
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ALLIANCE FOR ENGLAND

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2009**

Company Number: 2652127 (England and Wales)

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Company Information

Management council
(as at August 2009)

Marc Bush
Jan Cosgrove
Eleanor Cowley
Tara Flood
Jane Fortin
Rachel Hodgkin
Kea Horvers
James le Vaul-Grimwood
George Lindars-Hammond
Melian Mansfield
Alison Marshall
Peter Newell
Michael Newman
Sharon Owen
Laura Partoon
Lisa Payne
Mary Riddell
Kalika Sunger
Diana Sutton
Tasha Xavier

Management council associates
(as at August 2009)

Dominic King
Sana Khan

Chair

Mary Riddell

Vice chairs

Kea Horvers
Peter Newell

Treasurer

Michael Newman

Secretary

Lisa Payne

Company Information

Staff (for year ended March 2009)

CRAE core team

National co-ordinator	Carolyne Willow (to January 2009) Mike Lindsay (from January 2009)
Policy and change director	Madeleine Tearse (to May 2008)
Legal director	Katy Swaine
Parliamentary adviser	Catherine Billingham
Office manager	Sue Marris

Get ready for change!

Head of policy and public affairs	Sam Dimmock
Senior policy and change officer	Carla Garnelas
Senior children's rights investigator	Ciara Davey
Policy and change assistant	Krishna Maroo
Administrator (0.5)	Sabeena Kistnah

Participation Works

Senior policy and change officer	Tom Burke
Administrator (0.5)	Sabeena Kistnah

Temporary staff

Get ready adviser	Charlie-Maud Munro
Get ready adviser	Adam Roberts
Get ready adviser	Imogen Walsh
Administration assistant	Andy Barthorpe
Administration assistant	Cal McLean
Administration assistant	Enrico Panizzo

Legal volunteers

Abdul Azeez
Olawumni Bankole
Victoria Cabral
Sachin Dehra
Nino Gomez
Olivia Harris
Lyuba Herbert
Ross Howarth
Emoline Thiruchelvam
Charlotte Threipland
Judith Walker

Work experience volunteers

Daniel-Sean Huisman
Kalika Sunger
Emma Talbot
Jessica Timperley

Company number	2652127 (England and Wales)
Charity number	1005135

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ALLIANCE FOR ENGLAND

Registered office	94 White Lion Street London N1 9PF
Auditors	Gotham Erskine LLP Chartered Accountants Friendly House 52-58 Tabernacle Street London EC2A 4NJ
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland 127-128 High Holborn, London WC1V 6PQ

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

Introduction

The management council (the members of which are the trustees and also the directors, for the purposes of company law) presents its report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2009. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005. The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

Structure, governance and management

Organisational Structure

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission and is also a company limited by guarantee.

Governance

Members of the management council (the board of trustees) are elected annually at the charity's annual general meeting from the membership of the company. Members of the management council serve for two-year periods and may serve for up to three consecutive terms.

Management and staffing

The management council is responsible for setting strategies and policies for the charity and for ensuring that these are implemented.

Day to day management of the charity is delegated to the national co-ordinator, and the Senior Management Team.

Objectives and activities

The principal activity of the charity, established in 2001, is to promote the full implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Up until the end of December 2008, Carlyne Willow continued as national co-ordinator. From January 2009, she started a one-year unpaid leave, and was replaced by Mike Lindsay. Sue Marris continued as office manager, Katy Swaine as CRAE's legal director and Samantha Dimmock was promoted to the new role of Head of policy and public affairs in our *Get ready for change!* project.

The main activities and achievements of the year, which the Alliance has fulfilled, are grouped below under the organisation's advocacy objectives.

Monitoring Government action on implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights instruments

Convention on the Rights of the Child reporting process

CRAE hosted a UK-wide meeting of children's rights coalitions at CRAE on 9 May. This revealed some tensions about the best approach for giving evidence directly to the UN Committee, with Northern Ireland NGOs strongly preferring presentations based on "jurisdictions" rather than UK-wide children's rights themes.

CRAE launched its comprehensive and summary reports on 9 June, which it had previously submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on 17 March. This NGO (alternative) England report to the UN Committee was endorsed by over 100 NGOs in England. CRAE additionally prepared the NGO report on the Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict, which was submitted jointly with the Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights and the Independent Monitoring Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Wales), and contributed to a UK-wide common issues paper encompassing key violations of children's rights in all four UK jurisdictions.

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

The children's report from the *Get ready for Geneva* investigation was also submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in April and handed in to the Children's Minister, Beverley Hughes on 9 June. Two young people (aged 12 and 17) from the *Get ready for Geneva* delegation, and the national co-ordinator, gave formal evidence to the UN Committee on 11 June. A further 10 young people, aged 9-17 years, took part in an informal meeting with the UN Committee.

CRAE secured a good number of media interviews, particularly reporting children and young people's involvement in the process. A Parliamentary event was convened on 17 June, with Professor Lucy Smith, one of the UN Committee members and UK rapporteur. It was well-attended by both parliamentarians and NGO representatives.

A special children and young people's conference was arranged in July between the Government, CRAE and UNICEF. The purpose of the event was to disseminate the findings from the *Get ready for Geneva* project to children, young people and key Government officials, and to allow the Government to talk to children about its position on the UNCRC reporting process and hear directly views from children and young people.

On 7 September, a breakfast meeting was held with Lucy Smith, key NGOs and two young people from the *Get ready for Geneva* project, to draw the rapporteur's attention to issues of particular concern relating to children in England. Following this, two additional young people (aged 12 and 15) were supported by CRAE's head of policy and senior policy and change officer to attend, observe and report back on the UN's examination of the UK Government in Geneva on 23 and 24 September.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's concluding observations were issued on 3 October and include over 120 recommendations relating to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and a further 35 recommendations relating to the optional protocol on armed conflict. Many of the recommendations reflect concerns raised by CRAE. All 14 of the recommendations put to the UN Committee by children were included in the UN's concluding observations report. The UN Committee has for the first time commented on the rights of children with disability, on broader societal attitudes towards children and on the role of the media. CRAE produced and circulated a version of the concluding observations for children and young people, which was adopted for use by the Welsh Assembly in its own children's version.

CRAE secured a very successful meeting with Barry Sheerman MP, chair of the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee. The Committee announced that it will begin an inquiry on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Committee's concluding observations in the coming months.

