

READ EASY UK

England & Wales · Charity number 1151288

Details

Other names REUK

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Company number [CE000307](#)

Registered 2013-03-19

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Kenton House
Oxford Street
Moreton-In-Marsh
Gloucestershire
GL56 0LA

Phone 01388435021

Email info@readeasy.org.uk

Website www.readeasy.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE ADULT PUBLIC IN LITERACY.

Activities: The object of the charity is 'to advance the education of the adult public in literacy'. Read Easy UK is an umbrella organisation that works to promote and support its model of volunteer-run, adult literacy 'groups'. Each locally-run, affiliated Read Easy group provides one-to-one reading coaching for adults with reading difficulties, using trained volunteer reading coaches.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-09-30	£431,401	£440,563	-	-
2023-09-30	£393,039	£465,540	-	-
2022-09-30	£275,476	£396,041	-	-
2021-09-30	£384,804	£289,816	-	-
2020-09-30	£264,280	£187,117	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Amanda Margaret Tincknell	Chair	2025-07-26
Caroline O'Connor		2021-07-26
Elizabeth Elsa Hopes		2023-01-28
Harriet Ayles		2020-04-20
Hayley Jean James		2025-07-26
Panagiota Koulouri		2021-07-26
Paul James Mugford		2020-04-20
Sara Anne Erasmus		2024-07-27

READ EASY UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1151288

Accounts

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year ending 30th September 2024

“Read Easy has helped me find my voice.” (Reader, South West Region)

Overview

Vision: Every adult who wants to learn to read, can.

We help adults to transform their lives by learning to read. We do this by developing local groups and training volunteers to provide personalised, one-to-one reading coaching that is free and confidential, both in-person and online.

The past year has seen our services continue to grow dramatically.

Our developments, achievements, and impact in 2023-24

During the year we:

- Coached 1,618 Readers to learn to read, up by 26% from 1,283 the previous year.
- Enrolled 683 new Readers (+4%).
- Empowered 268 Readers who graduated or left having made significant progress (+24%).
- Supported 2,149 volunteers who together gave more than 335,000 hours of their time to support adults learn to read (an increase of 1%).
- Developed and sustained 90 volunteer groups across the country, a slight reduction on last year as groups have been encouraged to merge in some areas to cover a larger geographical area and leave fewer gaps in provision nationally.
- Recruited and trained 8% more Reading Coaches (currently 1,437 individuals).
- Increased our online and hybrid coaching offer for Readers, including a pilot project with a partner charity.
- Grew our local offer - one group has over 65 Readers and several other groups have 40+. We set a target for our established groups to coach 25-35+ and significant progress to meet or exceed this has been achieved across England.
- Delivered 7,387 hours of coach training to support volunteers to learn how to coach Readers (+10%).
- Developed our five-year strategy.
- Continued to work in partnership with other literacy charities, corporate organisations, and research institutions, to develop and improve our efficiency and share best practice.

Our Impact

The impact of these achievements is that:

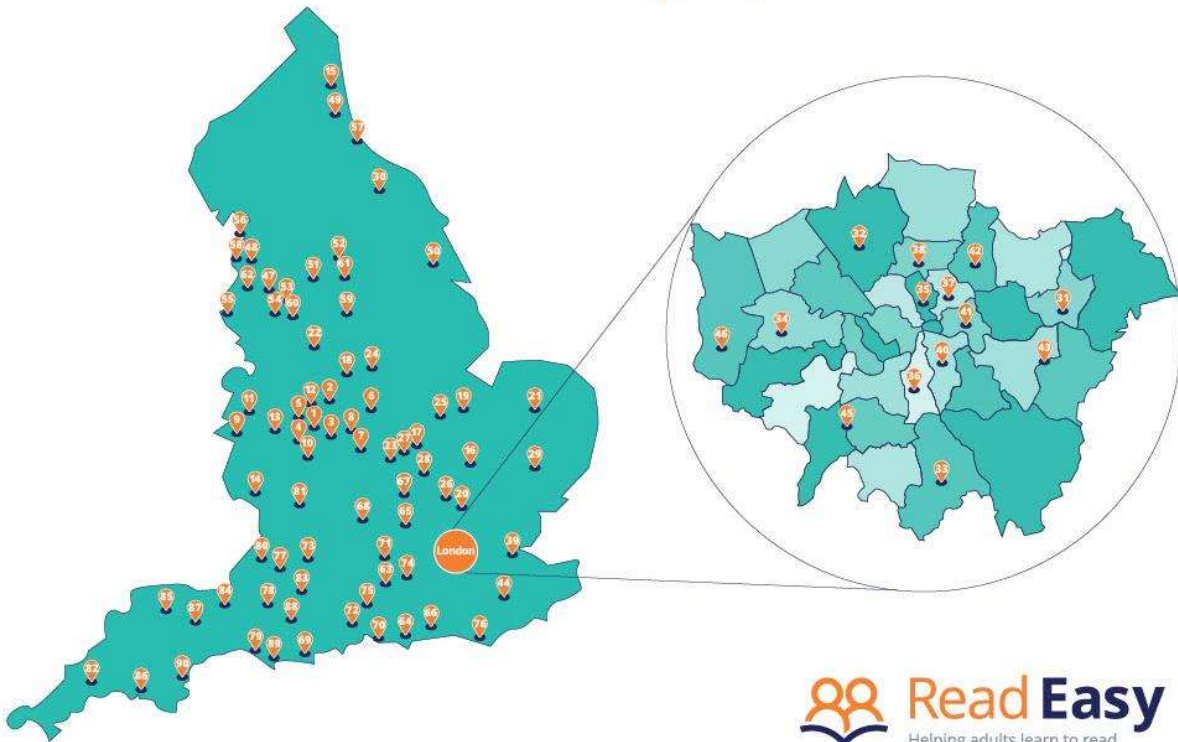
- 99% of Readers said they were more confident after learning to read - and 50% were ‘a lot more confident’!
- 82% of Readers were more likely to join in with social events and make new friends.
- Over 65% of Readers who have children or grandchildren said they were more likely to read stories with them.

“After coaching for six months I knew I wanted to change my career path. Now I am working full time with vulnerable adults as well as coaching. Read Easy has changed my life” (Volunteer Coach, London Region)



Our Reach

Communities where we have groups



Central	
1	Birmingham Central
2	Birmingham North, Tamworth & Lichfield
3	Birmingham SE & Solihull
4	Birmingham SW
5	Dudley & District
6	Leicester & District
7	Mid Warwickshire
8	North Warwickshire & Coventry
9	Shropshire Hills
10	South Worcestershire
11	Telford & Shropshire East
12	Wolverhampton
13	Wyre Forest & Bridgnorth
14	Herefordshire (Pioneer Group)
15	Northumberland (Out of area pioneering)

London and Kent	
31	Barking & Dagenham
32	Barnet
33	Croydon
34	Ealing
35	Islington
36	Lambeth
37	Hackney
38	Haringey
39	Medway
40	Southwark
41	Tower Hamlets
42	Waltham Forest
43	Greenwich & Bexley (Pioneer Group)
44	Kent (Pioneer Group)
45	Merton & Kingston (Pioneer Group)
46	West London (Pioneer Group)

South	
63	Basingstoke
64	Chichester & Arun
65	Chilterns
66	East Sussex
67	Milton Keynes
68	Oxford
69	Poole & Bournemouth
70	Portsmouth
71	Reading & East Berkshire
72	Southampton & IOW
73	Swindon & West Berkshire
74	W Surrey and NE Hampshire
75	Winchester
76	South and Central Sussex (Pioneer Group)

East	
16	Cambridge
17	Corby & Kettering
18	Derby & District
19	Fenland
20	Harlow & Chelmsford
21	Norfolk
22	North Staffordshire
23	Northampton
24	Nottingham
25	Peterborough
26	Stevenage & North Herts
27	Wellingborough
28	Bedfordshire (Pioneer Group)
29	Suffolk (Pioneer Group)
30	North Yorkshire (Out of area pioneering)

North	
47	Bolton & District
48	East Lancashire
49	Gateshead & South Tyneside
50	Hull & District
51	Kirklees and Calderdale
52	Leeds
53	Manchester Central & Salford
54	Manchester South & West
55	Merseyside
56	Morecombe Bay
57	Newcastle & North Tyneside
58	Preston
59	Sheffield
60	Stockport
61	Wakefield
62	Wigan Borough

South West	
77	Bath
78	Blackmore Vale North
79	Bridport
80	Bristol
81	Cheltenham & Gloucester
82	Cornwall
83	North and West Wilts
84	North Somerset
85	North, East and West Devon
86	Plymouth
87	Somerset
88	South & East Wilts
89	South Dorset
90	Torbay & South Devon

 Affiliated Group
 Pioneer Group
 Out of area pioneering



Fundraising and finance

During the year, REUK managed to grow sustainably by attracting new income and receiving continued support from longer-term supporters. We have continued to develop corporate fundraising, albeit on a small scale, and have seen an increase in individual donations following a billboard campaign last year.

