Annual Review
2016-2017
Supporting people with learning disabilities to achieve their dreams and wishes
Our year in numbers

- 60 self-employed carers
- 72 volunteers
- 250 staff
- 500 people with learning disabilities supported

2016-2017
Our mission
We will work towards Grace Eyre being led by people with learning disabilities and through that deliver high quality housing, support and activities in their local communities.

Who we are
Grace Eyre is a vibrant charity that has been supporting people with learning disabilities for over 100 years. All our work is centred around the individual’s or their family’s needs, dreams and wishes.

About us
Grace Eyre’s vision is for a society where people with learning disabilities are respected as equal citizens, are part of and contribute to their communities, and where people can fulfil their dreams and wishes.

What we do
We develop housing, support in people’s own homes and activities that lead to personal goals being fulfilled - all with the aim of making a positive difference to people’s lives.

Where we work
We support people across Sussex and the South East, including: Brighton & Hove, West Sussex, East Sussex, Lambeth, Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, and the City of Westminster.
Looking back on our year

Grace Eyre has been working in Sussex for 119 years and in parts of London for three years. We are supporting increasing numbers of people with learning disabilities, we have supported campaigns around voting and opposing the cuts to services, and we now have 10 Ambassadors who are starting to make a difference to how people with learning disabilities, working alongside paid staff, can make Grace Eyre more user-led.

Our Grace Eyre Housing CIC has expanded its reach and has now successfully housed 52 people in Brighton & Hove and West Sussex – many of those are supported by our Choices supported living and outreach services.

Purple Playhouse Theatre CIC hosts the ever growing Purple Club House – a club night run by people with learning disabilities for people with learning disabilities.

Grace Eyre has most recently won a contract from Brighton & Hove City Council to take over the management of four supported living services and we are really looking forward to meeting the people who live there and the staff who support them.

Please take a look at some of the activities we did during the year.

Eva Eriksson, Chief Executive
On behalf of the board of trustees, I would like to thank everyone in the Grace Eyre community who supports and delivers the amazing work of this organisation. I am immensely proud of Grace Eyre’s work and it’s a privilege being able to lead the organisation in partnership with the CEO, wider board and senior management team. We continue to grow and develop services in a difficult environment and I’m pleased to report that we are going from strength to strength.

We are about to launch our new strategic plan laying out our road map to become the organisation we want to be by 2020. We have been working hard thinking about how we can respond better to the needs of the people we serve and we are excited about a whole new range of supported services and innovations that are being developed.

We always want to find ways to do more and be more, and we, like many charities, are working in very difficult times. But I know that with the incredible passion and compassion of our staff and volunteers, many people’s lives are better because we exist. If you are inspired by the stories in this annual review, then please get in touch about joining Grace Eyre – maybe as a carer, a volunteer, or a trustee. There are many ways you can help and I am sure you will find it very rewarding.

Helen Odeniyi, Chair
People with learning disabilities who use our services have developed a Charter which now informs every aspect of our work.

Siobhan Baker was nominated in the category of ‘Outstanding Volunteering Contribution – Young People’. Happily, Siobhan has gone on to join the Grace Eyre team as an employee.

‘We want to live our lives in the way we want to, getting good support from kind and friendly people’

It’s our staff who provide such high quality care and support for people with learning disabilities. In a survey of our staff, we found that 97% understand Grace Eyre’s values and beliefs, 86% agree that they have a good work/life balance, and 83% feel that the training we offer has helped improve their skills and knowledge.
A new team member said the highlight of their role was ‘helping service users to smile, laugh and enjoy life. I love making a connection with people. Yesterday I got a fist bump from a service user with autism and it felt so good to be accepted by him although I’m new.’

The skills and commitment of two of our volunteers were recognised at the Brighton & Hove Community Works’ Sector Star Awards. Ann Bradley has volunteered over 2,000 hours of her time since joining us eight years ago. She won an award in the category of ‘Outstanding Volunteering Contribution – Adults’.

‘We want to be listened to’

This year, our Ambassador group launched the Charter and contributed to our new three-year strategic plan. Our Ambassadors are 10 people with learning disabilities who seek out and represent the opinions of their peers and ask staff to think and operate differently - an important role.

‘Hello! Is it us you’re looking for? We love to meet up to discuss plans for the future. We are very excited to be talking about how Grace Eyre will be run by people with learning disabilities over the next three years. We will be meeting with lots of people, encouraging them to think about new and smaller buildings, called ‘hang outs’.

We launched our new monthly disco, the ‘Purple Club House’, a safe and supported space where people with learning disabilities can let their hair down. Also, by asking questions to people with learning disabilities at the Club, we learn what people really think about Grace Eyre! This means we can better meet their needs.

