



Department  
of Health

# Report on the usage of Section 70 of the Charities Act 2006 by the Department of Health

July 2017



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Presented to Parliament pursuant to Section 70(9)  
of the Charities Act 2006

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# Executive summary

This report is presented pursuant to the Charities Act 2006, section 70, which enables the provision of financial assistance to charitable, benevolent or philanthropic institutions.

Throughout 2016-17, the Department of Health has made grants totalling £11,932,678 to organisations under the provisions of the Charities Act 2006. In all cases, the funding matched both the aims and objectives of the Department of Health, as well as those of the recipients. This spending does not represent the total amount of grant funding provided to the Voluntary and Community Sector, as many other grants have been paid under the powers conferred by alternative legislation.

# Grants Awarded

## The Thalidomide Trust

1. In 2016-17, £7,673,400 was paid to The Thalidomide Trust. This part of a 10 year Grants Fund totalling £80m in England, £14.2m in Scotland, £7.5m in Wales and £4.6m in Northern Ireland. The grant has been made in recognition of the complex and highly specialised needs that people affected by thalidomide have, particularly as they get older, and will enable the Thalidomide Trust and its members to explore ways of preventing further deterioration in their health and to help them to maintain their independence. The year on year amount is uprated in line with inflation (as measured by the GDP deflator) bringing the total 10-year amount to c.£80m, subject to changes to inflation during the 10-year period. For example, the grant is being used to meet the costs of:

- Self-management of health problems including private health care (e.g. physiotherapy/massage) and dental care not available on the NHS.
- Home maintenance, adaptation and mobility aids (both transport and wheelchairs) to take account of reduced flexibility and mobility.
- Domestic help and personal care to fulfil tasks they are unable to perform due to reduced flexibility, loss of grip and fatigue; or to replace unpaid support from family members.
- Respite/holidays and social activities to address isolation and improve mental and physical wellbeing.
- Off-setting a loss of income combined with the higher costs of living with Thalidomide damage.

## Mind

2. Time to Change is a national campaign to reduce stigma and discrimination around mental health problems, run by charities Mind and Rethink Mental Illness, with funding £2,989,778 from the Department of Health. The campaign also receives additional funding from Comic Relief and the Big Lottery Fund. Time to Change is the Government's main vehicle for raising awareness of mental health problems in the general population, encouraging people to talk more openly about it and as a result improving and empowering those with mental health problems. It is therefore an integral part of the Department's wider mental health programme and preventative work.

## The British Heart Foundation

3. The funding of £1 million was distributed by the BHF, on behalf of the Department, within England to increase the availability and accessibility of public access to defibrillators with the intention to increase survival rates from out of hospital cardiac arrest.

## The Alzheimer's Society

4. In February 2016, the World Dementia Council evolved and became independent of government in order to broaden its reach to involve a wide range of stakeholders across industry, business, research, Non-Governmental Organisations and people with dementia. DH relinquished its day-to-day support for the WDC, although the UK government became an Associate Member. The grant of £69,500, paid on their behalf to The Alzheimer's Society, funded four work streams:

- To establish an implementation and evaluation framework for WDC's priority actions;
- To design and promote a funding dashboard using existing data to highlight disparities;
- To develop and start to implement a strategy to facilitate the expansion of the EU Joint Programme in Neurodegenerative Diseases (JPND) across the globe; and
- To establish and implement a communications and engagement plan.

## Skills for Care

5. The purpose of this grant of £200,000 was to enable Skills for Care to provide workforce development advice and support to the transforming care work programme which is specific to adult social care. It furthered the aims and objectives of the department by ensuring that new models of social care are fully considered, reflected and influenced by workforce development advice and support to the Department of Health, Health Education England and NHS England with policy focused on supporting and enabling people with a learning disability or an autistic spectrum condition and additional needs that may challenge to avoid admission to inpatient services or to aid discharge from hospital.

6. As with all grant funding through the Department of Health, grants paid under the Charities Act are monitored to ensure that recipients deliver objectives of individual projects as well as contributing to the strategic aims of the Department and ensuring that the grant provides value for money.

Department of Health

5th July 2017