CRAE's *State of children's rights in England report 2008* was launched at our conference on 20 November, alongside the full report of the *Get ready for Geneva* children's rights investigation (called *What do they know?*). The conference was well attended and feedback on the day was very positive, with particular praise for the contribution of *Get ready for Geneva* young activists. Representatives from the offices of Annette Brooke MP, David Burrowes MP, and Baroness Hale of Richmond were able to attend. Baroness Stern of the parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) spoke during the plenary session in the afternoon.

On 25 November, CRAE and several other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) had a meeting with Tom Jeffery, Director General for Children and Families at the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and head of the UK delegation to Geneva. The meeting was arranged by the DCSF as an opportunity to discuss the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's concluding observations. The discussion largely focused on public attitudes towards children and young people and the importance of raising awareness of the Convention.

Carolyne convened the final meeting of the NGO co-ordinating committee (responsible for the submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child). A new national body has been proposed to take over some of the functions of the group (see below).

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International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

CRAE submitted to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in May.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

CRAE submitted to the UN Human Rights Committee in May. Issues raised by CRAE in relation to anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) and immigration detentions were reflected in the Human Rights Committee's concluding observations on the UK, issued on 30 July.

Equality and Human Rights Commission human rights inquiry

As well as submitting a dedicated response, CRAE also sent its children's rights report to the EHRC as a contribution to its human rights inquiry which ran until 21 June. CRAE has also fed into the inquiry through a series of stakeholder meetings with the legal, policy and communications departments at EHRC.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has for the first time called for the UK Government to legislate to prohibit corporal punishment in the home. In its concluding observations on the UK, issued in July, the UN Committee noted the continuing prevalence of violence against women and girls and also recommended that the Government adopt and implement a national strategy to eliminate violence against women and girls, which should include awareness-raising campaigns. CRAE submitted to the UN Committee as part of the UK Women's National Commission.

Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner

CRAE liaised closely with the Commissioner's office ahead of the publication of his memorandum on juvenile justice on 17 October. Despite our press release, unfortunately the memorandum received only a small amount of rather parochial media coverage. There has not been any Ministerial statement or Parliamentary debate on the Commissioner's report.

European Committee on the Prevention of Torture (CPT)

CRAE, Inquest and NSPCC met with Hugh Chetwynd, head of the CPT Secretariat and others on 17 November. The focus of the meeting was on child custody, anti-social behaviour orders and immigration detention.

NGO Co-ordinating Committee

Effort has been made to develop a new monitoring role for the NGO Co-ordinating Committee, but this has met with limited success owing to a combination of key people moving on; CRAE and other organisations having to address capacity issues; and a growing lack of engagement from partners who see this work as being something that CRAE should be doing, combined with the relative distance until the next reporting process in 2014. Efforts are underway to breathe new life into this activity

Children's Rights Impact Statement

CRAE has specifically written to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with its Children's Rights Impact Statement on 'The Children Plan One Year On: a progress report' (February). CRAE has been lobbying for the Government itself to produce children's rights impact assessments, and it appears that this has resulted in 11MILLION being asked to take on this task (e.g. on the recent Equality Bill). This is small but welcome progress, particularly given the attention given to producing child rights impact statements by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in its concluding observations of 2008.

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Public policy advocacy to increase the legal rights of children, consistent with human rights standards

Child custody threshold

CRAE continues to work closely with the Standing Committee for Youth Justice (SCYJ) to press the case for tighter children's custody thresholds, within the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill. There was wide support for a distinct custody threshold for children, though concerns that the CRAE / SCYJ proposed amendment was too restrictive. The Bill received Royal Assent on 8 May. CRAE and SCYJ met with the Justice Minister Rt Hon David Hanson MP on 15 April, and CRAE continues to lobby the Minister and his officials on human rights requirements in juvenile justice.

Furthermore, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child had previously recommended a statutory principle to ensure that custody is used as a very last resort and for the shortest period of time, in line with Article 37b of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As part of the UN Committee 2008 reporting process, the UK Government finally lifted its reservation to Article 37.

The SCYJ has confirmed its commitment to continue seeking a statutory custody threshold as a long-term aim.

Restraint in child custody

A joint NSPCC / CRAE / INQUEST Parliamentary event was held on 19 March as part of the parliamentary campaign against new regulations allowing the restraint of children in secure training centres for the purposes of good order and discipline (the 2007 STC Rules). The meeting was well attended by Parliamentarians from the three main parties, CRAE wrote to the directors of the four secure training centres in April 2008, asking them to pass on information about CRAE to children who had been injured following restraint, been subject to any of the "distraction" techniques, or who had been given oxygen following restraint. This elicited no responses owing to the directors refusing to pass on the information.

A further letter was sent to relevant Ministers asking what measures had been introduced following the judgment and correspondence continues to date to probe current policies and practices in the use of force on children in custody and to lobby Government to take a rights-based approach and end human rights violations. Some progress has been made but work continues in some fundamental areas of continued violations.

CRAE co-ordinated a joint application by NGOs (CRAE, Howard League for Penal Reform, INQUEST, Liberty and the NSPCC) to intervene in the 'AC' case, which reached the Court of Appeal on 16/17 July. The NGO group was represented by Matrix Chambers, and Doughty Street Chambers acted for the Children's Commissioner, who had intervened separately. The Equality and Human Rights Commission also intervened. The Court of Appeal ruled that use of physical restraint for purposes of 'good order and discipline' was a contravention of Articles 3 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the quashing of the 2007 STC Rules. Although the NGOs' application to intervene was refused, the solicitor acting for the claimant noted that their 'presence' in the proceedings had made a real difference to the outcome of the case, and the NSPCC was specifically mentioned in the judgment. The Government unsuccessfully sought leave to appeal to the House of Lords. We have continued to collaborate with other NGOs to make submissions to the joint review of restraint in child custody, carried out by Andrew Williamson and Peter Smallridge. This has included widening the debate through the involvement of parliamentarians and the media.

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CRAE also replied to the Government's response to the Coroners' inquest reports into the high profile deaths in custody of Adam Rickwood and Gareth Myatt and we continue to lobby Government in relation to this area of policy and practice as well as seeking opportunities to end violations through strategic litigation.

Bill of Rights and incorporation of the UNCRC into UK law

CRAE had a very positive joint Ministerial meeting with Michael Wills from the Ministry of Justice and Beverley Hughes from DCSF on 18 June; and was informed that children will be 'at the heart' of the Bill of Rights and the Government's plans to base provisions for children on the Convention's four general principles.