See what people with learning disabilities are saying at askingpeoplewhattheythink.tumblr.com

Hang out with us

Staff member

“This is the most meaningful and enjoyable job that I have ever had. I love working for Grace Eyre!”
‘We want to lead healthy lives, with good food, creative minds, laughing, rest and relaxation’

Our allotment is the perfect space to enjoy fresh air and work together to grow healthy food. Up to 30 people with learning disabilities use the allotment every week as part of our dynamic Active Lives day service. Thanks to Brighton & Hove Food Partnership we have a new pizza oven. We support people with learning disabilities to think about where food comes from, make healthy shopping choices, cook from scratch, and host meals together.

“We learnt how to use the oven and we chose our own toppings. We also made our own salad dressings – we worked as a team. The pizza was amazing!”

Jamie

Elsewhere in our day service, the Musical Theatre sessions support people with learning disabilities to create, write and act out their own productions. This year they created a musical mash up in a circus setting! One performer explains, ‘We had a Ringmaster and each scene was a different act in the circus - we made up dance moves and our own script’. We also offer a Scenery Production session and its artists helped to create the scenery, accessories and props. After a year of hard work, ‘the show was a big hit - the audience even asked for an encore!’ Co-production such as this not only builds skills in the creative arts but confidence too.

To find out more, or to make a referral to our Active Lives day service, call 01273 201900, or email referrals@grace-eyre.org
The show was a big hit – the audience even asked for an encore!
Our ‘Sports for All’ project helps people with learning disabilities to improve their physical and emotional health, make new friends, and to be active in their local communities, all beginning with sport. In East Sussex, the project was awarded the ‘Community Impact’ award in 2016 by Active Sussex, one of the UK’s 44 County Sports Partnerships, for excellence in driving up participation, fostering partnerships, and promoting inclusion within local communities.

‘We want to travel round where we live’

By April, our three year ‘Travel Buddy’ project came to an end. It supported people with learning disabilities to plan and make journeys on foot and public transport by themselves, unlocking a more independent life. Though the project has ended, its impact lives on. Staff member, Michael, was happy to bump into one of the youngest participants out and about in town. ‘This is someone who was unable to cross a road by herself (before taking part in the project). When I chatted to her in the café, she was buying coffee to take to her Mum, who was busy shopping a few streets away. It was a small moment... but said a lot’.

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Michael, staff member
We work with you to increase your independence by finding a job, voluntary work, going to college, accessing sports and attending social events in your community.

For more information or to make a referral, call us on 01273 201900, or email referrals@grace-eyre.org
Grace Eyre Housing makes sure that people with learning disabilities can access high-quality accommodation that meets their needs.
‘We want to have good housing’

Grace Eyre Housing makes sure that people with learning disabilities can access high-quality accommodation that meets their needs. We doubled our reach in West Sussex, supporting 19 tenants by the year end. By working with the Estates Team at Brighton & Hove City Council we leased three more properties, turning them into safe, decent homes for new tenants.

Our Shared Lives schemes match a person with learning disabilities to a carer willing to share their home and give ongoing support. We extended our schemes in London beyond Lambeth, launching a pilot of Shared Lives in the boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, and the City of Westminster. We have recruited over 20 sets of carers in our London schemes and matched a number of people with learning disabilities to live in long term arrangements.

We are proud that our Shared Lives Sussex scheme was judged to be ‘Outstanding’ in the category of ‘Care’ during a Care Quality Commission inspection. Here, we have worked closely with other partners to develop new ‘Mother and Baby’ services; adults with learning disabilities are now supported to care for their own children within Shared Lives households.

“Last year I moved in with my Shared Lives carers. I feel more independent. I like having friends to visit, walking to the local shop and accessing the internet”

This year also bought a new opportunity to focus on the needs of young people. The Department of Education awarded us funding to set up a Shared Lives Transition pilot scheme for young people aged 16 and 17 in West Sussex.

For more information about Shared Lives, or to make a referral, email referrals@grace-eyre.org or call us on 01273 201900
We want to have strong and supported relationships’

People with learning disabilities tell us they have few opportunities to make and meet friends. To help reduce loneliness and isolation, we launched the Purple Club House in Brighton & Hove. This is a monthly, fun-filled night of music, film, quizzes, and conversations at our Purple Playhouse Theatre – all organised and delivered by people with learning disabilities, from DJs to the front of house and bar staff.

“This has opened more doors than we would ever have had living anywhere. It’s allowed us to be independent and live how we want to live our lives”

We also support adults with learning disabilities to have loving relationships. A young couple wanted to ‘test the waters’ by seeing what it would be like to live together. They moved into one of our properties, managed and supported by Grace Eyre Housing. They thrived, making the property into a real home – and now they are married!

