. 97% were Black or from other minoritised ethnic groups.

54% of clients were undocumented when they approached us, and 30% had limited leave on human rights grounds with no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

Our clients were based in 45 local authorities across England, including 23 councils outside London.

57% of clients had already asked a local authority for support before they approached us. Of those, 72% had been completely refused support. Those refused support reported not having enough money for basic essentials; living in inadequate housing or facing street homelessness; experiencing threats to safety and domestic abuse.

When Project 17 referred families for support they still experienced problems, including delays in accessing support and assessments, being told to rely on friends and family or being told that no support was available. Some also experienced aggression from local authority staff, and had their credibility attacked.

80% of families received some kind of support following our intervention. 43% received help from Project 17's own Destitution Fund, foodbank vouchers, grants, and/or destitution support in kind. 10% were granted leave to remain and 25% were granted recourse to public funds while we were working with them. 43% accessed subsistence under section 17, and 42% accessed accommodation. Other positive outcomes included access to free school meals, nursery and health access, National Referral Mechanism support and asylum support.

70% of clients reported difficulties relating to COVID-19. The most common issues were reduced support from friends and family (37%); loss of employment (25%), and difficulty accessing enough food (16%). 49% said they would face significant barriers if they needed to self-isolate. The most common barrier was lack of adequate space. Many parents reported that children were not able to keep up with schoolwork, largely because of a lack of a computer, internet access, or space.

Capacity building

Prior to the first COVID-19 lockdown, all our training was delivered face to face. We paused training from March to June 2020, and then moved our sessions online. We delivered 12 online sessions over the course of the year, to around 400 participants. 99% of participants rated the training 'excellent' or 'good', and 88% rated their knowledge after the training as 'excellent' or 'good'.

The volume of calls to our telephone advice line for professionals increased by 47% on last year to 456 calls. 21% of calls involved additional support, including checking referrals, sending letter templates or other resources. 80% of callers said the advice line was 'very helpful', and a further 14% said it was 'a bit helpful'.

We began an overhaul of our online resources, which is continuing into next year and will include a revamp of our website and more accessible materials for individuals and advisers.

Project Seventeen

Trustees' Report

Strategic change

Our strategic work pivoted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, recognising the disproportionate impact the pandemic and accompanying restrictions have had on people excluded from mainstream welfare.

In May 2020, Project 17 acted as intervener on the case of R(W, A Child By His Litigation Friend J) v SSHD & Anor [2020] EWHC 1299, a judicial review challenging the lawfulness of the Home Office's NRPF policy on the basis that it caused vulnerable people to become destitute. Our intervention provided evidence that the NRPF policy puts families with NRPF at risk of destitution, and that the support provided by local authorities under s.17 is not an adequate safety net to prevent destitution. We were also able to use our evidence base to highlight the increased risk to destitution caused by COVID-19 and the accompanying restrictions. The case was successful. The court accepted that the NRPF policy did not give effect to the Home Office's obligations under Article 3 ECHR: it did not prevent destitution.

Project 17 also supported strategic litigation which has successfully extended free school meals, early nursery places and pupil premiums to most (although not all) families with NRPF, supporting clients to act as claimants and providing witness evidence.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a new national focus to NRPF. More organisations are working on NRPF than in previous years, with Citizen's Advice, JCWI, The Children's Society and others bringing their platforms and connections to the issue. We have worked closely with these organisations and others, feeding in our niche expertise and experience, adding depth and specificity to the sector's messaging. This has had impact, with parliamentary questions, debates and public campaigns starting to take shape.

On a local level, Newham signed up to our Children's Charter, demonstrating a commitment to centring children's needs and views in the s.17 process. Lewisham also applied but, on reviewing our cases and speaking to other organisations in the area we did not feel that they were upholding the standards in the charter. We are now meeting with them to discuss positive changes they can make.

We have secured additional funding to support and resource a group of people affected by NRPF who are interested in creating strategic change. We are in the initial stages of recruiting members, but over time we hope the group will set its own policy priorities, feed into and eventually lead our wider strategic work.

Financial review

Notwithstanding the challenging economic environment presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, Project 17's income streams remained robust in the year ended 31 March 2021. The total income for the year was £408,851 compared to £245,696 in the year ended 31 March 2020, whilst the total expenditure for the year was £248,835 compared to £193,324 for the year ended 31 March 2020. Overall, this resulted in net income of £160,016 for the year, compared to £52,372 for the year ended 31 March 2020.

