



**2018/19**  
**ANNUAL REVIEW**

**TRANSFORM**  
Drug Policy Foundation

## **ABOUT US**

Transform is an independent charity working to reduce drug-related harm through evidence-based reforms to policy and practice. We believe the current drug laws harm everyone in society, especially the most vulnerable. We want to see a world where drugs are regulated effectively, and where drug policy is based on the best evidence, promotes social justice and protects public health.



## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The last year has been a momentous one for Transform. Politicians in many countries, including the UK, are starting to listen to the wealth of evidence and personal testimonies telling them current drug law and policy do not work. There is a long way still to go, but the original thinking which Transform have contributed is beginning to influence the debate on how to establish a more humane and effective regime for managing all forms of drugs. We are keenly monitoring new initiatives that are springing up in policing and health care as well as the outcome of drug law reform in a number of countries.

We have recently said a sad farewell to Transform's founder, Danny Kushlick, who has played such an important part in getting the debate going in the UK and elsewhere. Danny remains a great friend to Transform, and we look forward to working with him on projects in the future.

Transform is now addressing a rapidly expanding field of drug policy. We are therefore delighted to have welcomed our new CEO, James Nicholls, who brings a wealth of experience from alcohol policy and research.

Many people have made such developments possible. The persistence and hard work of Transform's staff has played a part. So has the courageous stand taken by the families who have made the Anyone's Child campaign one of the most effective voices arguing for change. And, of course, the generosity of so many individual donors and grant giving foundations, without whom none of this progress could have happened.



Jane Hickman  
Chair of Trustees



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## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REVIEW

This has been an exciting year at Transform. I joined the team in January, following the departure of our previous CEO Nicky Saunter. Nicky did a fantastic job steering Transform over the last four years: a period in which our profile grew and our financial security was greatly improved. I've been fortunate in having the opportunity to lead an organisation that is in such good shape, at a time when drug policy is developing fast. I joined Transform after fifteen years working in alcohol research and policy, and have been struck by how much we can learn from the experience of alcohol when dealing with other drugs.

Transform has always been at the leading edge of debates on drug policy reform. For more than two decades we have made the case for reducing drug harms through legal regulation, and helped that argument enter the mainstream of political debate. As this change grows, our principled approach matters more than ever, and our work continues to exert national and global influence. More countries are moving to legally regulate cannabis, often following our advice and support; and as the campaign to legalise in the UK gathers pace, we continue to make the case for effective regulation which puts communities – not corporate interests – at its heart.

While changing cannabis regulations have drawn considerable attention, we want to see reform across the whole of drug policy. In the last year we have been at the forefront of work to expand police 'diversion schemes' that prevent the criminalisation of people caught in possession of drugs, and we have actively supported partners in Scotland and elsewhere calling for safer consumption rooms in response to the crisis in drug-related deaths. We are also completing a book on how governments could effectively regulate the stimulant market, following a very successful crowdfunding campaign in early 2019.

Our Anyone's Child campaign goes from strength to strength, helping support people and change minds in the UK and internationally. More families are contacting us to lend their support to our campaign, and more politicians are listening to their message. Anyone's Child puts those most directly affected at the heart of the campaign for reform. It shows clearly that drug policy must be driven by the goal of reducing harm



and protecting the vulnerable. We also continue to work with leading researchers to ensure that evidence and analysis informs drug policy development at all levels.

As the global consensus on drug prohibition fractures, Transform's work is more important than ever. We will continue to make the case for change, and to ensure that reform puts people first.



Dr James Nicholls  
Chief Executive Officer



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## SHAPING POLICY AND PRACTICE

As drug policy evolves, Transform is committed to making its experience and expertise count. We are developing ever stronger relationships with local stakeholders in the UK whose decisions have a direct impact on the lives of the most vulnerable in our communities.

### Local and regional reforms

We work with a wide range of partners to innovate and deliver change including Police and Crime Commissioners and senior police officers, and regularly advise on how to change the way they deal with drug possession offences. Multiple forces are introducing successful schemes to divert people caught in possession away from prosecution and towards education and support. Thames Valley Police, for example, have implemented a diversion pilot similar to Portugal's decriminalisation approach, which is now being rolled out in an area with a population of 2.1 million. Durham, Cleveland, North Wales and the West Midlands Police have also introduced diversion schemes, with more areas looking to join them.