“I find the Purple Club House great. I DJ at the club night as well. I love it – it’s good fun!”

Fran

“Shane & Kirsty”

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Our Friendship Group has grown in Brighton & Hove, a social group for adults with learning disabilities. During the year, we supported people to join in with 110 different activities including rambling, bowling, city-tours, holidays to Butlins, theatre, cinema, gigs, museums, lunch and dinner, and more!
“Working in Grace Eyre has been a big step for me. I didn’t have much experience in a work environment and being a full-time receptionist has given me more confidence and strength in socialising and supporting others”

Bill
‘We want to try new things’

With just 6% of people with learning disabilities in paid employment in the UK, we want to increase the opportunities available to them around work. Our Active Lives service in Brighton & Hove manages the Grace Eyre Reception team – a mix of volunteers and staff, the majority of whom have learning disabilities. This year, we recruited Bill as a full-time receptionist. Bill has a learning disability and was supported through a practical, skills based interview; he proved to us that he’d be a great addition to the team.

“You have made a real difference to the residents’ lives... and lifted so many of the restrictions that they were living under before.”

Commissioner

Person centred care is at the heart of what we do; only by listening to and understanding people with learning disabilities can we help them to try new things. So we are proud that Grace Eyre Choices was judged to be ‘Outstanding’ in the category of ‘Care’ during a Care Quality Commission inspection. In Choices, we offer supported living and/or outreach services; help to budget money, maintain a place to live, meet new friends, enjoy being out in the community, learn skills, be safe, and live more freely.

Choices expanded its reach by supporting people with acquired brain injury in Brighton & Hove. Though a short term project, the care and attention of our staff has had a big impact. One commissioner told us, ‘you have made a real difference to the residents’ lives... and lifted so many of the restrictions that they were living under before.’

Outstanding
‘We want to be part of our communities’

The ‘Purple Playhouse’ is our vibrant community theatre in the heart of Brighton & Hove. This is a space where people with, and without, learning disabilities come together, helping to break down barriers. We ran a weekly drama project over five months, where 11 people with learning disabilities created and performed their own show, ‘Grace Eyre Street’. The result was in a sell-out performance in the Brighton Fringe Festival. The theatre hosted another 27 performances, introducing Grace Eyre to hundreds of people in the local community.

“I liked making friends and meeting new people. I enjoyed the drama project and am very proud of myself for taking part.”

Jonny

The Purple Playhouse Theatre is a fantastic place to watch performances or even host your own. You can also hire our spaces for parties, corporate events and more!

Call us on 07736 273402
or email roomhire@grace-eyre.org
When you support Grace Eyre, you are supporting people with learning disabilities to transform their lives. Here’s just one story of change.

My name is Lyndon.
Just a few simple words.
But they are remarkable.

Lyndon is a lively, smiley, young man who enjoys being active and loves making music, singing to himself throughout the day. He has an autistic spectrum condition and a moderate learning disability. Lyndon does not use speech very often and it can be very difficult for him to communicate his needs and wishes. Imagine how frustrating this must be.

As well as his family, Lyndon is supported by Grace Eyre staff in his day to day life. For the past five years, Tim has supported Lyndon every week. It was Tim who spotted an opportunity to help Lyndon overcome his frustrations and express himself more fully – he arranged for Lyndon to have a new iPad and accessible software, donated by Sussex Police.

After a few weeks of practising with the software and exploring it with Tim, Lyndon tapped out ‘I feel happy’. This was just the start.

Having a new way of interacting has encouraged Lyndon to become more verbal. Tim says, ‘one day when I arrived and wished him a good morning he said “good morning Tim” whilst also signing it with Makaton. That was the first time he has said that to me in five years of working together’.

Tim was encouraged not only by how verbal Lyndon was becoming but how independent too. On a regular trip to McDonalds, Tim programmed in some new buttons so that Lyndon could order himself when he got there. ‘He became very excited by the idea. When it was time to go he went straight to the bus stop although we normally walk! Lyndon led the way. When we arrived, Lyndon tapped out “I want a strawberry milkshake”. Then he deleted it and handed me back the iPad. I gave it back to him and said ‘you can order yourself’ so he joined the queue and typed in the words again with the McDonalds staff watching. They were so excited that two staff members wanted to serve him and he ended up with two shakes!’

Now, Lyndon is using the iPad in lots of new ways. He is becoming a keen photographer, using the iPad to take pictures which he later enjoys looking at. This allows his family to see what he has been doing during the week and
talk with him about it. Lyndon also likes the sound of the camera clicking, a satisfying sensation.

