

National Council for One Parent Families

We are family



review of the year
2000/2001



ONE
PARENT
FAMILIES

All together now...



This has been a year of considerable growth and expansion for the National Council for One Parent Families. Our continued financial stability is marked by the active involvement of our first ambassador, J K Rowling, the famous children's author, and other important figures from the world of the arts and media. I would like to thank Joanne and all our other friends and supporters for their generous gifts of time and money.

In the public sector, too, our influence continues to grow. The Chancellor of the Exchequer gave the keynote speech at our annual conference, and our former Director, Maeve Sherlock, is now a member of the Chancellor's Council of Economic advisers. However, while we do have many valuable contacts in government and elsewhere, we will not relax our efforts. We will continue to defend the interests and represent the concerns of the important and significantly poor and excluded sector of the community that we were established to serve in 1918: lone parents and their children.

Our Committee of Management, which does so much good work (unpaid) for the Council, has been strengthened this year by some new arrivals, who bring a variety of expertise and experiences, from their professional lives, from working with lone parents, or as lone parents themselves. I am very pleased to welcome Irena Blaszkiewicz, who previously did such good work on our lone parent mentoring project in Birmingham. It is also a pleasure to welcome Richard Granger, Chris Wermann, and Hasu Joshi, I am grateful to these, and to all our

trustees, particularly our chair, Anne Spackman, and our treasurer, Cathy Forest, for the contribution they have made during the year.

I would also like to say a word of thanks to our staff, and our volunteers. We are fortunate to have a very talented and extremely hard-working team, and a strong team spirit. Their work on our helplines, on policy and research, publishing, training and development, and of course, in raising the funds to do all this, has been tremendous.

And finally, thank you. Our members and supporters are the lifeblood of the charity. I hope you will continue to work with us, to enable lone parents to build better lives for themselves and their children.

Ian Hay Davison

Ian Hay Davison President

Our mission

The National Council for One Parent Families aims to promote the welfare of lone parents and their children. We work to help people bringing up children on their own to overcome the poverty, isolation and social exclusion which so many face.



We are family



photo: Steve Cook/monsterimages.co.uk

People are often surprised to learn that at the time this charity was founded, in 1918, the proportion of families in Britain headed by a lone parent, at about 19 per cent, was only slightly lower than it is now – currently around a quarter of all families with children. What's changed though are the causes of lone parenthood – back then, most lone parents were widowed, divorce was almost unheard of, and having a child outside marriage carried a huge social stigma.



Today, the picture is a little different. The majority of lone parents are divorced or separated, whether from marriage or from unmarried relationships. In fact the reasons why people become lone parents are incredibly varied. Bereavement is no longer the cause for the majority, but still four per cent of lone mothers and fourteen per cent of lone fathers are widowed – that's five per cent of all lone parents. Or about 85,000 families.

The truth is that lone parents have incredibly diverse lives, and the success of our work over the last year has brought us into the lives of more lone parents than ever before – we've had a very busy year. In October we were very happy to announce bestselling children's author and creator of Harry Potter, J K Rowling, as the first Ambassador for One Parent Families. Her generosity, enthusiasm and commitment have made a great contribution to all aspects of our work, as you can find out later in this report (pages 2–3).

Also in 2000, One Parent Families became a founder member of the new End Child Poverty Coalition, a new alliance of leading organisations calling on all the political parties to end child poverty in the UK within a generation.

With the help of our newly expanded policy team, we stepped up our own policy and campaigning work. The highlight of this was the publication of our manifesto, *Listen to lone parents*, produced to coincide with the General Election (more on page 7).

As well as being an extremely busy year, it's also been a very successful one. Never before has One Parent Families been in such a strong financial position, nor had such a high public profile. We helped more lone parents than ever before through our helplines, and increased our membership to record levels.

When lone parents speak to us and we hear their stories, their situations, their triumphs and their difficulties, we are always reminded of the sheer variety and diversity of lone parents' backgrounds, circumstances and lives. But there is one thing they all have in common – their determination to provide a good life and a future for their children, however difficult their own circumstances.

And that's what will keep us working just as hard to improve prospects for lone parents, to tackle poverty and disadvantage, and to campaign for changes that will help lone parents to help themselves. With the continuing support of our many members and supporters, we will carry on working to improve their chances, change attitudes and help every lone parent build a happy and successful life for themselves and their children.

A blue handwritten signature that reads "Kate Green".

Kate Green Director

Moving on up

It's still too common today to find sections of the press, the media, politicians and others depicting lone parents in a way that is unfair, inaccurate and downright hurtful. Too many commentators still assume that lone parents have set out to bring up their children alone, have chosen to be a 'burden on the state' and should be blamed for their situation.

This kind of prejudice can be damaging and upsetting, both to lone parents and to their children. For many lone parents taking responsibility for their children, 'doing the right thing', it is a cruel irony to be stigmatised in this way.

At the same time, lone parents refuse to be seen as victims, and rightly so. While caring for children alone is often a struggle, there is still the joy of seeing one's children grow. The people who call our helpline and work with us as members are *not* victims – they are heroic.

It is our job to set the record straight, and let people know what lone parents' lives are really like. This year, one particular lone mum decided to stand up and be counted, to speak out on behalf of lone parents all over the UK. That mum is J K Rowling, author of the phenomenally successful Harry Potter books.