CRAE approached UNICEF UK and Save the Children UK in the summer of 2008 with a proposal to launch a coalition seeking the incorporation of the UNCRC into UK law, which was accepted. A joint seminar was held on 16 October to launch the coalition, and was very well attended by key experts and NGO representatives from across the UK. The event was chaired by CRAE's chair, Mary Riddell and included presentations from Dr Linda Moore (Lecturer in Criminology, University of Ulster, formerly of the NI Human Rights Commission) and Dan O'Donnell (Implementing International Standards Unit, UNICEF Innocenti Centre, Florence). It was agreed that the coalition would meet quarterly, with interim working meetings as required, and CRAE's legal director was appointed chair of the coalition for its first year. A letter was sent to Ministers informing them of the launch of the coalition, which is co-ordinated by CRAE and is now working towards the tabling of a private members' bill in November 2009.

Equality Bill

CRAE drafted a letter on behalf of several children's charities to Harriet Harman, the Secretary of State for Equalities, urging legal protection from age discrimination for children. A response to this was received from the lead Minister Barbara Follett MP on 29 April.

CRAE continues to co-ordinate the NGO coalition 'Young Equals', which is campaigning for children to be included in new age discrimination protection under the Single Equalities Bill. This work is led by Carla Garnelas, Senior policy and change officer at CRAE. The coalition has been very active throughout the year, and is collaborating with representatives of other key interest groups such as Age Concern. The group has drafted Parliamentary Questions concerning Government research on age discrimination against children, which were tabled by Liberal Democrat MP Lynne Featherstone in May. The Young Equals coalition membership includes children and young people.

The coalition's activities have been carried out to a large extent by CRAE and include co-ordinating a national Young Equals day of action on 28 August; and variously holding meetings with Liz Lynne, member of the European Parliament and author of the influential report on progress made in equal opportunities and non-discrimination in the EU; the new chief executive of Equality and Diversity Forum (EDF), to promote our robust position on legal protection for children and the forthcoming EU Directive on equal treatment; and, the Director-General of the Government Equalities Office, Jonathan Rees, on 12 November. Despite Jonathan Rees' obvious support for including children and young people in the Bill, we were urged to focus on non-legislative ways of tackling age discrimination.

CRAE responded to the Joint Committee on Human Rights' call for evidence on the draft legislative programme, focusing on the Equality Bill, and attended its away day on 4 November.

Through the Young Equals campaign group, CRAE published '*Making the Case: why children should be protected from age discrimination and how it can be done*' (2009); which sets out age discrimination experienced by children and young people in support of our proposals for the Equality Bill. Making the Case has been extremely well-received by politicians, lawyers and NGOs alike. CRAE has subsequently drafted amendments to the Equality Bill which have been tabled and in some cases debated.

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CRAE has joined with the Equality and Diversity Forum Lobby Sub-Group, providing an opportunity for information-sharing on issues such as the Equality Bill and the European Directive on Equal Treatment. Meetings took place on 13 October and 2 December. CRAE produced a Young Equals briefing on the European Directive, urging officials and NGOs to defend the inclusion of age discrimination protection for children in the draft directive. The briefing was sent to MEPs (members of the European Parliament) on the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee and the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, who are currently considering the directive. Suggested further amendments were also sent to key MEPs. CRAE has also contacted key European Commissioners, the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) (through Young Equals), and the European Children's Network (Euronet) regarding the Directive.

CRAE organised and attended the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Equalities meeting regarding the Government's proposals for a single public sector equality duty to be introduced in the Equality Bill.

Children and Young Persons Bill

CRAE held meetings with Annette Brooke MP (Liberal Democrats), Tim Loughton MP (Conservatives) and David Kidney MP (Labour) ahead of the Children and Young Persons Bill entering the Commons, the second reading of which took place on 16 June. CRAE's priorities at this stage in the Commons were:

- Convention on the Rights of the Child in Ministerial statutory framework
- Application of Human Rights Act to contracted out social work practices
- Strengthening the duty on local authorities in relation to sibling placement and contact
- Extension of right to independent advocacy
- Putting Children in Care Councils on a statutory footing
- Equal protection from assault.

The Children, Schools and Families Select Committee published its report on the Bill on 20 March. Unfortunately, the report failed to include any recommendations relating to the participation in decision making of children in care, despite a submission from CRAE on behalf of *Participation Works*. On independent advocacy, the Committee's report quotes the Minister, Kevin Brennan MP as saying, '*We have to empower the people who work around the child and ensure that they focus on the thoughts, wishes, feelings and the voice of the young person, rather than creating a national system of advocates.*' The Minister acknowledged the value of advocacy for disabled children, but said this should be dealt with through Government guidance, not legislation.

Following CRAE lobbying, in July the Government announced that it will issue statutory guidance on Children in Care Councils and that Ofsted will inspect how effectively they are engaged in the development, commissioning and delivery of local services.

CRAE had meetings with several key MPs and prepared a briefing ahead of the Commons Report Stage, to cover Ministerial duties and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the application of the Human Rights Act to contracted out services, sibling contact and equal protection. A letter was sent to every MP highlighting the issues.

The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 requires all Secretaries of State to promote the well-being of children. Ahead of the report stage of the Bill, CRAE pushed for an amendment which would have required Ministers to have regard to the UNCRC in determining children's well-being.

CRAE also lobbied in support of amendments calling for the Bill to make clear that the Human Rights Act 1998 covers contracted-out social work practices and for children to be given equal protection under the law on assault. An amendment calling for a duty on local authorities to support sibling contact was not selected for debate.

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We were extremely disappointed that extended debates on earlier amendments meant there was no time available to discuss or vote on any of the above issues. The Bill received Royal Assent on 13 November.

CRAE's national co-ordinator gave a presentation about the Act, and the voice of the child, at a national conference on 28 November.

Education and Skills Bill

The Bill left the Commons and had its second reading in the Lords on 10 June. Together with the British Youth Council and English Secondary Students' Association, CRAE continued to publicly oppose the new duty on compulsory participation in education or training for all 16 and 17 year-olds.

CRAE led on bringing forward amendments to education law relating to school students' consultation rights; participation in the exclusion process; and, school councils. There have been encouraging signs with the Bill team accepting an amendment on a broad duty on school governing bodies to consult school students in matters relating to the running of the school.

Following CRAE lobbying, the Minister, Lord Adonis has agreed to amend statutory guidance to make it clear that children can attend exclusion appeal hearings. Over the summer recess, he considered the introduction of a right of appeal for children subject to school exclusion (currently the law only allows parents to make an appeal). We will continue to press for statutory rights for children to be involved in school decision making when the Bill goes to Report Stage in the House of Lords.

CRAE has also been seeking Government clarification on the impact on children (short and long-term) of sanctions for not attending education or training.

