

Our feet haven't touched the ground!

After an amazing year we are really pleased to report that we have seen another period of growth in the level of support we are able to offer some of our community's most vulnerable people. To put it into simple terms, because we have more money and more people on board, we have been able to offer a wider range of services to more people.

But it hasn't all been plain sailing and some of the external financial difficulties being faced by the sector as a whole have had a knock-on effect to our income. However, we have managed to weather the storm well and have made up for any losses of income by focusing on increasing the number of grant applications we have made and promoting our businesses.

It is incredible to think that The Brain Charity now supports approximately 16,000 people a year with online information, telephone help and face-to-face support. For many people, as the only national charity which offers emotional support, practical help and social activities to individuals with any neurological condition, including the rarest of conditions, we are the only place to turn to.

Two extremely important additions to the charity this year have been the introduction of a new Freephone helpline and our new online library catalogue. This was an incredibly complex undertaking but with the dedication and good old fashioned hard work of the staff and volunteers working within our library service, we did it. And what this means in practice, is that anyone with access to the internet, no matter where they are, can view and access our specialist resource collection.

To top it all off, the cherry on the cake this year has to be receiving The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Being awarded the highest accolade given by the Crown to community groups is a huge honour and one which has made us all feel extremely proud to know and be part of such an amazing organisation.

From all of us to all of you, thank you for all your hard work, your time, your skills and your generosity. What we have achieved together is something really worth celebrating!



Nanette Mellor
Nanette Mellor
Chief Executive Officer



Bill Chambers
Professor Bill Chambers
Chair

Of the 5.4 million unpaid carers in the UK, 84% of them say they are struggling to cope and that the caring role has had a negative impact on their own health.

Who cares for the carers? We do.

It is our belief at The Brain Charity that services for carers are vital to our mission in supporting people with neurological conditions. If those closest to the people we are here to support are struggling, it must be a key strategy of ours to ensure that they are offered a helping hand too.

Every service we offer to people with neurological conditions is also available to their carers too.

At The Brain Charity we have developed our offer to carers even further over the last year by reaching out to the local community to ensure that people know we are here to help.

Support such as our Carers Advocacy Service is now promoted at several outreach locations and carers are able to access support such as welfare benefits advice, counselling and stress and relaxation therapy treatments. **And, staying true to our mission, we deliver all of this completely free of charge.**

Another vital new addition to our services this year is the introduction of a weekly drop-in where our staff & volunteers can give information and advice directly to carers about all aspects of the caring role. Having this service has meant that no appointment is necessary and hands on, practical help is, at most, only 7 days away.

Across the UK the number of unpaid carers is growing year on year and this is expected to continue as life expectancy increases across the population. **Being able to offer specialist support to carers and their loved ones more widely is a key ambition of ours and with the help of those around us, we will achieve our goal of reaching out to more and more people every year.**

"I lost confidence in my ability to accomplish anything in life"



'The Brain Charity is a very special place to me.'

My name is Joanne, I live in Liverpool. I've been coming along to The Brain Charity for the last two years. I have dyslexia which has made life quite difficult in the past, I struggled at school and I lost confidence in my ability to accomplish anything in life.

After being put in touch with the charity I started volunteering. It was nice to be with other people and I soon started to make friends. I joined the English and Maths classes at the same time and that's really helped to build up my confidence. The teachers don't rush you in the classes and you all work together so you don't feel left out.

The Brain Charity is a very special place to me, I'd never been on any kind of course before. I was scared of trying new things but the staff and volunteers here really support you and it makes you want to give things a go. In the past I felt excluded because of my learning difficulties and had a lot of anxieties which I'm now learning to cope with thanks to the support I've received and continue to receive.

I now feel valued as a person and I really look forward to coming into the charity each week to do my classes and activities.

Joanne Rice

2017/2018 has seen another strong period of growth for The Brain Charity as it ends the financial year with its largest ever number of paid staff (37) and volunteers (81) on board.

The financial challenges faced by the Third Sector continue to directly impact on the charity's income in various ways but most noticeably with reductions in the level of corporate sponsorship and in office rental income. However we have risen to the challenge and in response to this, raised our overall income through a number of successful grant applications and through recently investing in our room-hire and café businesses.

As a result, we have increased our expenditure and have been able to provide more services along with making a long-awaited major investment into our building in central Liverpool by commissioning the installation of a brand new lift.

Due to more and more people now understanding and valuing the charity's work, in-kind donations have also grown and we estimate that this support is equal to a further £65,000 and the level of this support is growing.

We couldn't have achieved any of this without our team of committed and inspiring volunteers who commit over 15,000 hours of volunteering at The Brain Charity per year amounting to an extra £105,000 of extra resource to the charity.

Income 2017/18

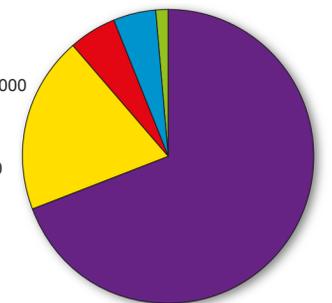
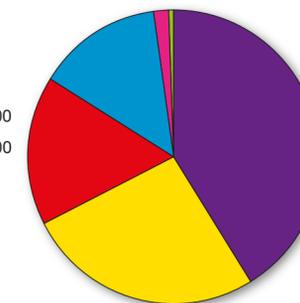
- Grant income £275,000
- Legal sponsorship £175,000
- Trading income (café + rentals) £109,000
- Fundraising, events & donations £93,000
- Investment income £10,000
- Other income £1,000

Total Income £663,000

Expenditure 2017/18

- Charitable activities £436,000
- Trading income (café + rentals) £122,000
- Costs of fundraising, events & donations £33,000
- Professional & finance costs £30,000
- Other costs £8,000

Total Expenditure £666.00



Total Income: £663,000 Total Expenditure (including fixed asset loss/gain) £687,991

www.thebraincharity.org.uk

The Brain Charity is registered as a charity (No: 1114999) and a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (No: 5741930)
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Another AMAZING year!

APRIL

Going Up? New Lift!

Health & Wellbeing Day!

May

JUNE

LIBRARY GOES ONLINE

2017

START

March

March 14th Free Entry!

BRAIN FOOD FESTIVAL

Tel: 0800 008 6417

February
New FREEPHONE number introduced!

JAN

Our new team of ILM staff come on board

July
Our food and drink get a new name and logo

The Brain Food Café

AUGUST

Our Annual Sports Day 2017

September

We are given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service!!



Annual Report 2017-2018

Our new team of ILM staff come on board



Away Day Painting at Asylum Link

150

Race Night! November



Christmas Film Night

December



The Brain Charity