Jo's involvement in our work started on 4 October 2000, when she launched our web site, www.oneparentfamilies.org.uk, at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London. At the same time, an article written by Jo appeared on the front page of the *Sun*, and she also decided to donate half a million pounds to support our work. These events caused a huge splash in the national media, and gave the charity the kind of widespread publicity that we could only have dreamed of in the past, bringing our existence, and the services we can provide, to the attention of thousands of lone parents.

Waking up in the Sun

On 4 October 2000, the *Sun*, the highest circulation newspaper in the UK, featured an article written by J K Rowling, giving her outspoken views on how lone parents are treated. The article was trailed as the main story on the front page. Using her own story as an example, she asked people to reconsider how they see lone parents.

The *Sun* also ran a leader next to Jo's article, calling for more help for lone parents.

We come from all walks of life and we want exactly the same things that parents living in couples want: the chance to provide properly for our own children. We are all doing two people's jobs single-handed before we even start looking for paid work, and as I found out the hard way, we have to fight twice as hard to get half as far.

“It was wonderful to see some of Britain's forgotten children being recognised at last in a national newspaper.”

Anne Spackman Chair
National Council for One Parent Families



One Parent Families thanks
The John Ellerman Foundation for their continuing support.

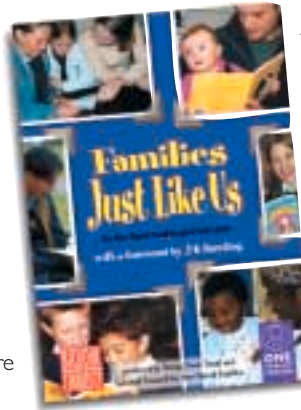
Jo decided to support us because she passionately believes in our work, and wanted to speak out on behalf of Britain's 1.7 million lone parents. As she said in her speech at the web site launch:

“I'd like to see widespread acceptance of the fact that families simply come in many shapes and sizes. Mine may be the smallest variety you can get, but we are as much a family as the *Waltons* or the *Weasleys*. People bringing up children single-handedly deserve not condemnation, but congratulation.”

In November, Jo appeared at the Bluewater Shopping Centre in Kent to launch our guide to books for and about one-parent

photo: Roger Vaughan

families, *Families Just Like Us*. Produced in association with Young Book Trust, the guide features reviews of over 100 books, for all ages from babies to teenagers, that capture the diversity of family life, enabling children to recognise their own family situations and to learn about other's lives. The guide was featured on GMTV, resulting in thousands of calls to our helpline. The publicity the launch generated persuaded Waterstone's bookshops to stock the guide, bringing it, and the rest of our work, to the attention of even more lone parents.



The next month, Jo appeared at our annual conference, alongside the Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, journalists Kirsty Lang and Melissa Benn, and speaker of the Greater London Assembly, Trevor Phillips, among others. Again, Jo spoke out on the stigmatisation of lone parents and the difficulties they face trying to provide a decent quality of life for their children in a society that puts so many barriers in their way.

Once again, Jo's involvement, and the passion and conviction with which she spoke, attracted a good deal of media attention. It also inspired the lone parents attending the conference to make even more effort to speak out on their own, and their children's, behalf.

photo: Mike Lawn



One Parent Families thanks the National Literacy Trust, The Roald Dahl Foundation, the Pearson Charitable Trust, The Linbury Trust and Penguin UK Ltd for supporting Families Just Like Us

Somebody to lean on

During the year, more lone parents than ever before – over 16,000 – received free information, advice and referrals from the Lone Parent Helpline and the Maintenance and Money Line. Lone parents facing a sudden crisis, with a question on benefits or maintenance, or wanting to find a lone parent support group in their area can get the information they need quickly and efficiently.

Our advice service, open three days a week, provides free independent advice for lone parents on the Child Support Agency, maintenance and associated money and benefits issues.

One lone parent contacted us in a state of distress; she had recently given up work due to ill health and was claiming Income Support. The Benefits Agency told her that she had to sign a form and agree for the Child Support Agency (CSA) to contact her husband to pay maintenance and that if she refused, she could not claim benefit. She thought that she would have to return to work, as she

was scared to get the CSA involved – her husband had a history of violence and unpredictable behaviour, and this had been the cause of the recent break-up.

Our adviser told her that in her situation she had the right to claim exemption, on the grounds that applying would put her and the children at risk of 'harm or undue distress'. The adviser discussed with her how she could best present her case and what would happen next. We sent a free copy of our *Good Cause* factsheet, and invited her to call back if she needed to.

Maintenance and Money Line

Lone Parent Helpline

Our main helpline service, open five days a week, provides free information for lone parents on benefits, tax, legal rights, housing, maintenance, CSA, and returning to work, among other things. This information can be in the form of free publications, a printout from our national database of lone parent groups and organisations, or referrals to other specialist support.