As part of its role in *Participation Works*, CRAE achieved significant improvement in children's participation rights in schools. **Firstly**, governing bodies of all schools will, when this part of the Act comes into force, be legally required to *invite* and consider the views of pupils on prescribed matters. A consultation took place in Spring 2009 on the content of the regulations and new statutory guidance on participation. Given the strong opposition of some teaching unions, this was significant progress. However, the provision does not quite come up to the full standards of *Article 12* of the UNCRC. **Secondly**, the Government is also consulting on the principle of children's rights to appeal school exclusions, admissions decisions and the decisions of Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunals. Following pressure from CRAE, Ministers have agreed to specifically consult school students who have been excluded and those statemented with special educational needs. **Thirdly**, following previous lobbying, new statutory guidance on school exclusions has been published which removes the right of parents to veto a child's attendance and participation in an independent appeals panel or meetings with governing bodies.

CRAE has had various meetings with the Education and Skills Bill Team, ahead of the final stages of the Bill to question them on sanctions and criminal records connected with the new duty to participate in education or training up to the age of 18, as well as the proposal to re-examine school students' rights to appeal their own exclusion. CRAE also maintained contact with key Peers through the final stages of the Bill, and distributed briefings. We circulated a joint statement opposing in principle the duty to participate in education or training, which received support from four other organisations.

The Minister telephoned Carlyne Willow, CRAE's national co-ordinator, to personally thank her for our work on the Bill.

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Votes at 16

CRAE edited a Votes at 16 pamphlet, which was launched at an event on 4 June in Westminster, attended by Julie Morgan MP (Labour), John Bercow MP (Conservatives) and Jo Swinson (Liberal Democrat). Julie Morgan's Private Member's Bill on lowering the voting age had its Second Reading on 6 June; the debate lasted nearly five hours and was adjourned until 13 June.

CRAE made a submission to the Youth Citizenship Commission (YCC) on how it can engage with young people, and through our participation on the Expert Advisory Board (see below for more detail) have been raising the issue of votes at 16 extensively with commissioners from the YCC.

We were very pleased with the Labour Party's announcement in July that it will include a commitment to reduce the voting age to 16 in its general election manifesto. CRAE has been working very hard behind the scenes providing key information to Labour activists and preparing a new campaign website and materials. CRAE met with the Secretariat of the Youth Citizenship Commission and pressed our case for a children's rights approach to children's citizenship.

CRAE has responded to the consultation on lowering the voting age to 16; and explored the possibility of a legal opinion or claim under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) on the blanket exclusion of 16 and 17 year-olds from voting. We were advised that the current margin of appreciation under Article 3 of the First Protocol to the ECHR (right to free elections) afforded by the European Court of Human Rights to member states is very wide and implicitly has included the voting age. Legal opinion has not been exactly encouraging. To progress this issue, we have asked Government, in its response to the findings of the Youth Citizenship Commission, to explain what legitimate aims it believes it is pursuing in excluding 16 and 17 year-olds.

With help from this year's children's rights advisers (paid summer positions for under 18s), CRAE prepared some resources for young activists on lowering the voting age to 16. This included a rebuttal guide to arguments against reform, and a workshop plan to help raise awareness of the issue.

Youth Citizenship Commission

Tom Burke, CRAE's senior policy and change officer, has been appointed to the Expert Advisory Board for the Youth Citizenship Commission. He has met with officials and Commissioners and is feeding in thoughts on the current evidence of children's experiences of 'citizenship', highlighting the provisions of the UNCRC, and making an argument for extending the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds across the UK. It seems unlikely, at this stage, that the Commission will make specific recommendations; preferring instead to issue its 'framework' for future options. We continue to highlight the need for specific recommendations which support children as citizens now, and will be looking to capitalise on gains we have made through the draft legislative programme for the next parliamentary session.

The Queen's Speech

CRAE produced a briefing on the Queen's Speech which was circulated to selected MPs and Peers.

Young company directors / Charity Trustees

CRAE had a meeting with Gareth Thomas MP, the Minister in charge of agreeing regulations for the Companies Act 2006, on 18 June. They unsuccessfully, as it turned out, made the case for an exemption to the new age limit (16 years) so that under-16s can still be full trustees of children's rights organisations. Section 157 of the Companies Act 2006 came into force on 1 October, making it unlawful for persons under the age of 16 to be appointed as a director of a company. Section 159 requires that when a person has not attained the age of 16 by 1 October, he or she ceases to be a company director. Six under-18s now sit on CRAE's Council of Management – in line with the new legislation, four are full trustees and two are 'Council Associates'.

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Consultations

We have made the following formal submissions to Government (and other official) consultations during this year:

- Article 2 investigation into the case of SP
- Department of Health good practice guide on paternity testing services
- Department for Communities and Local Government consultation on draft regulations and statutory guidance under the Sustainable Communities Act
- Department for Communities and Local Government consultation on unlocking the talent of our communities
- Department for Communities and Local Government consultation on draft participatory budgeting: a national strategy
- "Back on track"
- British crime survey extension to cover under 16s (Ministry of Justice)
- CAMHS review (Department of Health)
- Laming Progress Review (through *Participation Works*) (DCSF)
- Fair play (DCSF)
- Inquiry into the national curriculum (Children, Schools and Families Select Committee)
- Policing and protest (Joint Committee on Human Rights)
- Pupil well-being (DCSF)
- School admissions (DCSF)
- Tobacco control (Department of Health)
- Youth alcohol action plan (Department of Health)
- Alcohol control (Department of Health)
- Votes at 16 (Youth Citizenship Commission / Ministry of Justice)
- Direct payments (Department of Health)
- Additional uses of patient data (NHS)
- Forced marriage statutory guidance (Home Office)
- Safeguarding children from sexual exploitation (DCSF).
- National Equality Panel call for evidence
- Identity cards: Secondary legislation
- Statutory guidance: the roles and responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services (DCSF)
- Socio-economic duty (Government Equalities Office)
- National Minimum Wage: service charges, tips, gratuities and cover charges (Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform)
- Big Lottery Fund strategy for 2009-15
- Changing council governance arrangements (Department of Communities and Local Government)
- 21st century schools: a world class education for every child/a school report (DCSF)
- 2020 Children and Young People's Workforce strategy (DCSF)
- Ending Child Poverty: Making it happen (DCSF)
- Sentencing Advisory Panel: Consultation into Sentencing of Young Offenders

In February, CRAE wrote to DCSF setting out specific concerns that we have in the 'Baby P' case that there has been insufficient attention to the role played by local authority solicitors, in the advice that they gave. We have already received a response recognising the issues we raised and with a commitment to take these forward within the wider context of the Laming review.

