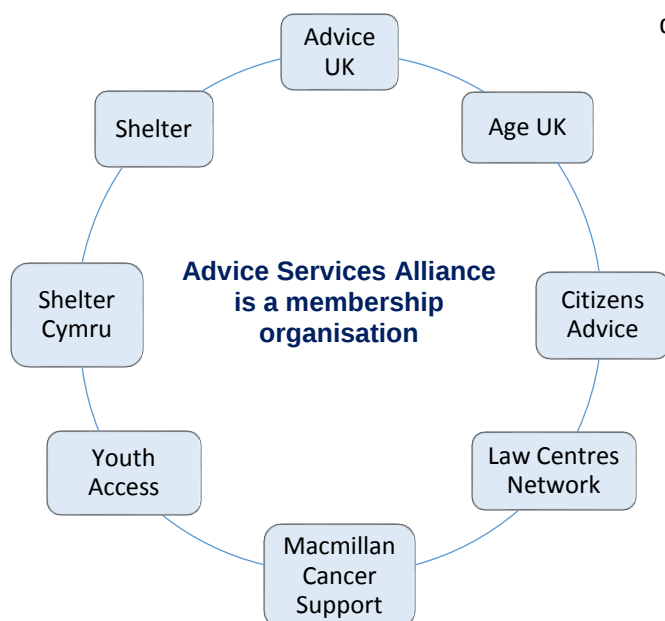


Annual Report 2018

What we do

The Advice Services Alliance is a social justice charity. We exist to promote the work of the independent social welfare legal advice services. Advice services provide access to justice for those with problems in their everyday lives and with few options for dealing with these.



Together we represent around 1,500 advice services across England and Wales, and liaise with colleagues in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Our thanks goes to all the people who have helped us through the year, but special mention to:

Samuel Tsipotey (Finance and accountancy),
Jason King (Websites),
Amanda Jordan and her team (Recognising Excellence)

We continue to work with **Russell Cooke** as our legal advisers and with **Buzzacotts** on our independent review.

We also received pro bono support this year from colleagues at **Cooleys LLP** and at **Addleshaw Goddard LLP** and for which we are extremely grateful.

To achieve this we:

- ◆ promote high quality advice through the Advice Quality Standard
- ◆ ensure services address clients lack of means, discrimination and disadvantage
- ◆ encourage co-operation between advice organisations
- ◆ provide a forum for discussing issues of interest or concern to advice organisations.

We believe better connected, more informed advice services promote access to justice and challenge poor decision making more effectively.

Who we are

Our Patron is **Lord Low of Dalston** and we thank him for his continued support for the advice sector.

Our Board of Trustees are appointed either as member organisations representatives or as independent appointees

Chair: Steve Anderson
Vice Chair: John Edwards (AgeUK)
Treasurer: John Roberts
Martin Barnes
Julie Bishop (Law Centre Network)
Jessica Campbell
Alice Copping
Mathew Cunningham (Shelter)
Stephen Dubbins (Macmillan)
Julia Gilles-Wilkes (Citizens Advice)
Carolyn Howell
Steve Johnson (AdviceUK)
James Kenrick (Youth Access)

We have one permanent staff member, our Director and Company Secretary, **Lindsey Poole**.

For three months, we enjoyed the company of **William Chamberlain** from the Essex University Graduate Internship Scheme.

Contact us on info@asauk.org.uk

Phone 0208 016 4123

Website www.asauk.org.uk

Or follow us on twitter @adviceSalliance.

Our Achievements



At the end of March 2018, 650 advice services held the **Advice Quality Standard**, owned and operated by the Advice Services Alliance. This is the most widely recognised quality mark for social welfare legal advice across England and Wales

Thanks to a grant from the **Legal Education Foundation**, we have started a project to setting up an on-line peer review system, which will improve quality and produce savings for small advice organisations.

We continue to enjoy a close quality partnerships with **Citizens Advice**, **AgeUK** and the **Money Advice Service** and look forward to equally beneficial partnerships in the future with the **Welsh Government** and with other quality standard owners.

We represent the advice sector on the **Leadership Development Programme** (funded by Barings and run by Cass Business School), the **Litigants in Person Support Strategy**, Members Advisory Group for the **National Council for Voluntary Organisations** and the annual meeting of the **Civil Justice Council**. We gave evidence to the **Bach Commission** on the impact of the cuts in legal aid. We worked closely with the **Equalities and Human Rights Commission** to increase the public's access to advice on discrimination. We are a founder member of the **Access to Justice Foundation**.

The summer of 2017 will forever be remembered for the dreadful events at Grenfell Tower. Together with support from **Ashurst LLP**, our members and **Kensington and Chelsea advice services**, we met to better understand the support needed by communities affected in this way. Our thanks goes to **Julia Kauffman from the Small Charities Coalition** for facilitating this meeting.

Our resources

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Year to 31 March 2018 Total £	Year to 31 March 2017 Total £
Income				
Investment income	—	—	—	35
Charitable activities	72,218	17,468	89,686	74,579
Total income	72,218	17,468	89,686	74,614
Expenditure				
Charitable activities	76,747	13,274	90,021	82,440
Total expenditure	76,747	13,274	90,021	82,440
Net (expenditure) / income for the year	(4,529)	4,194	(335)	(7,826)
Net movement in funds	(4,529)	4,194	(335)	(7,826)
Balance brought forward	115,039	—	115,039	122,865
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2018	110,510	4,194	114,704	115,039