We continue to support innovative approaches to harm reduction for people with severe substance use problems. This year, for example, we worked with partners in the police, treatment, local authority and health sectors in a number of areas to support the development of new Heroin Assisted Treatment services. The first of these in Middlesbrough and Glasgow have been granted Home Office licences and we are optimistic that more areas will follow suit.





I think with the help and partnership with charities such as Transform and Anyone's Child, and a number of other professionals that I've sought advice from, I've actually managed to start making change happen. Diversion is a tangible reality now thanks to you all and will help people

## Chief Inspector Jason Kew, Thames Valley Police



[Left] The Loop festival drug safety testing  
[Right] Transform speaking at UK Parliament



We have also been active in promoting the piloting of safer drug consumption room for people who inject drugs, including with partners in Scotland, which now has the highest drug related death rate in the developed world. We met with Scotland's drugs minister, spoke in Holyrood, provided written and oral evidence to the Scottish Affairs Committee, and wrote editorials for key Scottish news outlets. We have also worked with policy leads from a range of agencies in making the case for safer drug consumption rooms to help tackle the devastating spike in drug-related deaths.

Transform continued to support the roll-out of drug safety testing by harm reduction organisations such as The Loop, at both festivals and other locations. Transform staff also spoke at events in Vienna and Brussels, and to police and treatment groups to build support for testing.

Transform presentation on drug safety testing in Vienna, Austria





Transform speaking at the Scottish Parliament



Bristol's city centre drug testing would never have happened without Transform

**Jody Clark, Bristol Council Drug Services Commissioner**



Leading policy-makers participating in the Transform/ Health Poverty Action event during the Labour Party Conference

## NATIONAL INFLUENCE

We have held meetings with senior politicians from across the political spectrum including the Conservatives, Labour, Green, Liberal Democrats, Plaid Cymru and SNP. We worked to support both the Labour and Conservative Campaigns for Drug Policy Reform, and advised the Green Party of England and Wales in developing its policy, which includes a call for the legal regulation of drugs.

Throughout the year, we have worked with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Drug Policy Reform and the Cross Party Parliamentary Group on Drugs, Alcohol and Justice, providing speakers, drafting communications and helping organise events, especially around our local and regional reform work.

In September, we held a successful and well-attended side event at the Labour Party Conference in partnership with Health Poverty Action. The meeting drew attention to the need for development issues – the reduction of poverty and the protection of vulnerable communities – to sit at the heart of political thinking in regard to drug policy.



Activists and local stakeholders during an Anyone's Child event in Cardigan, Wales



We have provided written submissions to the following inquiries:

- Health and Social Care Committee inquiry into the health impacts of drug policy
- The Dame Carol Black Review into drugs for the Home Office
- Scottish Affairs Committee inquiry into the use and misuse of drugs in Scotland
- The Royal College of Psychiatrists' cannabis review
- Health and Social Care Committee inquiry on medical cannabis
- The Commission on Justice in Wales

We have also been invited to join the Home Office Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Strategic Forum.



I am sorry for supporting the war on drugs. I realise now it has been a tragic disaster that has inflicted harm on the poorest parts of Britain and abject misery on people in the most desperate corners of the planet

**Lord Charlie Falconer, former Criminal Justice Minister**



Anyone's Child member, Chris Evans, with Home Office Minister, Victoria Atkins MP



Transform with Lord Charlie Falconer

## GETTING OUR MESSAGE ACROSS

We continue to maintain a high media profile. We have had editorial articles published in the *Guardian* and *Daily Record*. We wrote a letter to the *Guardian* calling for a review of the paper's editorial position on drug policy, which was co-signed by partners including NGOs, MPs and academics. We also had a letter published in one of the world's leading journals, *The Lancet*, calling for safer consumption rooms, which was signed by senior police, health researchers, MPs and fellow NGOs.

Regulating drugs is now becoming part of the mainstream policy conversation, and Transform are working to ensure that this debate is informed, compassionate and wide-ranging. We invested in a new website and have revised our brand guidelines in order to ensure our reach and impact can be maximised. We are in the process of increasing both our research and communications capacity in order to ensure that our work has impact as widely as possible.