“The person I spoke to was so helpful, non-judgemental and reasoning. It was such a help to speak to someone who seemed to understand. I will certainly come back to you for advice again.”

caller to the Lone Parent Helpline

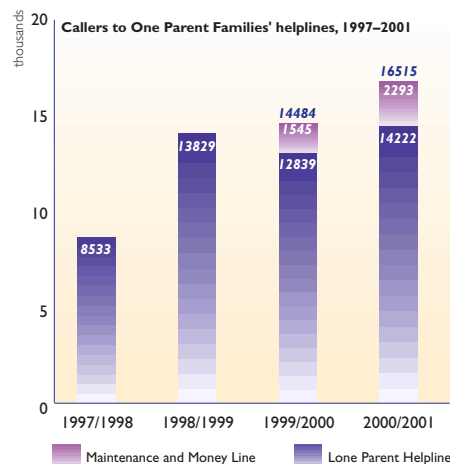
Funding from Henry Smith's Charity and The Nuffield Foundation has paid for an advice worker for the Maintenance and Money Line, enabling us to provide a more thorough and effective service. The Lone Parent Helpline has also been expanded, and is now staffed by a larger team, run by a dedicated Helpline coordinator. And the support of the Royal Bank of Scotland has enabled us to send out free Money Fact Packs to thousands of lone parents who called our helplines.

These improvements have enabled us to reach more lone parents than ever before: in the twelve months to April 2001, we were able to provide these invaluable help and advice services direct to 16,515 families, an increase of 28 per cent on the previous year. Today, we help

over twice as many lone parents in this way as we did four years ago.

“I was lost and desperate – talking to somebody who was able to advise me gave me strength.”

caller to the Maintenance and Money Line



Over 35,000 guides, booklets, factsheets and information packs were distributed to lone parents. These included new versions of *Getting It Right*, our guide to benefits and tax, and *Holidays 2001*, both greatly expanded, improved and redesigned.

A major new project was the publication of *Violence in the Family*, a series of three booklets designed to help lone parents deal with violent, aggressive or abusive behaviour from partners, former partners or children. The project was funded by Marks and Spencer plc and The Beatrice Laing Trust, and developed and produced by One Parent Families working in partnership with the Women's Aid Federation, Parentline Plus, the Children's Legal Centre and YoungMinds. Thousands of copies have been

distributed free to lone parents, both through our Lone Parent Helpline and by Parentline Plus and Women's Aid refuges.

The three booklets are *Take action*, covering abuse by a partner or ex-partner; *Safe contact arrangements*, giving advice on how to deal with violence and abuse towards a lone parent or children around contact arrangements, and *Looking after difficult children*, dealing with how to cope with difficult, violent or abusive children or teenagers.

“The information I needed was all there and the girl on the phone I spoke to was very helpful. Thank you all, you do a brilliant job.”

caller to the **Lone Parent Helpline**

Get wired

Information for lone parents is now also available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from the One Parent Families web site. Between the launch of the site in October 2001 and the end of the financial year in March 2001, we estimate that the site received over 53,000 individual visits. This is impressive for a new service, but our web site and marketing teams are working to improve on this steadily, and the number of visits is expected to rise rapidly over the next few years as the level of Internet access increases.

The information now available from the web site includes downloadable versions of most of our lone parent publications (with the option to order a printed copy on-line), and a searchable database of national

organisations that can provide further help. Thanks to funding from the Lloyds TSB Foundation, work is now beginning to develop the Lone Parent Helpdesk section of the site, to enable lone parents to search a database of frequently updated information on benefits and other rapidly changing areas, together with an on-line version of our database of local organisations.



“I found the person I spoke to extremely helpful, friendly and polite. She also offered additional, helpful information I knew nothing about . . . I hope you can extend your [opening] times.”

caller to the **Maintenance and Money Line**

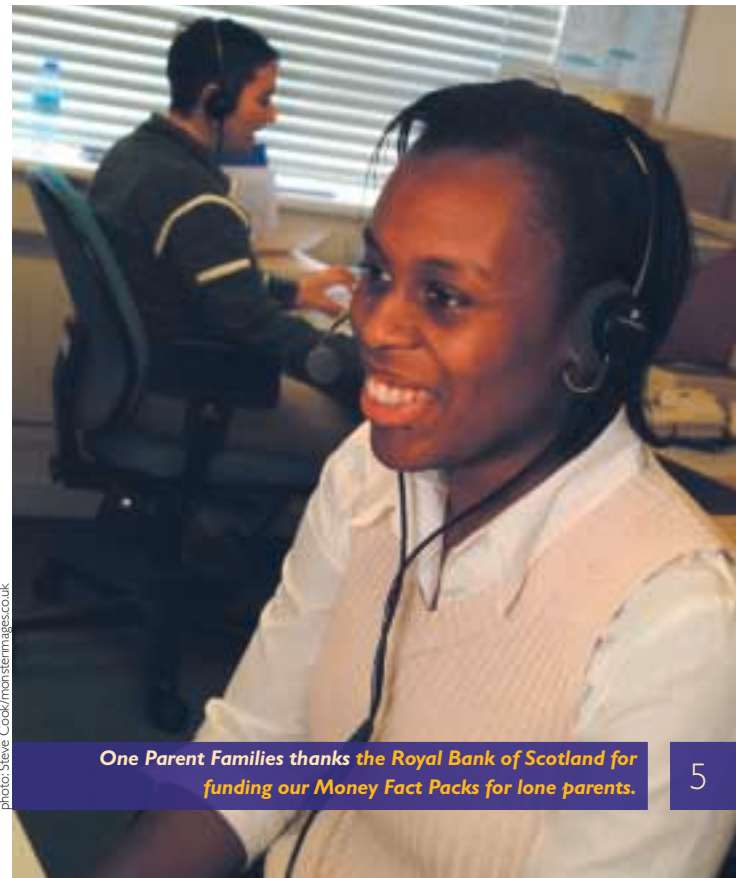
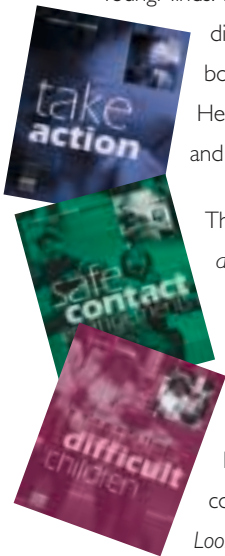