Music has always been a touchstone for Lyndon and his family. Tim says ‘he has an amazing ability to hum refrains from classical music…and his father can always tell me the name of piece. I can then find it on YouTube and Lyndon will happily listen to the entire composition. He will also pick out other videos to watch from the YouTube suggestions. This has given Lyndon some of the control over his leisure time that most of us take for granted’.

This is the kind of person centred care that drives us all at Grace Eyre. Other staff help Lyndon to enjoy the outdoors and to prepare and cook his own food at the allotment. These actions by Tim and his colleagues improve Lyndon’s quality of life. We are only at the start of finding out what this young man can achieve.
# Statement of Financial Activities

for year Ended 31 March 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Balance Sheet</th>
<th>2017 £</th>
<th>2016 £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>1,874,007</td>
<td>1,950,813</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Current Assets</td>
<td>632,624</td>
<td>654,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Liabilities</td>
<td>(697,361)</td>
<td>(717,589)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</td>
<td>1,809,270</td>
<td>1,888,011</td>
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## Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 £</th>
<th>2016 £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>1,373,119</td>
<td>1,479,127</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revaluation Reserve</td>
<td>179,544</td>
<td>184,515</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>256,607</td>
<td>224,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,809,270</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,888,011</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Incoming expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 £</th>
<th>2016 £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations &amp; Gifts</td>
<td>194,651</td>
<td>367,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>3,772</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Lives Income</td>
<td>1,299,091</td>
<td>1,416,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared Lives Income</td>
<td>1,948,579</td>
<td>2,014,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choices Income</td>
<td>1,924,386</td>
<td>1,795,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities for generating funds</td>
<td>49,142</td>
<td>51,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Eyre Housing CIC</td>
<td>352,138</td>
<td>257,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Playhouse Theatre CIC</td>
<td>22,514</td>
<td>9,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,794,273</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,912,972</strong></td>
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## Resources Expended

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 £</th>
<th>2016 £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Costs of charitable activities</td>
<td>5,722,666</td>
<td>5,883,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs of generating funds</td>
<td>150,348</td>
<td>100,582</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Resources Expended</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,873,014</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,984,355</strong></td>
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These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of Grace Eyre. For further information please consult the full accounts which can be obtained by writing to the Finance & IT Director, The Grace Eyre Foundation, 36 Montefiore Road, Sussex BN3 6EP.
Thank you

These are the people who make our work happen.

Our staff
ALL our hard working staff across Sussex and London
Chief Executive – Eva Eriksson
Deputy Chief Executive – Chris Bland
Operations Director – John Medway
Finance Director – Mark Ainsworth
New Business & Development Director – Miranda Keast

Our Trustees
Peter Boorman
Tracy Cullen
Tim Drew (retired 2016)
Russell Drayton (Treasurer)
Mark Hendriks
Cathy John (retired 2017)
Andy Lane (retired 2017)
Gillian Marston
Helen Odeniyi (Chair)
Ben Wood

Our Patrons
Jenny Barnard-Langston
Tony Fellingham

Our Ambassadors
Shane Pentecost
Johnny Schachter
Laura Nye
Jo Pardoe
Abi Lewis
Shannon Pooley
Ben Doehren
Chris Rider
Becky Ellis
Kirsty Pentecost

Our Volunteers
All our hard working and supportive volunteers

Contracts
Brighton & Hove City Council
West Sussex County Council
London Borough of Lambeth
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the City of Westminster
And other local authorities

Grant Making
Big Lottery Fund
Sport England

Trusts and Foundations
Baily Thomas Charitable Fund
Brighton & Hove Food Partnership, Good Food Grant
Dan Maskell Tennis Trust
Lawn Tennis Association
Sussex Community Foundation
Sussex Police, Police Property Act Fund
Swimathon
The Chalk Cliff Trust
The Homity Trust
The Mayor’s Charities, Brighton & Hove
The Thomas Beecham Club

Corporate
American Express
Albion in the Community
Brighton and Hove Bus and Coach Company
Donatello’s
Le Gourmet Deli
Lawrence Art Supplies
Master Tiles
Moshimo
And all the many businesses that support us locally

Community
Coastline Harmony Chorus
Jackie the Musical
Lloyd Street Party
Rebelles
Resound Male Voices
Rotary Club, Hove

Individuals
To everyone who chooses to donate, we are grateful.
Get informed
grace-eyre.org
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Facebook/GraceEyreF
Instagram/ArtsGraceEyre
Instagram/CafeGraceEyre
Instagram/Grace.Eyre

Get involved
Make a donation or fundraise. See how to have fun with friends and family by raising life changing funds. grace-eyre.org/ways-to-donate

Get in touch
01273 201900
enquiries@grace-eyre.org

You can send letters or donations to:
Grace Eyre,
36 Montefiore Road,
Hove, East Sussex
BN3 6EP