The net income for the year of £160,016 resulted in an increase in restricted funds of £100,880 and unrestricted funds of £59,136 respectively. As at 31 March 2021 Project 17's total funds were £360,169 of which £239,932 were restricted and £120,237 were unrestricted.

Project Seventeen

Trustees' Report

Policy on reserves

Project 17's reserve policy states that unrestricted funds, which have not been designated for a specific use, should be maintained at a level equivalent to three to six months of expenditure. At this level the Trustees feel the reserves appropriately support Project 17's resilience against the key financial risks facing the organisation, primarily unforeseen loss of funding or unforeseen expenditure being incurred, and are sufficient to cover associated expenditure commitments were Project 17 to be wound down. The reserves policy is reviewed by the Trustees on a regular basis, at least once a year.

At 31 March 2021, reserves were £120,237, equivalent to four months of total budgeted expenditure for the following financial year.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 18th May 2013.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

- Advertising online (our website, public forums, social media) and approaching people directly.
- Potential trustees submit a CV and covering letter that are reviewed by all trustees.
- The Chair and Director hold an informal interview.
- Potential trustees sit in on part of a Board meeting.
- New trustees are voted onto the Board.

Project Seventeen

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities


The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. 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.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on ...7.8.21... and signed on its behalf by:

K A 

.....
Kamena Dorling
Trustee

Project Seventeen

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Project Seventeen

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Project Seventeen

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Project Seventeen (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

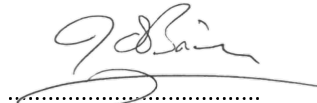
Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member and Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE, employee of Community Accounting Plus
Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners

Units 1 & 2 North West
41 Talbot Street
Nottingham
NG1 5GL

Date:.....12/08/2021.

Project Seventeen

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	92,637	-	92,637	43,815
Charitable activities	3	1,272	314,942	316,214	201,881
Total Income		93,909	314,942	408,851	245,696
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	(34,773)	(214,062)	(248,835)	(193,324)
Total Expenditure		(34,773)	(214,062)	(248,835)	(193,324)
Net movement in funds		59,136	100,880	160,016	52,372
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		61,101	139,052	200,153	147,781
Total funds carried forward	12	120,237	239,932	360,169	200,153

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for the period is shown in note 12.

Project Seventeen

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

These are the figures for the previous accounting period and are included for comparative purposes

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	43,815	-	43,815
Charitable activities	3	3,400	198,481	201,881
Total Income		47,215	198,481	245,696
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	(29,495)	(163,829)	(193,324)
Total Expenditure		(29,495)	(163,829)	(193,324)
Net movement in funds		17,720	34,652	52,372
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		43,381	104,400	147,781
Total funds carried forward	12	61,101	139,052	200,153

Project Seventeen

(Registration number: 1152621) Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Current assets			
Debtors	9	2,257	927
Cash at bank and in hand		359,112	199,226
		<u>361,369</u>	<u>200,153</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year			
	10	<u>(1,200)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net assets		<u>360,169</u>	<u>200,153</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds			
		239,932	139,052
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>120,237</u>	<u>61,101</u>
Total funds	12	<u>360,169</u>	<u>200,153</u>

The financial statements on pages 8 to 18 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 7.8.21
and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Timothy Bull
Trustee

Project Seventeen

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Project Seventeen meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregates similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Project Seventeen

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Project Seventeen

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	General		
	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	23,411	23,411	-
Donations from individuals	14,226	14,226	3,365
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants from other charities	55,000	55,000	40,450
	<u>92,637</u>	<u>92,637</u>	<u>43,815</u>

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds		Total 2021	Total 2020
	General	Restricted funds		
	£	£	£	£
Grants	-	314,942	314,942	198,481
Training income	1,200	-	1,200	3,400
Sundry income	72	-	72	-
	<u>1,272</u>	<u>314,942</u>	<u>316,214</u>	<u>201,881</u>

Project Seventeen

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

4 Grants and donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	131,310	131,310
Oak Foundation	-	44,331	44,331
Tudor Trust	-	43,500	43,500
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	22,500	22,500
Mercers Company	-	25,000	25,000
Migration Exchange	-	10,000	10,000
LHA London	-	10,000	10,000
Trust for London	-	6,737	6,737
Blue Moon	-	5,000	5,000
Matrix	-	3,000	3,000
Social Venture Partners London	-	4,200	4,200
Network for Social Change Charitable Trust	-	7,095	7,095
Cenkos Securities plc	23,411	-	23,411
Metropolitan Migration Foundation	20,000	-	20,000
AB Charitable Trust	20,000	-	20,000
Anon	10,000	-	10,000
Blue Thread	5,000	-	5,000
Sundry Donations	14,226	2,269	16,495
	<u>92,637</u>	<u>314,942</u>	<u>407,579</u>