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

CRAE has responded to the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learners Bill, initially by providing briefings to the Second Reading (from February onwards). Copies of CRAE briefings are sent to the Joint Committee on Human Rights, the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee, 11 MILLION and the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

CRAE has written to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with its Children's Rights Impact Statement on 'The Children Plan One Year On: a progress report' (February). We are further developing working processes to produce Children Rights Impact Statements against key pieces of legislation and policy (April). CRAE will be lobbying for the Government itself to produce children's rights impact assessments. We are exploring the possibility, with councils, of developing with them a 'local' audit of children's rights (ongoing).

Promotion of Government structures and interventions where the child is truly at the centre and the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the consistent framework

Get ready for Geneva

Much of this last period has been dedicated to supporting children and young to gather evidence and prepare for involvement in the Geneva UNCRC reporting sessions with the UN Committee through the *Get ready for Geneva* (now *Get ready for change!*) project (see below). Arising from their involvement, several children and young people have appeared on local, regional and national media (newspapers, radio and television) and met with key MPs, Ministers, and local decision-makers.

Strategic Litigation for the Rights of Children (SLRC)

CRAE has hosted successful seminars on 'Ending immigration detention of children'; and 'Strategic litigation and the rights of children in custody'; featuring prominent experts in strategic litigation and continues to co-ordinate this growing professional network. We have received very positive feedback from seminar attendees and network members concerning the content of the events and the opportunities it has presented to develop new working relationships with the purpose of using strategic litigation to further children's rights.

Promotion of independent children's rights advice, independent scrutiny and effective remedies

"You've got the right" pilot legal advice service

Our funding application to the Equality and Human Rights Commission to run a pilot advice service for children on human rights and equality law was successful. The pilot service launched on 10 June and is called *"You've got the right"*. The freephone number is **0800 32 88 759**; the line is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 3.30 to 5.30pm and is staffed by CRAE's legal director, Katy Swaine. She has briefed CRAE staff on dealing with calls outside the designated opening hours.

The pilot legal advice service ran successfully throughout the period, with the Legal director receiving support from seven volunteer legal advisers, including law students and qualified solicitors. So far we have dealt with about 200 enquiries on topics ranging from decisions about medical intervention for seriously ill babies to school uniform disputes. Enquiries received by the service are providing a useful indicator of the rights violations experienced by children, which has started to feed into CRAE's strategic work. We have learned a great deal from the pilot year and have plans to continue and develop the service in 2009/10.

Get ready for change!

This year, over 200 children and young people took part in the *Get ready for change!* project – as decision-makers, researchers and campaigners. The project has involved 795 children this year, and 3,023 children since it began in April 2007.

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

Children and young people analysed the evidence from their investigation and wrote a 26 page submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, submitted in April 2008. Through a nationwide competition, children and young people selected 12 young people to form the *Get ready for Geneva* delegation to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. This delegation received ongoing training between April and June, and took part in a series of media interviews. As noted above, two young people attended the formal NGO session with the UN Committee on 12 June (the first time children had ever given formal evidence in this meeting), and 10 took part in a private, children-only meeting with the Committee. Two additional young people were supported to attend the UN Committee's examination of the Government in September.

Following this, children and young people have selected three areas they want to develop as human rights campaigns (based on the findings from the children's rights investigation, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's concluding observations and a shortlist developed by the 50 children leading the project). These are:

1. Age discrimination and the media: the Report Right campaign (focusing on naming and shaming and fair media representation)
2. Counselling and confidentiality: the Sharing Secrets Safely campaign (focusing on the quality and availability of counselling services in schools), and
3. The right to education for young refugees and asylum seekers: the Education: every child's right campaign (this explores the barriers to education experienced by young refugees and asylum seekers).

Over 30 young campaigners took part in a residential at the end of October to start developing plans. Final decisions on the scope and content of each campaign have been made with children and young people, and work on these began in January 2009.

A dedicated website has been re-launched, bringing a fresh focus on children's rights advocacy and campaigning, and showcasing some of our work from the *Get ready for Geneva* project. A campaigning tool to support children and young people to take local action on key children's rights issues has been added to the website.

Five successful '*Informed and Influential*' events were held this year, in Cornwall (August), Camden (October), Rochdale (November), Newcastle (February) and London (March). CRAE also ran, in parallel, a series of outreach sessions with children and young people all over the country to encourage them to get involved in children's rights advocacy. Here are some examples of the sessions run in October and November:

- 13 October, Local Democracy Week in Camden
- 15 October, Local Democracy Week in Hackney
- 17 October, training session for Young Advisors in Birmingham
- 1 November, Barking and Dagenham Young Carers
- 8 November, Peace Jam at Bradford University
- 16 November, children's rights session in Romford
- 18 November, Business of Children's Rights at the Greater London Authority
- 28 November, children's rights sessions at two residential children's homes in Stockport.

In 2008-09, CRAE delivered children's rights outreach to 353 children aged 17 and under.

As a result of November's "pledge month", 18 new children's rights pledges have been secured from decision-makers. These include one from Dr. Kamel Filali, vice-Chair of the UN Committee of the Rights of the Child. All 27 pledges can be seen at www.getreadyforchange.org.uk/champions/pledge_archives.

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

The campaigning activities of two of our young volunteers have been recognised at a national level this month. One young person was awarded the Diana Award for improving and inspiring the lives of others; and another was highly commended in the Young Person of the Year category at the RADAR People of the Year Human Rights Awards.

Supporting international developments

CRAE successfully submitted a funding proposal to the NGO Group (on request) to take forward work to maximise children's participation in the UNCRC reporting process. To date this has included writing a report for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on maximising children's engagement and identifying the barriers that exist (based on the experiences of NGOs worldwide), and arranging an international advisory group meeting with representatives from six countries. The work continues into the new financial year and includes undertaking a worldwide survey of NGOs and children that have been involved in the UNCRC reporting process, and analysing this evidence to produce three sets of parallel guidelines – for children, for NGOs and for members of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child - to show how children can effectively contribute to every stage of the reporting process. CRAE is also taking steps to address children's participation in human rights monitoring processes through a further, as yet unconfirmed funding application to the European Union.

CRAE was represented at the fifth regional meeting of NGO children's rights coalitions in Europe, held in Bucharest 28-30 October. We facilitated a workshop on involving children in reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Takeover Day

Four children and young people were involved in Takeover Day at CRAE on 7 November, taking over the following posts: legal director, programme director (*Get ready for change!*), senior children's rights investigator, and policy and change assistant.