**300+**

Quotes in articles



**100+**

appearances on TV  
and radio



**6.7 million**

views online



**36,000+**

Twitter followers



**18,800+**

Facebook followers





SUNDAY MIRROR Sunday 26.05.2019

# THREE MOTHERS TELL OF THEIR

## Our kids died from ecstasy ...now we want it legalised

**A final tear then Luke was gone...**

**HEARTBREAK** Christine, Luke and his sister, who died at 16

**TOMORROW** marks two anniversary years since Luke Campbell died from taking ecstasy on a night out with his friends at school. His mother, Christine, says she doesn't know the drugs. Luke's friend, Estee, went with him when he died. The Mirror report was written to highlight what a horrendous experience it was for the family.

Christine says she was asked about any sensitive marks on her son's body. She says she has a tattoo on her back, but she says she has never had any other marks. She says she has never had any other marks.

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**EXCLUSIVE** Three mothers and their sons

**HEY** shows a tragic and heart-rending bond, their children fatally addicted from being in a party drug ecstasy.

But remarkably, these three women tell the world that they will continue to be a part of the party scene. They are not alone. In 2018, 10,000 people were offically registered in the UK as drug addicts. In 2019, that number was 37,000. And age characteristics are the same. In 2018, 24 years since the death of Leah, from Lancashire, she died from a single ecstasy pill. In 2019, 24 years since the death of Leah, from Lancashire, she died from a single ecstasy pill.

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THE RECORD VIEW

# Daily Record

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Scotland is gripped by the worst drug crisis in Europe. It's killing people and wrecking communities. Our investigation has shown tough justice is not the cure. We must target dealers but it's time to stop treating vulnerable citizens as criminals. Our country needs powers to treat addiction as a health problem not a crime. It's time to

## DECRIMINALISE DRUG USE



BBC Bristol

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ANYONE'S CHILD

...for safer drug control



## FAMILIES LEADING REFORM

Over the past year our Anyone's Child campaign has grown in numbers, confidence and presence. It has helped make the voices of families affected by drug policy more visible and influential than ever. Our family members speak with the authority of experience, and the compassion that comes from having felt the worst possible effects of drug policy failures. They are increasingly shaping the debate locally, nationally and internationally. Families were featured in over 100 media hits from *Take a Break* to the *Telegraph*.

In June, family members led a lobby of Parliament, which engaged over 100 MPs and led to around 50 meetings. During the day, speakers from across the political spectrum addressed supporters outside the House of Commons as they planted flowers in memory of those who had died through drugs this year.

The Anyone's Child campaign was mentioned in 3 parliamentary debates. Meetings were held with *Prime Minister Theresa May*, *Home Secretary Sajid Javid* and *Drugs Minister Victoria Atkins*. Family members have played a pivotal role in supporting the establishment of the Labour & Conservative Drug Policy Reform Groups and advised the Green Party Expert Working Committee on Drug Policy.



Activists meeting with Thangam Debbonaire MP

Supporters & MPs outside parliament during Transform's Mass Lobby of Parliament



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Parliamentary debates on drug policy cited Anyone's Child



200+

Letters sent to MPs by Anyone's Child activists





We have held successful public events in Exeter, Maidenhead, Weymouth, London, and Bristol. We established an activists network, which has held meetings in Bristol and London we are now building this network across the country. We now have plans to establish a national team of network coordinators to grow this group nationally.

Anyone's Child also works internationally. This year we launched the Spanish version of our digital documentary on the Mexican drug war in Mexico City at the 7th Latin American Drug Policy Conference [pictured].

Visit: [mexico.anyoneschild.org/#/es](https://mexico.anyoneschild.org/#/es)

Also, this year:

- Family members attended the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in Vienna and spoke at two very well-attended side events, reported by ITN News.
- Family members contributed to UN planning processes by contributing a video submission to a CND intersessional plenary meeting.
- Campaign Manager Jane Slater spoke at the closing plenary of the 4th European Harm Reduction Conference in Bucharest.
- Anyone's Child member Anne-Marie Cockburn represented Anyone's Child at a conference in Helsinki on the need for drug policy reform

Family members met with **Prime Minister Theresa May, Home Secretary Sajid Javid and the Drugs Minister Victoria Atkins**



Anyone's Child member, Anne-Marie Cockburn with MPs Victoria Atkins and Layla Moran





Anyone's Child Mexico documentary launch in Mexico City



Activists running a public stall in Weymouth, UK



Families and activists paying tribute to loved ones outside Parliament

Our work with families continues to grow. We expect even more family members to contact us in the next year, with an even wider range of stories. We are very grateful to the support of the Tudor Trust, the John Ellerman Foundation and to all the activists that have fundraised on behalf of the campaign. It feels more important than ever.