Results: Total income was up by 9.7% to £431,401 (2022-23: £393,039), all of which has been, or will be, used for the running and development of the charity.

Expenditure was down by 5% to £440,563 (2022-23: £465,540). This decrease was part of a planned expenditure review.

Overall, the Trustees consider financial performance during the year to have been a good outcome in a continuing cost of living crisis and other general circumstances, including phasing of grant income. The in-year deficit of £9,162 was a reduction of 87% from the previous year.

Volunteers: In addition to employing full and part time staff, REUK is reliant on the support of approximately 2,149 regular volunteers who help Readers in their local communities. The Trustees are hugely grateful for this support, without which the Charity could not function.

Donations: Income during the year was made up of grants from a range of trusts and foundations, individual donations, partnerships, Gift Aid and the annual subscriptions and training income from REUK's affiliated groups.

We are particularly grateful to the following supporters:

The Adrian Swire Charitable Trust	Man Group PLC Charitable Trust
The Alice Ellen Cooper-Dean Charitable Foundation	Marsh Charitable Trust
Anonymous Donor Trust	The London Freemasons' Charity
The Astor Foundation	The Noble Charitable Trust
Dovedale Foundation	The Notgrove Trust
The Dulverton Trust	The Patrick and Helena Frost Foundation
Gledswood Charitable Trust	A. and R. Haigh
The Guinness Partnership	Schroder Charity Trust
Hadrian Trust	The Simon Gibson Charitable Trust
Hatmill Limited	The Souter Charitable Trust
Ideas Exchange	Susanna Peake Charitable Trust
The John Coates Charitable Trust	The T. S. Elliot Foundation
John Laing Charitable Trust	The Valentine Charitable Trust
The John Horseman Trust	The Vandervell Foundation
The Joicey Trust	The William Webster Charitable Trust
The Kathleen Hannay Memorial Charity	

With additional thanks to all the local community groups and individuals who have supported adults to learn to read

Partnership working: We continue to work in partnership with Shannon Trust on two projects. The first is piloting their new technology, with a view to increased online delivery to people who are waiting for coaching. The second is a 'pathways project' that is developing a programme that supports adults leaving the criminal justice system to continue either being coached to read or being a volunteer coach in the community on release. We are in the early stages of this project but are excited about its potential.



Reserves policy: The Trustees have always ensured that the Charity has sufficient funds in reserve to withstand any shortfall in income or unforeseen expenditure, and this approach was maintained throughout the year. In addition, in view of our ambitious plans and the difficult economic climate, the Trustees monitored cashflow on a fortnightly basis in August and September. The Charity now holds sufficient cash to cover at least three months' operating costs and Trustees hope to increase this to six months' cover by 2026 by investment in fundraising.

Investment policy: The charity funds its activities on a regular basis and as such is not involved with investment activities. Reserves are placed in interest bearing accounts to provide maximum income but with easy access.

Public benefit: The Trustees note the Charity Commission's guidance on the need for charities to deliver a public benefit, and believe that the achievements outlined above, as well as our ambitious plans to help more adults learn to read in the years ahead, show how we are meeting this need.

Risk review: The Trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed at a national and local level and controls and policies have been established to manage these risks. All identified risks are monitored closely by the CEO and senior staff and are reviewed by Trustees on a quarterly basis.

"I couldn't have got into college without Read Easy" (Reader, Central Region)

Strategic Plan

In August and September 2024, the Trustees, CEO and senior team reviewed progress against the year's strategic plan. All the key goals for 2023/24 (as outlined in last year's annual report) had been met or exceeded. New targets were agreed alongside a new five-year plan.