photo: Steve Cook/monstergames.co.uk

One Parent Families thanks the Royal Bank of Scotland for funding our Money Fact Packs for lone parents.

Shout!

Our policy work, lobbying and campaigning for changes that will benefit lone parents, has always been one of One Parent Families' greatest strengths, and this year was no exception. We have also expanded our policy team so we can cover more issues than ever before.



photo: Steve Cook/monisternimages.co.uk

Patrick is a lone father, bringing up his two daughters alone. He works full-time as an electrician, and finds combining work with looking after his daughters a struggle – without the help of his childminder (who he describes as 'a saviour'), it would be impossible. But the hardest thing about being a lone parent is being a father to two girls:

“I still have no idea how girls think!”

This year we have advised the Government on the introduction of the Children's Tax Credit, the consultation on the proposed Integrated Child Credit, the housing Green Paper; *Quality and choice: a decent home for all*, and lobbied and briefed on the proposed changes in the new Child Support Act. We ran a seminar in Birmingham for government officials to meet lone parents and hear about the difficulties they face in balancing paid work with their family responsibilities. This helped influence the Green Paper on work-life balance, published in December, on which we submitted detailed evidence. Other submissions included a response on changes to legal aid entitlements, adoption, backdating of housing benefit, low pay and the Social Fund.

At the Labour Party Conference, we organised a fringe meeting on poverty in one-parent families, which was chaired by journalist Polly Toynbee, and featured Harriet Harman MP, Dawn Primarolo, the Paymaster General, and our own Director, Kate Green. The event, sponsored by Deloitte Consulting, was packed out, and served to remind

politicians committed to ending child poverty that the group a greatest risk of poverty today is children in one-parent families.

End child poverty

A big event in campaigning this year was the establishment of the End Child Poverty Coalition. One Parent Families is a founder member of this new organisation, started by 12 leading charities, to campaign to hold this and every future government to the pledge to end child poverty in the UK by 2019.

This influential new alliance was launched at an event at the BA London Eye in April – over 500 children from all over the country were there, along with Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown and a host of other VIPs and celebrities. One Parent Families' guests included actor Neil Pearson and Liberal Democrat MP Matthew Taylor, and 15 children from Westwood College School, Bexley. As well as having a free flight on the Eye – generously provided by British Airways – they enjoyed performances by circus entertainers, jugglers and stiltwalkers.



photo: Helen Stone

One Parent Families thanks Deloitte Consulting for sponsoring our Labour Party conference fringe meeting and our own annual conference.



Rita Williams is a 30-year-old lone mother with three young children. Living on Income Support, she's determined to get herself educated and start a career in teaching. She wants to be able to provide her family with a start in life that she never had. But it's not going to be easy.

“I'll finish my degree with a £16,000 debt . . . I'm determined to do it, and I know I can do it, but it's ridiculous that there is actually a disincentive.”

What do we want?

The end of the year saw the build-up to the the General Election. In preparation, we researched, wrote and produced a manifesto for one-parent families, called *Listen to lone parents*, setting out our proposals for policy changes to benefit lone parents and their families in the next Parliament and beyond. The issues included housing, maintenance, access to education, training and employment, and work-life balance, among others.

The document was sent to all our members, together with a campaign pack that included

letters to send to parliamentary candidates and the local press. Many of our members wrote to their local politicians, and their letters received coverage in the local media all over the country. After the election, copies of the manifesto were sent to every MP.

The manifesto, and the election campaign, have given us a great opportunity to keep up pressure on politicians of all parties, to promote and support changes that improve conditions for Britain's 1.7 million lone parents, and help lift their children out of poverty.



Bigger, brighter, bolder, better

For the last few years, One Parent Families' policy team has consisted of just one person, our policy and research officer **Alison Garnham**. Unsurprisingly, she has been rushed off her feet, and never had quite



enough time to do all the things she wanted. Despite that, she has achieved great things, and it has been largely down to her work (and that of our former and current directors) that the charity has managed to achieve its enviable reputation and influence in Government circles.

Now, thanks to Jo Rowling's generous donation and to funding from the Ajahma Charitable Trust, we have been able to significantly expand the policy and research team. Alison, in her new role as Director of Policy, Research and Information, now leads a very capable and experienced team.

Djuna Thurley joined us as policy and research officer in March 2001. She was formerly UK advocacy coordinator at Save The Children, and previously parliamentary and welfare rights worker at the Child Poverty Action Group.



Maxine Hill joined the team in June, also as a policy and research officer. Maxine is on a year's secondment from the Department for Work and Pensions'

Analytical Services Division, where she worked as a research officer.