Activists campaigning outside Bristol City Hall, UK

## CREATING PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE

Working with partners is the only way that Transform can effectively help tackle the issues faced by communities affected by drug policy. We know that the voices of those who are most impacted by current drug laws are too often silenced. Our collaborative work with organisations such as Blaksox create spaces in which lived experience, and the perspective of communities who often bear the heaviest burden of drug policy harms, can be voiced and brought to the forefront of the policy agenda. In September we held a very successful meeting in Hackney, with speakers including Sir Simon Woolley (Operation Black Vote), Katrina Ffrench (StopWatch) and Lee Jasper (Blaksox) to explore issues around race and drug policy.

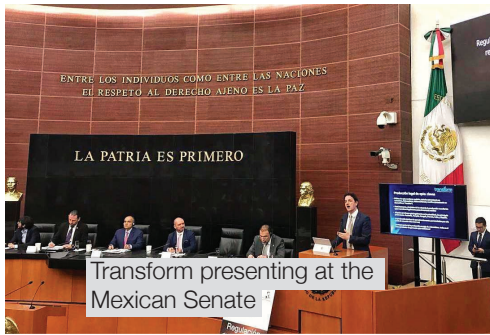
In September we also co-organised an international consultation event with St George's House, held in the grounds of Windsor Castle. The event brought together international experts to discuss in depth the political, ethical and health challenges that would need to be addressed in a world where drugs were legally regulated. The discussions confirmed the importance of establishing clear values in drug policy: ensuring that we not only follow the best evidence on how to reduce harm, but seek to promote human rights, social equity and public health.

Meeting on race and drug policy with Transform, Operation Black Vote, StopWatch and Blaksox





Good evidence is at the heart of what we do, and we continue to engage with researchers and practitioners to ensure our work is informed and relevant. Our consultation events bring together some of the leading global thinkers on drug policy, and we have attended and spoken at many of the key conferences in the field – both in the UK and as invited speakers in Canada, Mexico, Portugal, the USA and South Africa.



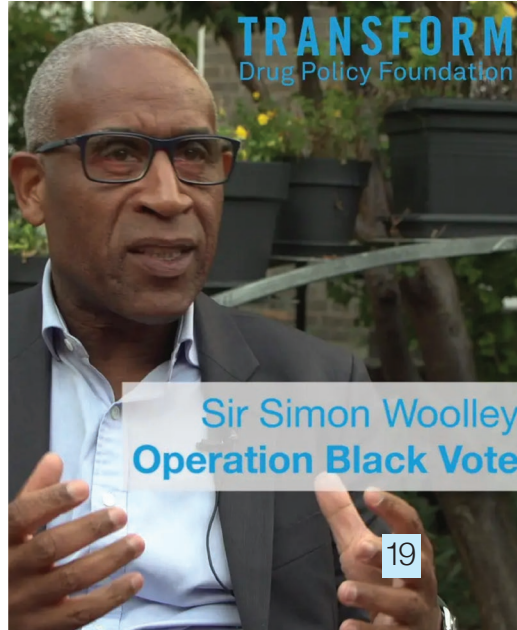
Transform presenting at the Mexican Senate



Transform with partners in Mexico



Delegates at Transform's consultation event with St George's House



Sir Simon Woolley  
Operation Black Vote



## SHAPING THE GLOBAL DEBATE

We continue to work closely with our Mexican partner organisation Mexico Unido Contra la Delicuencia to promote reform internationally. In November, MUCD played a leading role in achieving a landmark ruling in the Mexican supreme court, which found that criminalising the possession of cannabis was unconstitutional. MUCD are now helping frame the new law implementing this ruling. We have supported this work, including visiting Mexico to address the Senate on key legal issues. We have provided a number of publications for MUCD, on opium regulation and cannabis laws, as well as working with them on our work around stimulants regulation.

We continue to engage actively at the United Nations, as a member of the NGO Committee for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, through our special advisory status at the UN. At this year's meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, we held two events bringing together experts and people with lived experience from Mexico, North America, Belgium and the UK. The events were very well-attended and received national news coverage in the UK.