The Read Easy Strategy 2024-2029 and a 2-page summary can be read here [Our Strategy - ReadEasy](#).

This strategy was developed with the input of many different stakeholders, and we are grateful to all of them for their wisdom, experience, frankness and insight.

Aims and ambitions

REUK has always been committed to delivering an excellent service to adults who want to learn to read, and that remains our top priority.

To build on our achievements, our newly developed strategic plan will guide our work through to 2029.

Our ten top targets for the next three years are to:

- Double the number of Readers we coach to 3,000 a year.
- Involve Readers in the continuing improvement of our service.
- Develop our online coaching for Readers who cannot access services locally.
- Help each of our local groups to coach 25-35+ Readers annually.
- Develop a quality assurance framework that will help groups to provide consistently excellent service.
- Improve the efficiency of our systems and processes.
- Strengthen our financial sustainability by diversifying income and carefully managing expenditure.



- Strengthen our gathering of data and other evidence, to better understand and demonstrate the impact of our work, both nationally and locally.
- Develop a clear communications plan to remove stigma and advertise our services.
- Prepare to work with more organisations and amplify our advocacy.

We look forward to continuing to thrive for the 2.4 million adults who could benefit from our coaching.

*"Thank you for giving me the chance to face my fears, learn and grow"
(Reader, North Region)*

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

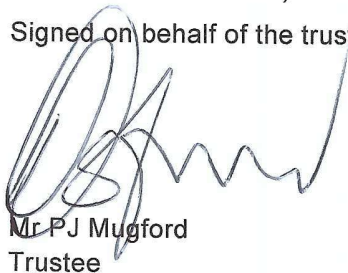
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

- The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:
 - select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
 - observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
 - make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
 - state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
 - prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2016 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2016) and that an independent examination is required.

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:



Mr P J Muggford
Trustee

Date:

02.06.25



Ms P Koulouri
Trustee

11.06.25



Read Easy UK

Financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2024

Charity number 1151288

Read Easy UK

Legal and administrative information

Registered charity number: 1151288

Principal address: Kenton House
Oxford Street
Moreton-in-Marsh
Gloucestershire
GL56 0LA

Trustees: Mr P Espinasse
Mr CJ Bale
Ms H Ayles
Mr PJ Mugford
Ms P Koulouri
Ms C O'Connor
Mrs E Hopes
Ms S Erasmus

Chief Executive: Mrs C Priddon

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill
Avenue West
Malling
Kent
ME19 4JC

Independent examiner: Asad Noorani FCA
Tayabali Tomlin
Kenton House
Oxford Street
Moreton-in-Marsh
Gloucestershire
GL56 0LA

Read Easy UK

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Read Easy UK

We report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2024.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the financial statements that we have been engaged to compile, report to the charity's trustees that we have done so, and state those matters we have agreed to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our work or for this report.

Respective responsibilities of the council members and reporting Accountants

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of opinion

Our examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- 1 which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act; or
- 2 to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Asad Noorani FCA
Tayabali Tomlin
Kenton House
Oxford Street
Moreton-in-Marsh
GL56 0LA

1 March 2025

Read Easy UK

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 30 September 2024

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
Incoming resources				
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds:</i>				
Voluntary income	314,468	58,007	372,475	346,006
Affiliation fees and subscriptions	22,180	-	22,180	18,104
Investment income	1,289	-	1,289	1,639
Training income	34,425	-	34,425	27,111
Sundry income	1,032	-	1,032	179
Total incoming resources	373,394	58,007	431,401	393,039
Resources expended				
<i>Cost of generating funds:</i>				
Fundraising activities	(48,330)	-	(48,330)	(38,629)
Governance	(2,514)	(6,346)	(8,860)	(2,394)
<i>Charitable activities:</i>				
Volunteer support costs	(268,583)	(71,877)	(340,460)	(390,252)
Administration costs	(42,913)	-	(42,913)	(34,265)
Total resources expended	(362,340)	(78,223)	(440,563)	(465,540)
Net movement in funds	11,054	(20,216)	(9,162)	(72,501)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	36,287	55,063	91,350	163,851
Total funds carried forward	47,341	34,847	82,188	91,350