For most of the year the team also included our policy assistant, Carena Rogers, who joined us as a volunteer in April 2000 and subsequently became an employee. She has now left to join the National Family and Parenting Institute as their policy officer.

This new, expanded policy and research team means that we can carry out more research, cover more issues, make more submissions to Government, campaign harder for the changes that will enable lone parents to take control of their own lives.



We can work it out

As well as providing information and advice direct to lone parents via our helplines and publications, One Parent Families is always looking for new ways of improving the outlook for lone parents. Sometimes this means working directly with groups of lone parents to find out what they think and feel, what their real needs and priorities are. At other times, it can mean working with other agencies, from the public, private and voluntary sectors, providing training and consultancy to improve their understanding of what lone parents need and want.

Over the rainbow

This year saw the completion of the Rainbow Roadshow, our innovative pilot project designed to promote the benefits of the New Deal to lone parents in Birmingham. It was funded by Government as part of the New Deal, and organised by One Parent Families working in partnership with Daycare Trust, West Midlands Employment Service and Birmingham City Council, among others.

With mentoring schemes, work experience and confidence-building courses, as steps towards helping lone parents prepare to move into employment, the project broke new ground in taking the New Deal out into shopping centres, church halls and Asian community centres.

One of the highlights was the realisation that the roadshow approach can reach lone parents who have low self-confidence, feel isolated and distrust 'the authorities'. The mentoring scheme, too, was remarkably successful, recruiting over 150 volunteer mentors for lone parents. We plan to build on this success, and use the roadshow approach to provide help and support to many more lone parents all over the country

Understanding lone parents' needs

A two-year research project into the housing experiences of young and vulnerable lone parents, funded by the Bernard Sunley Foundation, culminated in the publication of *A Secure Start for Young Families*. This fascinating report exposed the sometimes shocking plight of many young mothers and children facing evictions, sometimes even forced to bring up their babies in hostels alongside people with drug, alcohol and mental health problems. It also focused attention on the lack of progress being made by local authorities in responding to the Government's requirement for young lone mothers to be provided with appropriate supported accommodation, and included recommendations from lone parents on how best to do this.

“All a family needs is love . . . say you're on your own with one parent, you still get love, that's still a family.”

*Inderpal growing up in a one-parent family**

Thanks to continuing grant aid from the Home Office Family Support Programme, in 2000/01 our Lone Parent Information Project concentrated on finding ways of



photos: Tony Chamock





A second Home Office grant funded our volunteer coordinator, and enabled us to recruit and offer work experience to volunteers looking for paid work, who in turn, researched sources of help for lone parents for our national database and helpline. Many of the volunteers are moving on from this programme into work. A big thankyou to all our volunteers

for their hard work over the past year:

Paulette Earle
our volunteer coordinator, says:

“This is a great project – everyone benefits. The volunteers get real work experience, training and support (that’s what I’m here for!), the charity gets more research for its database than we possibly could otherwise, and the lone parents who use our services get access to more relevant, up-to-date information.”

photo: Chris Kelly



Marlene

became a lone parent very young, and successfully raised two daughters. Now a grandmother, she regrets missing out on her education. This year, she took an IT training course,

followed by a three-month placement as a volunteer at One Parent Families, working on the family support database.

“Getting back into a work environment was good . . . it gave me a real boost.”

After the placement, she worked as a volunteer in a children’s home, where she now has a job. Eventually, she hopes to train to be a social worker.



photo: Steve Cook/oneparentfamilies.co.uk

Promoting good practice

For many lone parents, the Child Support Agency is seen as a source of hassle, rather than help. One Parent Families is now involved in a project that, we hope, will help change this. Working in partnership with One Parent Families Scotland and Parentline Plus, we designed a new training programme for CSA staff, as part of the major reform that the Child Support Agency is undergoing.

The course aims to improve the service provided by the CSA to parents, by improving listening skills, and enabling staff to refer lone parents to appropriate sources of help.

As a pilot programme, we trained 150 staff and produced a directory of sources of help for the CSA to use. We have now been awarded the contract to deliver the training nationwide to around 8,000 CSA staff. To help us achieve this, we recruited and trained a nationwide team of over 70 associate trainers and consultants. As well as providing us with the resources to deliver this valuable training programme, we will be able to use this network in the future to provide further development and training initiatives, to improve services for lone parents, and generate sustainable revenue for the charity’s work.

“As an independent charity, our work with the Employment Service and the Child Support Agency means we can influence how hundreds of thousands of lone parents are treated. We’re delighted these government agencies have chosen us to train their staff and develop new ways to meet the needs of one-parent families.”