Disseminating children's rights information to Parliamentarians, policy makers, the children's workforce and members of the public (including children and young people).

Promoting positive messages

We obtained funding from the Equality and Human Rights Commission to appoint a freelance communications advisor (until end March 2009) to promote positive messages in the media about children's human rights.

Our freelance communications advisor contributed to guidelines for journalists on covering children's rights and equality issues and interviewing children (funded by the EHRC). These guidelines, also written by CRAE's national co-ordinator and head of policy, were entitled *Another Perspective* and published in March 2009. CRAE's chair, Mary Riddell has provided a foreword for the guidelines.

Listen and change

2,700 copies of CRAE's 'Listen and change' participation guide were circulated (including to the CRAE membership and to all directors of children's services and local authority lead members). Due to high level of demand, we negotiated with *Participation Works* to print an additional 1,000 copies.

CRAE's annual children's rights conference – 20 November 2008

Our annual conference; *'Who's Afraid of Children's Rights'* took place at The Oval. Children and young people were involved in the planning sub-group, and played a big part in the event – as chairs and speakers, in leading workshops and sitting on the Q and A expert panel at the end of the day, and of course as participants.

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

What do they know? publication

CRAE published the full report of the *Get ready for Geneva* children's rights investigation, entitled; *What do they know?*. This was widely disseminated to children, CRAE members, NGOs both national and international, key Government officials, relevant Ministers, and Parliamentarians.

State of children's rights in England report 2008

CRAE produced, and published at its annual conference on 20 November, its '*State of children's rights in England report 2008*', majoring on messages it submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, for its reporting process.

Beyond Article 12: The local implementation of the UNCRC in England

This report, published in March 2009, analyses information provided by 140 local authorities in England (through an FOI request) to determine the extent of the implementation of children's rights at a local level in England. This report is being used to lobby for better dissemination of children's rights information and training to professionals, and to support children in their local campaigning.

Educare children's rights training materials

CRAE was commissioned by Educare to draft introductory materials on children's rights. NSPCC were involved in the process and consulted children on the main messages we want to communicate. The materials were completed in early December 2008; and finally signed off for publication in March 2009.

Children's rights and equality newspaper audit

The policy team in CRAE undertook an audit of newspaper coverage of children's rights and equality issues for the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). The period under examination was October 2007 to March 2008, covering the first six months of the EHRC. The report was disseminated widely to relevant Ministers, key Government officials, NGOs and media contacts. As noted above, CRAE has also published its media guidelines for journalists on covering children's rights and equality issues, and for interviewing children (*Another Perspective*, also funded by the EHRC).

CRAE website and bulletin

CRAE's new website was launched in August and it was converted to a content management system. We produce regular six-weekly children's rights bulletins for all CRAE members, which update the membership on current children's rights issues and developments, and outline key opportunities in the field.

Participation Works

CRAE continues to write monthly policy updates for the Participation Works Network England. We also regularly update legal and policy information on the *Participation Works* online gateway.

As part of *Participation Works* (PW), CRAE produced a series of '*Your right to be heard*' guides for children and young people, which were launched at the national PW conference. These are available to download from www.participationworks.org

Human rights and equality survey

We ran a survey of CRAE members to assess the extent to which human rights and equality legislation is used to help bring about change. The results were launched on 10 December, to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Next year we will be seeking views on how best to celebrate the twentieth anniversary, on 20 November 2009, of the UN adopting the UNCRC.

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

National participation strategy

CRAE provided an initial paper to the National Participation Forum on developing a national participation strategy. This has since been updated and CRAE will co-ordinate the development of the strategy, as part of its role within *Participation Works*.

Public benefit

The work of CRAE benefits the public by helping to hold Government to account for what it does for children in terms of carrying out its international children's rights obligations, under the UNCRC, towards them. CRAE closely monitors Government policy and legislation, and consistently tests that against international standards.

CRAE fulfils an essential public information function; advising children and parents, professionals working with children, parliamentarians, policy makers, the media, as well as the wider public, on matters of children's rights and keeping important issues in the public limelight. CRAE continues to contribute greatly towards making talking about children's rights more mainstream and prevalent.

CRAE's work influences that of organisations providing services to children and, therefore, encourages a greater regard and respect for their basic human rights.

Patrons

CRAE is very grateful to our Patrons for their continuing support:

- The Baroness David
- Ben Emmerson QC
- Professor Margaret Lynch
- Michael Mansfield QC
- Micheline Mason
- The Lord Ramsbotham
- Sir William Utting CB
- The Baroness Walmsley

Risk management

The management council confirms that it has identified and reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and has established systems to mitigate these risks.

Reserves policy

The management council has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed to or invested in tangible fixed assets, the free reserves, held by the charity should be 6 months of the expenditure excluding the expenditure on finite projects plus the closing cost for finite projects. This gives a target of £93,000. The reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the charity and the management council is confident that at this level they would be able to continue the current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in core funding. The present level of free reserves available to the charity of £79,524 being unrestricted funds less the unrestricted fixed assets therefore falls short of the target level which is planned will be reached in the next three years.

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

Financial review

The Children's Rights Alliance for England had net incoming resources after transfers on unrestricted funds, a surplus, of £428 for the year. Together with the accumulated surplus brought forward from previous years, the Children's Rights Alliance for England now has an accumulated surplus on unrestricted funds of £82,791 (2008 surplus of £82,363). Restricted funds carried forward at 31 March 2009 amounted to £10,000 (2008 £40,345). This is sufficient for the activities for which the funds were provided.

Main funding sources

CRAE is very grateful to the following for their continuing support: The Bromley Trust, The Children's Society, The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, NSPCC, Save the Children UK and UNICEF UK. CRAE does not receive any contribution towards its core running costs from Government.

The *Get ready for change!* project and the *Participation Works* project are both funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

The new advice service for children on human rights and equality law in England and the project to promote positive messages about children's human rights in the media are both funded by the Equality and Human Rights Commission

In addition CRAE earns income from contracts, membership fees, publication sales and our annual conference.

Company status

The company is limited by guarantee, governed by its memorandum and articles of association, and registered under the number 2652127. The company is registered as a charity under the number 1005135.