We acted as an expert advisors to the Global Commission on Drug Policy assisting with the drafting of their latest report *Regulation: The Responsible Control of Drugs*. The Global Commission includes fourteen former heads of state and its reports have significant global impact; helping draw senior policy influencers into the debate on drug policy reform, and providing authoritative input into those discussions. We attended the Commission's annual meeting and launch of their report in Mexico City.



Our Senior Policy Analyst, Steve Rolles, also took part in a two-day expert meeting at Yale University, organised by ex-Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo to discuss next steps towards regulation of drugs in Mexico, as well as providing expert evidence to the Mexican Senate in the regulation of opium poppies and cannabis regulation. Steve was also invited to a special meeting of the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition to explore proposals for widening safe drug supply in Canada, and continues to provide input to federal and provincial governments in Canada as cannabis regulation is rolled out and embedded. We also met with and advised New Zealand lawmakers involved in drafting the legislation to legally regulate cannabis, which will be put to a referendum shortly. In South Africa, we were invited to speak at a major forum for policymakers and civil society shortly after the Supreme Court declared cannabis prohibition unconstitutional.

Our international work not only helps shape and influence policy globally, but provides us with key insights and knowledge with which to take our UK work forward. By sitting at the table of policy change internationally, we are better able to make the case for effective change in the UK.

REPORT 2018



# Regulation

The Responsible Control of Drugs



Transform with former presidents Gaviria (Colombia) and Clarke (New Zealand)



South Africa Drug Policy Week in Cape Town

## FUNDING AND SUPPORT

2018-9 was a strong financial year for Transform, and the breadth of support for our vision is reflected in the range of sources from which we receive funding. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who supports our work. This year we have been fortunate to receive donations from hundreds of individuals, many contributing to our successful crowdfunding campaign. We have also received grants from new funders including the Network For Social Change, the Nisbet Trust and the Vanguard Charitable Foundation as well as new grants from previous funders including the Open Society Foundation, the Esmee Fairbairn Trust and the Tudor Trust. We also received increased funding from the Linnet Trust to part-fund a new Research and Policy Officer post.

We are putting that money to work expanding our activities and influence - including taking on two new research and policy staff, increasing our media capacity, running more public and stakeholder events, and developing our regional Anyone's Child networks.

Our recent successes show there is widespread support for the work we do, and a real appetite for serious thinking around alternative drug policy development. We want this momentum to continue into the future, and will work hard to grow our funding in order to make this vision a reality.



Anyone's Child community fundraiser



## Our funders:

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation  
Glass-House Trust  
John Ellerman Foundation  
Linnet trust  
Network for Social Change  
Nisbet Trust  
Open Society Foundation  
Tudor Trust

Vanguard Charitable Trust  
Bilton Charitable Foundation  
Henry C Hoare Charity  
Ken Aylmer  
Howard Jacobs

And the hundreds of generous and committed individuals who have supported our work through sponsored activities, supporting our crowdfunder and regular donations, without whom we could not do our work.