Andy Keen Downs Deputy Director



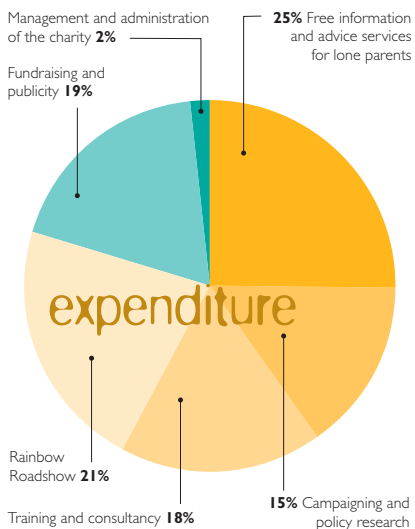
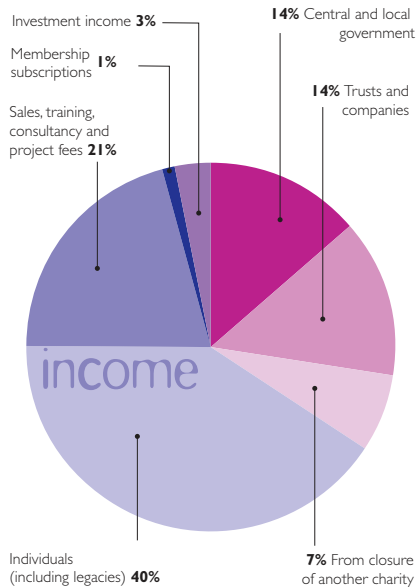
improving access to information for black and Asian lone parents. It included a series of free training courses for 45 local community organisations in London, Leeds and Birmingham. The results have given us a great deal of food for thought, and will be used to plan future developments of our information services, to make them more accessible to lone parents from all sorts of backgrounds.

* from Brannen J, Heptinstal E and Bhopal K (2000) *Care and family life in later childhood*, London: Institute of Education

Money money money!

We are enormously grateful to everyone who has supported our work this year, and hope that you will continue to share our vision and work with us in the year ahead.

Where it comes from, and where it goes breakdown of income and expenditure for 2000/01



During the year we further improved our financial position, mainly as a result of the exceptional donation of £500,000 from J K Rowling. Comparison with the previous year is affected by the Rainbow Roadshow project, which brought in income of about £778,000 in 1999/2000. This project ended in summer 2000 and added £163,000 to our income in 2000/01. In view of this, and thanks mainly to J K Rowling, we are very pleased that the overall fall in our income was only about £53,000. All types of income which depend directly on our activities, such as sales of publications and membership subscriptions, increased significantly over last year.

These extra funds enabled us to increase our expenditure by about £100,000 compared to the previous year. The biggest increase in cash terms was in direct charitable expenditure. We increased expenditure on information services by £97,000 and on research and policy work by £64,000. These increases were partially offset by the reduction in expenditure on training, consultancy and projects which resulted from the end of the Rainbow Roadshow project. Expenditure on fundraising and publicity increased by 28 per cent year-on-year to about £231,000. This was a deliberate step to develop our capacity to generate more income from new and existing sources. It is a vital investment to enable us to meet more of the future demands on our services.

Fundraising and publicity increased to 19 per cent of total expenditure (16 per cent in 1999/2000) while expenditure on management and administration of the charity was held at just under two per cent

of the total, and actually fell in cash terms. We are satisfied that these percentages compare favourably with those of other organisations and are consistent with good practice in charity management.

Our investment in the charities investment fund (which is in accordance with our policy of investing equally in equities and fixed interest securities) suffered from the fall in market prices in the second half of the financial year, and resulted in an unrealised loss on investments of over £42,000. This fund has produced an average annual yield (combining dividends and growth) over the last five years of over 13 per cent. It is still seen as an excellent prospect for long-term investment.

Our balance sheet shows us with net assets higher than in any recent year. Our realisable investments and cash at the end of the year amounted to just over £1,000,000. Our task is to make this money work for the benefit of one-parent families. We have therefore embarked on a strategy of reducing our reserves in a managed way – this will be achieved by spending on important new activities and projects which will directly benefit one-parent families. At the same time there is no relaxation in our efforts to increase our income further:

This is where our loyal and generous supporters come in. The new programmes of work are very costly. Our projections show that our expenditure is likely to exceed our income for at least the next three years. We need your continued support more than ever.

Cathy Forest *Honorary Treasurer*

Summarised accounts for the year to 31 March 2001

Extract of statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds 2001	Total funds 2000
	General	Designated	funds	2001	2000
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
Grants, donations and gifts					
Central and local government	153,294	–	68,240	221,534	212,847
Trusts and companies	42,682	–	183,075	225,757	368,658
From closure of another charity	–	110,888	–	110,888	100,000
Individuals	661,820	–	–	661,820	28,762
Legacies	–	3,282	–	3,282	75,000
Other income					
Training, consultancy and project fees	190,564	–	57,005	247,569	826,291
Publication sales	76,391	–	–	76,391	19,275
Membership subscriptions	17,955	–	–	17,955	14,118
AGM and conference	12,623	–	–	12,623	8,491
Investment income	51,171	–	–	51,171	31,059
Miscellaneous	5,001	–	–	5,001	2,189
Total incoming resources	1,211,501	114,170	308,320	1,633,991	1,686,690
Resources expended					
Direct charitable expenditure	459,238	–	531,309	990,547	936,414
Other expenditure:					
Fundraising and publicity	206,388	–	24,879	231,267	180,940
Management and administration of the charity	19,430	–	1,750	21,180	24,874
Total resources expended	685,056	–	557,938	1,242,994	1,142,228
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	526,445	114,170	(249,618)	390,997	544,462
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	(42,112)	–	–	(42,112)	(447)
Transfers between funds	(335,830)	335,830	–	–	–
Net movement in funds	148,503	450,000	(249,618)	348,885	544,015
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2000	25,216	375,000	452,509	852,725	308,710
Balances carried forward at 31 March 2001	173,719	825,000	202,891	1,201,610	852,725

Extract of balance sheet as at 31 March

	2001	2000
	£	£
Fixed assets	927,616	506,404
Current assets	348,993	474,957
Creditors – amounts falling due within 1 year	(74,999)	(128,636)
Total net assets	1,201,610	852,725

Statement by the trustees

The extracts of the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are a summary of the information which appears in the full accounts which have been audited and given an unqualified opinion. The full accounts were approved by the trustees on 27 June 2001 and copies have been submitted to the Charity Commission and Companies House.