Management council

Council members

The members of the management council perform the role of directors in company law and trustees in charity law. Those who served during the year were:

Joseph Ammoun (end of tenure November 2008)
Marc Bush (appointed November 2008)
Jan Cosgrove (appointed November 2008)
Eleanor Cowley
Alexander Dowty (end of tenure November 2008)
Katharine Evans (resigned May 2009)
Tara Flood
Jane Fortin
Rachel Hodgkin
Kea Horvers
Lura Hughes (end of tenure November 2008)
Dominic King (resigned September 2008)
Louise King (resigned April 2009)
James le Vaul-Grimwood (appointed November 2008)
George Lindars-Hammond (appointed November 2008)
Peter Loewenstein (end of tenure November 2008)
Stephen Lowe (end of tenure November 2008)
Melian Mansfield
Alison Marshall (appointed November 2008)

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

Viv McKee (resigned May 2009)
Eleanor Munro (end of tenure November 2008)
Peter Newell
Michael Newman
Sharon Owen
Laura Partoon
Lisa Payne
Mary Riddell
Kalika Sunger (appointed November 2008)
Diana Sutton
Imogen Walsh (resigned August 2008)
Tasha Xavier (appointed November 2008)

Council associates

On 1 October 2008 new legislation came into force which imposed a minimum age requirement on company directors and so prevented under 16 year olds from being validly appointed as company directors.

In order to allow under 16 year olds who would otherwise have become Council members to take part in CRAE Council business to the extent permitted by the law, we have created the position of Council associate. The terms governing the position of Council associate are set out in our Council associate policy. Those who served during the year were:

Dominic King (appointed November 2008)
Sana Khan (appointed November 2008)

Statement of the management council's responsibilities

The management council is responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Company law requires the management council to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the management council is required to:

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

The management council is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as each of the members of the management council is aware at the time the report is approved:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware, and
- the management council have taken all reasonable steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

Events since the end of the year

In the opinion of the management council, no event since the balance sheet date significantly affects the company's financial position.

Auditors

The auditors Gotham Erskine LLP, who are willing to continue in office, and will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with section 385 of the Companies Act 1985.

Small company exemptions

The report of the management council has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007).

This report was approved by the management council on 8 September 2009 and signed on its behalf by:

Mary Riddell
Chair

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ALLIANCE
FOR ENGLAND**

Registered Company Number 2652127

We have audited the financial statements of Children's Rights Alliance for England for the year ended 31 March 2009 set out on pages 24 to 33. These financial statements have been prepared under, the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued in March 2005, Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007) and the accounting policies set out on pages 26 to 27.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the management council and independent auditors

As described in the Statement of management council's responsibilities on page 20 the company's management council is responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the management council report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and transactions with the company is not disclosed.

We read the management council report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the management council in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

DRAFT INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
ALLIANCE FOR ENGLAND

opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (applicable to smaller entities) of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2009 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985; and
- the information given in the management council report is consistent with the financial statements.

Gotham Erskine LLP

Chartered Accountants
and Registered Auditors
Friendly House
52-58 Tabernacle Street
London EC2A 4NJ

8 September 2009

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 March 2009

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2009 £	Total Funds 2008 £
Incoming Resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Investment income	2	8,216	-	8,216	9,621
Incoming resources from charitable activities	3	243,787	328,137	571,924	609,298
Total Incoming Resources		252,003	328,137	580,140	618,919
Resources Expended					
Charitable activities	4	246,632	358,482	605,114	563,652
Governance costs	6	4,943	-	4,943	4,769
Total Resources Expended		251,575	358,482	610,057	568,421
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources after transfers		428	(30,345)	(29,917)	50,498
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2008		82,363	40,345	122,708	72,210
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2009		£ 82,791	£ 10,000	£ 92,791	£ 122,708

The balance on restricted funds represents the amount of funds available for specific projects or activities which were not finished at the year end. These funds are therefore necessary to complete the project or activity in the next year and are not a surplus available to the charity for other purposes. A breakdown of the amounts attributable to the projects and activities is shown in note 15.

There were no recognised gains and losses for 2009 or 2008 other than those included in the statement of financial activities.

The statement of financial activities incorporates an income and expenditure account.

The notes on pages 26 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ALLIANCE FOR ENGLAND

**BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 March 2009**

	Note	£	2009 £	£	2008 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	11		3,267		3,515
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	79,048		115,236	
Cash at bank and in hand		80,020		90,178	
		<u>159,068</u>		<u>205,414</u>	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	13	(38,264)		(68,521)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>120,804</u>		<u>136,893</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			124,071		140,408
DEFERRED INCOME	14		<u>(31,280)</u>		<u>(17,700)</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>£ 92,791</u>		<u>£ 122,708</u>
FUNDS					
Restricted funds	15		10,000		40,345
Unrestricted funds			82,791		82,363
	16		<u>£ 92,791</u>		<u>£ 122,708</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007).

The financial statements were approved by the management council on 8 September 2009 and signed on its behalf by:

Mary Riddell
Chair

Michael Newman
Trustee

The notes on pages 26 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2009

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A summary of the principal accounting policies, all of which have been applied consistently throughout the year and with the preceding year, is set out below.

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005, the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Enterprises (FRSSE) effective January 2007 and the Companies Act 1985. The financial statements include the results of the company's operations which are described in the Management Council Report and all of which are continuing.

The company has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No.1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is a small company.

1.2 Incoming resources

Voluntary income including donations, gifts and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods: or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Income from commercial trading activities is recognised as earned as the related goods and services are provided.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions is recognised as earned (as the related goods or services are provided). Grant income included in this category provides funding to support advice/performance activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

1.3 Volunteers and donated services and facilities

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

1.4 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred.

- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with implementing the objectives of the charity and include both direct and support costs relating to these activity costs.
- Governance costs include the cost of the preparation and audit of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustees meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2009

- Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, eg staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.
- Where a level of Value Added Input Tax is unrecoverable based on partial exemption calculations, the amount unrecoverable is charged to direct costs.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.5 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Individual fixed assets costing £250 or more are capitalised at cost.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Office equipment	-	33%	Straight line
Fixtures & fittings	-	25%	Straight line

1.7 Pensions

The company contributed 6% of salary to the personal pension funds of some of the employees during the year. The pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the funds in respect of the year.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Total Funds 2009	<i>Total Funds 2008</i>
	£	£
Bank interest receivable	2,822	4,285
Rental income receivable	5,394	5,336
	8,216	9,621
	8,216	9,621

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2009

3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Grants	Fees and Sales	Total Funds 2009	Total Funds 2008
	£	£	£	£
Support, development and other core activities and services provided	91,500	54,073	145,573	144,453
Projects and specific activities:				
AGM and annual conference	-	9,986	9,986	4,345
Get ready for change!	270,983	-	270,983	339,529
Legal advice service	39,974	-	39,974	-
Participation Works	-	88,228	88,228	120,971
Promoting positive messages	17,180	-	17,180	-
	<u>£ 419,637</u>	<u>£ 152,287</u>	<u>£ 571,924</u>	<u>£ 609,298</u>