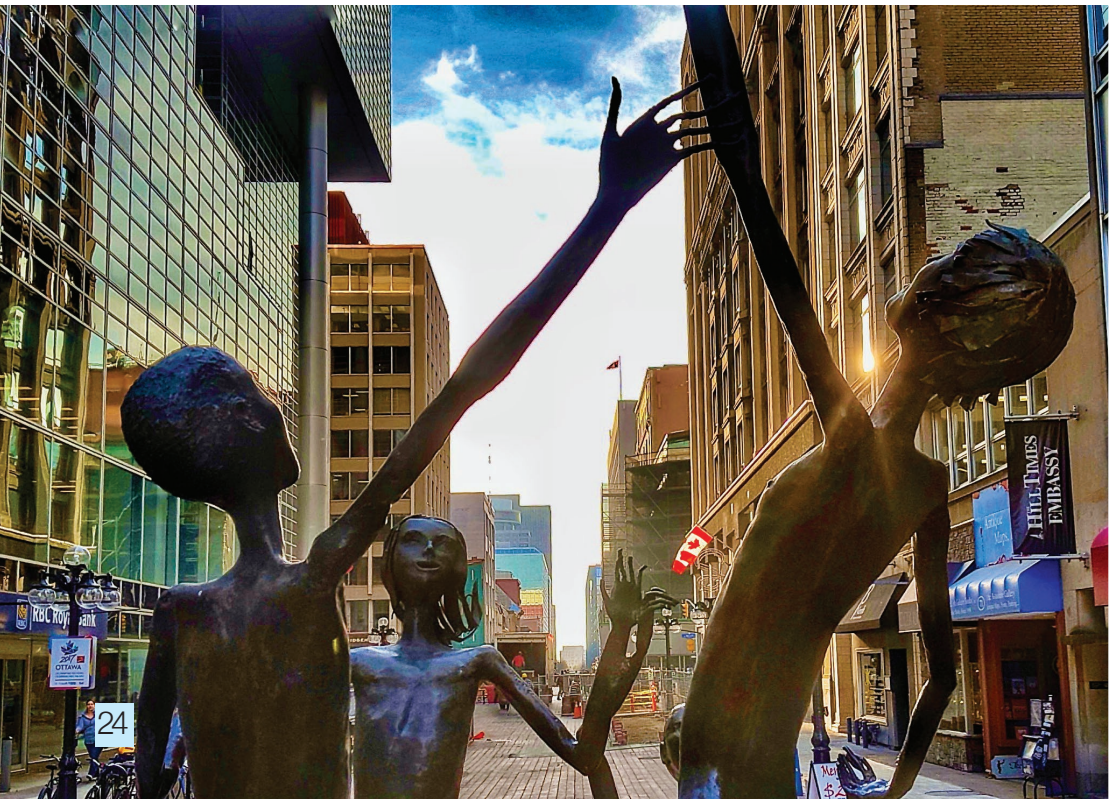


Transform and MUCD team, Mexico City

## LOOKING FORWARD

Over the next year, Transform will work harder than ever to change the way we deal with drugs. Ground-breaking work on the regulation of stimulants will open new territory in the debate. Our Anyone's Child campaign, and partnerships with community organisations, will ensure the voices of experience are heard loud and clear. Our international work will continue to shape political change and maintain our role as global thought-leaders. Working with local police, health and political authorities will help make innovative harm reduction a reality in ever more areas across the UK. Our deepening relationship with the research community means evidence will drive the change we need.

The year ahead promises to be one of opportunity and action. Over the years, our loyal supporters have trusted us to deliver the goals we all share. We will put all our energy and commitment into achieving that vision.







Activists planting flowers outside Parliament



Transform with Rebecca Long-Bailey MP



Transform with Shadow Health Secretary, Jon Ashworth MP



Transform & Anyone's Child event in Carmarthen, UK



Transform with Mexican partner organisation, MUCD



Activists during a fundraising walk



## FINANCES

	<b>2019</b>			2018
	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	Total
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	£
<b>Income from:</b>				
Donations	183,957	373,472	557,429	278,548
Charitable activities	217	8,148	8,365	9,116
Investments	-	628	628	437
<b>Total income</b>	184,174	382,248	566,422	288,101
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising funds	-	12,086	12,086	12,000
Charitable activities	154,760	173,258	328,018	292,790
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	154,760	185,344	340,104	304,790
<b>Net income/ (expenditure)</b>	29,414	196,904	226,318	(16,689)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	29,414	196,904	226,318	(16,689)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward	73,165	145,251	218,416	235,105
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	102,579	342,155	444,734	218,416
Of which are reserves (see our Reserves Policy)			131,000	

## **THE TRANSFORM TEAM**

Dr James Nicholls Chief Executive Officer

Jane Slater - Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Campaign Manager for Anyone's Child

Steve Rolles - Senior Policy Analyst

Martin Powell - Head of Partnerships

Emma Caldwell - Executive Assistant

Ben Campbell – Communications Officer

Harvey Slade - Research and Policy Officer

Ester Kincova - Research and Policy Officer

Mary Ryder - Anyone's Child Coordinator

## **TRANSFORM BOARD**

Jane Hickman (Chair)

Claire Wilcox (Treasurer)

Ros Kennedy

Howard Jacobs

Vicky Unwin

## **VOLUNTEERS**

A huge thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who have provided invaluable support for our work this year.

Daniel Ayres

Jess Hardy

Hattie Hansen

Jack Patterson

Amaelle Marchal - Ahern

Sorcha Ryan

Charlie Rowlings

David Smith

Liliana Spark





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Transform Drug Policy Foundation is a registered charity  
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**TRANSFORM**  
Drug Policy Foundation