The summarised accounts might not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information the full annual accounts, including the auditor's report, which can be obtained from One Parent Families' office, should be consulted.

Anne Spackman Chair
and **Cathy Forest Honorary Treasurer**

Auditors' statement to the trustees

We have examined the summarised financial statements attached.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements. We have agreed to report to you our opinion on the summarised statements' consistency with the full financial statements on which we reported to you on 5 July 2001.

Basis of opinion

We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared.

Opinion

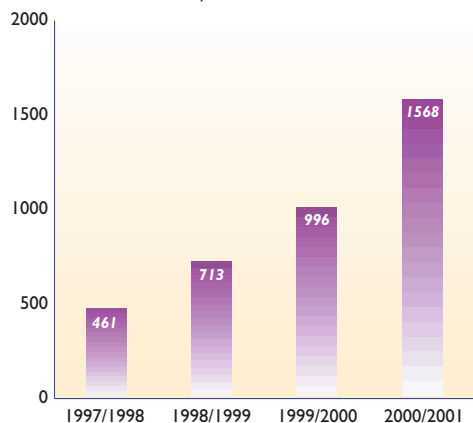
In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2001.

Look out, here comes

So, it's been a very busy year for One Parent Families, and a very successful one, too. But there are still thousands of lone parents out there who need our help, and thousands who don't even know how to reach us. We will be working hard to build on the last year's successes, to carry on improving what we already do well, and to reach out to support lone parents from every background, from all over the country.

“Please keep up the good work. I have told all my friends about One Parent Families and how helpful it is. My membership is worth every penny.”

Total individual members, 1997–2001



Thanks a million

One of our biggest projects has been the launch of our Magic Million Appeal – to raise £1 million to help lift children in one-parent families out of poverty. We're delighted that Sarah Brown, partner at Hobsbawm Macaulay Communications and wife of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has agreed to become patron of the appeal. If you'd like to find out more (or make a donation) you can visit the web site at www.magicmillion.org.uk, fill in the form on the next page and post it to us, or phone the fundraising team on (020) 7428 5407.

MAGIC
MILLION
APPEAL

Friends like these

And it doesn't stop there. As well as Jo Rowling, we've also benefited from the support of dozens of other celebrities. Over the coming months and years, we will build on this success in raising our public profile by announcing a series of new celebrity Ambassadors. Watch this space!

And of course our most important friends and supporters are our lone parent members. Across the country, they are a growing campaigning force, and keep us connected to the things that matter. In the last year, we've increased the number of our lone parent members by over 60 per cent. But that's just a start. Over the coming months, we'll be recruiting more members, setting up lone parent panels around the UK to advise us on lone parents' current concerns, and planning for a series of regional roadshows, to talk to lone parents in the places they live, reach out to families who don't yet know about us, and provide help and information face-to-face.

Keep on keeping on

While the increase in take-up of our services, our raised profile, and our improved financial position are all very positive, there are still over a million one-parent families in the UK living below the poverty line. Every day, lone parents find themselves faced with limited but stark choices. Too many families still live in poverty, with isolation and depression the facts of their lives. Too many lone parents face the choice between staying at home full-time and remaining in poverty, or going out to work with poor childcare on offer and employers who do not understand their needs as parents.

“I think the service is brilliant and I'm glad I'm a member.”

We act as a 'professional friend' for many lone parents, and with more resources, we could help many more. We know that much can be achieved by providing parents with the means to help themselves. We also know that for many, the opportunities are limited by policies and attitudes which need to be challenged and changed. Our job is to continue to fight for a society in which every family, every child, has the opportunity to fulfil its potential and to prosper. We're determined to fulfil this task.

We are enormously grateful to everyone who has supported our work this year, and hope that you will continue to share our vision and work with us in the year ahead.



tomorrow

A little help from our friends

Getting the right advice on money problems or help from a local support group can be a lifeline to a lone parent in despair. That's why One Parent Families urgently needs your help to support lone parents and their children. Anything you can give today will help a lone parent begin to change their life for the better:

- £50** could enable ten lone parents to receive free self-help packs, to help them get into work, education or training.
- £500** could help fund our 'Listen to lone parents' campaign, which gives lone parents and their children a voice and aims to break down the barriers and prejudices which stop them improving their own circumstances
- £2,000** could sponsor an event, or fund a new volunteer.
- £5,000** could help fund the development of the Lone Parent Helpdesk, a web-based system that will give all lone parents access to the information they need 24 hours a day.
- £50,000** could help fund two helpline workers, helping over 15,000 lone parents in need of information and advice.

Our staff have experience of building mutually beneficial relationships with corporate partners. We know our partners are looking for:

- raised awareness with consumers, media and government
- an enhanced image nationally and locally with existing and potential new audiences
- increased customer loyalty with existing audiences and the 'lone parent pound'.