4. RESOURCES EXPENDED - CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Fees and Salaries	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total Funds 2009	Total Funds 2008
	£	£	£	£	£
Support, development and other core activities and services provided	116,175	21,083	13,613	150,871	159,088
Projects and specific activities:					
AGM and annual conference	-	7,534	-	7,534	5,558
Get ready for change!	175,634	86,825	38,869	301,328	309,184
Legal advice service	26,745	6,496	6,733	39,974	-
Participation Works	58,134	7,575	22,519	88,228	89,822
Promoting positive messages	1,918	12,588	2,674	17,180	-
	<u>£ 378,606</u>	<u>£ 142,101</u>	<u>£ 84,408</u>	<u>£ 605,115</u>	<u>£ 563,652</u>

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ALLIANCE FOR ENGLAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2009

5 SUPPORT COSTS

	Premises Costs	Admin Costs	Total Funds 2009	<i>Total Funds 2008</i>
	£	£	£	£
Support, development and other core activities and services provided	7,888	5,725	13,613	22,674
Projects and specific activities:				
AGM and annual conference	-	-	-	160
Get ready for change!	10,668	28,201	38,869	27,847
Legal advice service	3,391	3,342	6,733	-
Participation Works	12,418	10,101	22,519	7,467
Promoting positive messages	675	1,999	2,674	-
	<u>£ 35,040</u>	<u>£ 49,368</u>	<u>£ 84,408</u>	<u>£ 58,148</u>

6. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2009	<i>Total Funds 2008</i>
	£	£	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	3,244	-	3,244	4,000
Underprovision in previous year	-	-	-	620
Council expenses	1,699	-	1,699	149
	<u>£ 4,943</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 4,943</u>	<u>£ 4,769</u>

7. GRANT INCOME

	2009	<i>2008</i>
	£	£
Big Lottery Fund (ref: YPN/2/010228828)	270,983	339,529
The Bromley Trust	15,000	15,000
The Children's Society	8,000	8,000
EHRC (ref: 0190/88)	57,154	-
JRCT	14,000	14,000
NSPCC	40,000	40,000
Save the Children, UK	8,000	15,000
UNICEF UK	6,500	6,500
	<u>£ 419,637</u>	<u>£ 438,029</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2009

8. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net incoming/(outgoing) resources is stated after charging:

	2009	2008
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		
- owned by the company	2,511	1,756
Auditors' remuneration	3,244	4,000
Underprovision in previous year	-	620
	 	

No member of the management council received any emoluments (2008 - £Nil) and no employee received emoluments of £60,000 or more (2008 - £Nil).

Eight members of the management council were reimbursed the costs of travelling to council meetings, totalling £1,019 (2008 - £149).

9. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2009	2008
	£	£
Wages and salaries	306,787	291,299
Social security costs	32,554	30,260
Pension costs	18,924	18,006
	£ 358,265	£ 339,565

The average monthly number of full time equivalent employees during the year was as follows:

	2009	2008
Development and support	2	2
Get ready for change!	4	4
Participation Works	2	2
Office Administration	1	1
	9	9

10. TAXATION

The company is a charity and is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2009

11. TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Office Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2008	35,179	5,005	40,184
Additions	2,263	-	2,263
Disposals	(26,364)	-	(26,364)
	<u>11,078</u>	<u>5,005</u>	<u>16,083</u>
At 31 March 2009	<u>11,078</u>	<u>5,005</u>	<u>16,083</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2008	31,664	5,005	36,669
Charge for year	2,511	-	2,511
On disposals	(26,364)	-	(26,364)
	<u>7,811</u>	<u>5,005</u>	<u>12,816</u>
At 31 March 2009	<u>7,811</u>	<u>5,005</u>	<u>12,816</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2009	£ 3,267	£ -	£ 3,267
	<u>£ 3,267</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 3,267</u>
<i>At 31 March 2008</i>	<u>£ 3,515</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 3,515</u>

12. DEBTORS

	2009 £	2008 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	50,718	75,131
Other debtors	878	105
Prepayments	6,737	-
Grants in arrears	20,715	40,000
	<u>£ 79,048</u>	<u>£ 115,236</u>

**13. CREDITORS:
Amounts falling due within one year**

	2009 £	2008 £
Trade creditors	16,598	38,377
Social security and other taxes	13,352	23,708
Other creditors	2,879	1,282
Accruals	5,435	5,154
	<u>£ 38,264</u>	<u>£ 68,521</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2009

14. DEFERRED INCOME

	2009	2008
	£	£
At 1 April 2008	7,500	10,675
Less amount released to incoming resources	(7,500)	(10,675)
Plus amount deferred in the year	31,280	17,700
	<u>31,280</u>	<u>17,700</u>
At 31 March 2009	£ 31,280	£ 17,700

15. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Balance 1 April 2008	Movement in Resources			Balance 31 March 2009
	£	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	£
Unrestricted Funds	<u>82,363</u>	<u>252,003</u>	<u>(251,575)</u>	-	<u>82,791</u>
Restricted Funds					
Article 12	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
CRAE					
- Get ready for change!	30,345	270,983	(301,328)	-	-
- Legal advice service	-	39,974	(39,974)	-	-
- Promoting positive messages	-	17,180	(17,180)	-	-
	<u>40,345</u>	<u>328,137</u>	<u>(358,482)</u>	-	<u>10,000</u>
Total Restricted Funds	£ 40,345	£ 328,137	£ (358,482)	£ -	£ 10,000
Total Funds	<u>£ 122,708</u>	<u>£ 580,140</u>	<u>£ (610,057)</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 92,791</u>

Information about the use of above restricted funds is included in the Management Council Report on pages 14 to 16.

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2009
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2009 are represented by			
Tangible fixed assets	3,267	-	3,267
Current assets	149,068	10,000	159,068
Current liabilities	(38,264)	-	(38,264)
Deferred income	(31,280)	-	(31,280)
	<u>82,791</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>92,791</u>
	£ 82,791	£ 10,000	£ 92,791

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2009

17. OTHER COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2009 the company had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land and buildings		Other	
	2009	<i>2008</i>	2009	<i>2008</i>
	£	£	£	£
Expiry date:				
Within 1 year	11,935	-	4,105	-
Between 2 and 5 years	-	<i>17,903</i>	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

18. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

At the end of the year there were no capital commitments, contingent liabilities or other financial commitments for which full provision has not been made in these financial statements (*2008 £Nil*).