Project Seventeen

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted General funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
APPG Events	-	80	80	-
Client grants	-	10,031	10,031	6,963
Clinical supervision	150	950	1,100	-
Equipment	1,236	4,354	5,590	-
Freelance & recruitment costs	750	871	1,621	100
Insurance	511	-	511	449
Interpreting costs	-	30	30	-
Legal & professional fees	1,200	-	1,200	-
Litigation	-	255	255	-
Office supplies	866	657	1,523	4,611
Other expenses	100	-	100	-
Printing	-	701	701	-
Rent	1,160	10,441	11,601	13,119
Salaries NIC & pensions	27,698	179,126	206,824	159,853
Staff expenses	408	344	752	615
Subscriptions	35	230	265	-
Telephone & internet	116	1,533	1,649	1,997
Training	499	461	960	1,883
Trustee expenses	44	-	44	-
Volunteer expenses	-	608	608	432
Website & database	-	3,390	3,390	3,302
	34,773	214,062	248,835	193,324

6 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

7 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	189,540	143,236
Social security costs	13,014	13,127
Pension costs	4,270	3,490
	206,824	159,853

Project Seventeen

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2021 No	2020 No
Monthly paid staff	8	5

8 (2020 - 5) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £4,270 (2020 - £3,490).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £41,859 (2020 - £30,550).

8 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

9 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Prepayments	927	927
Other debtors	1,330	-
	<u>2,257</u>	<u>927</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £
Other creditors	<u>1,200</u>

11 Commitments

Capital commitments

The charity has a short term lease for the premises under which either party may give 60 days notice. The total amount contracted for but not provided in the financial statements was £Nil (2020 - £Nil).

Project Seventeen

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

12 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General fund	61,101	93,909	(34,773)	-	120,237
Restricted funds					
Client grants	13,009	2,068	(1,535)	(13,542)	-
Advice	88,735	154,571	(136,956)	-	106,350
Capacity building	10,617	45,442	(34,135)	-	21,924
Policy	26,691	100,565	(32,940)	-	94,316
Destitution fund	-	5,140	(4,732)	4,169	4,577
Hotel fund	-	61	(859)	9,373	8,575
Small grants fund	-	7,095	(2,905)	-	4,190
Total restricted funds	139,052	314,942	(214,062)	-	239,932
Total funds	200,153	408,851	(248,835)	-	360,169

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Client grants: to facilitate the provision of direct financial support to clients in cash or in kind;

Destitution fund: to provide emergency financial support to clients for food or other urgent essential items;

Hotel fund: to provide funding for short term stays in emergency accommodation for families left street homeless by a refusal of local authority support;

Small grants fund: to provide direct financial support to clients in cash or in kind;

Advice: to provide direct advice and advocacy services to migrant families with no recourse to public funds;

Capacity building: to build capacity in other organisations working with migrant families with no recourse to public funds; and

Policy: creating systemic change to improve the implementation of support for migrant families with no recourse to public funds, through engaging with local and national government, campaigning and strategic litigation.

Transfers within the Restricted Funds have been made to reflect the separate presentation of the Destitution fund and Hotel fund, which were previously presented in aggregate within the Client grants.

Project Seventeen

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>				
General fund	43,381	47,215	(29,495)	61,101
Restricted funds				
Client grants	7,498	12,474	(6,963)	13,009
Advice	40,510	135,393	(87,168)	88,735
Capacity building	42,547	3,200	(35,130)	10,617
Policy	13,845	47,414	(34,568)	26,691
Total restricted funds	104,400	198,481	(163,829)	139,052
Total funds	147,781	245,696	(193,324)	200,153

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		2021
	General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Current assets	121,437	239,932	361,369
Current liabilities	(1,200)	-	(1,200)
Total net assets	120,237	239,932	360,169
	Unrestricted funds		2020
	General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Current assets	61,101	139,052	200,153

14 Independent examiner's fees

During the period, the fees payable (excluding VAT) to the charity's independent examiner Community Accounting Plus are analysed as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Independent examination	1,000	-
	1,000	-