This year, we've been pleased to build relationships with a number of corporate partners to complement their existing marketing, PR and community involvement strategies.

As well as those mentioned elsewhere in this review we are delighted to be working locally and nationally with Euro RSCG Wnek Gosper; Cadbury Schweppes, Pearson and Kingfisher:

We are keen to work with companies, local government and others to make a difference for lone parents and their children. If your company cares about families, and you want to get involved, then we want to hear from you. We know what it takes to make a win-win situation and have sackfuls of ideas. Call us on (020) 7428 5407 to find out more.

Yes, I want to help lone parents and their children have a better future.

Please accept my gift to support the work of National Council for One Parent Families.

£50 £500 £5,000 £2,000 £50,000

£ other I enclose a cheque payable to NCOFF.

Or please debit my: MasterCard/Amex/Diners/Visa/Switch/Delta/CAF charity card (delete as applicable)

Card no.

Issue no. (Switch only) Expiry date /

Today's date

First name

Surname

Address

Postcode

Signature

Yes, I am a UK tax payer and I wish National Council for One Parent Families to reclaim tax on this donation and all future donations I make to the charity. (Please tick if appropriate.)

How else can we help?

Please tick the relevant box and we will send further information.

- My company/trust wishes to support One Parent Families.
- I would like to give regularly by banker's order.
- I want to give through my payroll.
- I would like information on will-making and leaving a legacy.
- Please contact me, I would like to help in other ways.

Return your completed form to National Council for One Parent Families, 255 Kentish Town Road, London NW5 2LX.

You can make a donation by phone on **(020) 7428 5426** or on our web site at **www.oneparentfamilies.org.uk**

The National Council for One Parent Families will hold your details on our database. Your information will be used to keep you updated on the charity's news, services and appeals. If you would prefer not to receive these mailings, please tick this box.

From time to time we will exchange names with other carefully selected organisations, for the mutual benefit of both. If you would prefer not to be contacted in this way please tick this box.



**ONE
PARENT
FAMILIES**

National Council for One Parent Families

255 Kentish Town Road, London NW5 2LX
Tel. (020) 7428 5400 Fax (020) 7482 4851
E-mail info@oneparentfamilies.org.uk
Web site www.oneparentfamilies.org.uk

Registered charity no. 230750. A company limited
by guarantee and registered in London no 402748.

Ambassador

J K Rowling *from 4 October 2000*

President

Ian Hay Davison

Vice Presidents

Margaret Bramall
His Grace the Duke of Devonshire
Graham Judge
Judge Stephen Lloyd
Catherine Porteous
Baroness Serota
Sue Slipman *from 5 December 2000*
Marina Warner *from 5 December 2000*
Andreas Whittam Smith

Committee of Management

Anne Spackman *Chair*
Amanda Cairns *elected Vice-chair 5 December 2000*
Suzanna Taverne *Vice Chair to 5 December 2000*
Cathy Forest *Honorary Treasurer*
Irena Blaszkiewicz *co-opted 5 December 2000*
Celia Brayfield
June Bridgeman
Kay Carberry
Karen Chazen
Richard Granger *elected 5 December 2000*
Karen Harvey
Mavis Maclean
Carole Reilly
Victoria Showunmi
Chris Wermann *co-opted 5 December 2000*

Director

Maeve Sherlock *to 9 July 2000*
Kate Green *from 10 July 2000*

Auditors

Kingston Smith, Devonshire House
60 Goswell Road, London EC1M 7AD

Bankers

Coutts & Co, St Martin's Office
440 Strand, London WC2R 0QS

Thanks to the many trusts and companies who have helped us to continue and develop our work over the past year:

The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
A H J Charitable Trust
Ajahma Charitable Trust
Arihant Charitable Trust
The Army Benevolent Fund
The Ballinger Charitable Trust
Roger and Sarah Bancroft Clark
Charitable Trust
Baron Davenport's Charity Trust
The Belmont Trust
Bridge House Estates Trust Fund
Denis Buxton Trust
The Richard Cadbury Charitable Trust
The Cadbury Schweppes Foundation
Cairns Charitable Trust
City Parochial Foundation
The College and Chapel of St George
Sir Jeremiah Colman Gift Trust
The Community Fund
Lily & Henry Davis Charitable
Foundation
The Diana De Yong Charitable Trust
Deloitte Consulting
R M Douglas Charitable Trust
Dudley Stationery Limited
The John Ellerman Foundation
The Fitton Trust
The Glenmore Charitable Trust
The Sue Hammerson Foundation
The Charles Hayward Foundation
IMI plc
The J P Jacobs Charitable Trust
Jarman Charitable Trust
The Lloyds TSB Foundation for England
and Wales
Marsh Charities Fund
MCI WorldCom
Victor Mishcon Trust
Merthyr Charitable Trust
Oliver Morland Trust
The B C R Nicholl Trust
The Nuffield Foundation
The Austin & Hope Pilkington Trust
N M Rothschild & Sons Ltd
Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc
The Aaron D Sassoon Charitable Trust
Henry Smith's Charity
The Charles and Elsie Sykes Trust
News International plc
Tregelles Trusts
Sir Mark & Lady Turner Charitable Trust
The Willan Charitable Trust
The Godfrey Winn Foundation
John Young Charitable Settlement



The National Council for One Parent
Families is funded by the Association of
London Government.