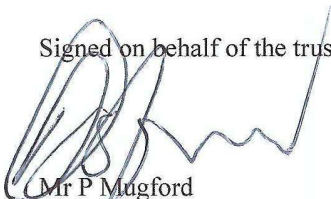
Read Easy UK

Balance Sheet

At 30 September 2024


	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	2		7,881		10,508
Current assets					
Debtors	3	4,604		7,230	
Cash at bank		80,481		85,377	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>(10,778)</u>		<u>(11,765)</u>	
Net current assets			74,307		80,842
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>82,188</u>		<u>91,350</u>
Represented by:					
General reserve					
Balance brought forward			91,350		163,851
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year			(9,162)		(72,501)
Balance carried forward	5, 6		<u>82,188</u>		<u>91,350</u>

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:



Mr P Mugford
Trustee

Date: 02.06.25



Ms P Koulouri
Trustee

11.06.25

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer and office equipment – 25% on reducing balance

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when they are receivable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended (note 9)

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly and those of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Investments

Investments are valued annually at market value. Gains or losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income has been taken into account on an accruals basis.

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2024

	£	£
2 Tangible fixed assets		
	Computer & Office Equipment	Total
Cost		
At 1 October 2023	26,809	26,809
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
At 30 September 2024	<u>26,809</u>	<u>26,809</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 October 2023	16,301	16,301
Charge for year	2,627	2,627
Eliminated on disposal	-	-
At 30 September 2024	<u>18,928</u>	<u>18,928</u>
Net book values		
At 30 September 2024	<u>7,881</u>	<u>7,881</u>
At 30 September 2023	<u>10,508</u>	<u>10,508</u>
3 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year		
	2024	2023
	£	£
Other debtors	4,604	7,230
	<u>4,604</u>	<u>7,230</u>

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2024

4 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other creditors	10,778	11,765
	<u>10,778</u>	<u>11,765</u>

5 Unrestricted Funds

General unrestricted fund

	£
At 1 October 2023	<u>36,287</u>
Incoming resources	373,394
Outgoing resources	(362,340)
At 30 September 2024	<u>47,341</u>

6 Restricted Funds

General restricted fund

	£
At 1 October 2023	<u>3,420</u>
Incoming resources	22,007
Outgoing resources	(14,841)
At 30 September 2024	<u>10,586</u>

East of England

	£
At 1 October 2023	<u>-</u>
Incoming resources	5,000
Outgoing resources	(5,000)
At 30 September 2024	<u>-</u>

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2024

6 Restricted Funds (continued)

<i>South Region</i>	£
At 1 October 2023	<u>12,613</u>
Incoming resources	20,000
Outgoing resources	(14,904)
At 30 September 2024	<u>17,709</u>
<i>South West Region</i>	£
At 1 October 2023	<u>4,521</u>
Incoming resources	-
Outgoing resources	(4,521)
At 30 September 2024	<u>-</u>
<i>London and Kent Region</i>	£
At 1 October 2023	<u>17,992</u>
Incoming resources	-
Outgoing resources	(17,992)
At 30 September 2024	<u>-</u>
<i>North East and Yorkshire Region</i>	£
At 1 October 2023	<u>16,517</u>
Incoming resources	11,000
Outgoing resources	(20,965)
At 30 September 2024	<u>6,552</u>

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2024

7 Employees

The average number of employees during the year was 14 (2023 - 15).

8 Trustees' expenses

During the year no payments were made to trustees except in respect of direct reimbursement of expenses in line with our expenses policy.

9 Resources expended

	2024
	£
Cost of generating funds:	
Fundraising activities	913
Fundraising salary costs	47,417
	<hr/> 48,330 <hr/>

	2024
	£
Charitable activities:	
Volunteer support costs	40,171
Administration costs	42,913
Salaries	309,149
	<hr/> 392,233 <hr/>

Read Easy UK

Detailed Profit and Loss Account

For the year ended 30 September 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income		
Donations income	372,475	346,006
Affiliation fees and subscriptions	22,180	18,104
Investment income	1,289	1,639
Training income	34,425	27,111
Sundry income	1,032	179
Total income	<u>431,401</u>	<u>393,039</u>
Expenditure		
Fundraising	913	5,726
Office expenses	6,489	5,795
Post, printing and stationery	5,356	12,007
Telephone	640	648
Salaries	356,566	346,506
Sundry expenses	272	808
Training	12,137	22,608
Recruitment	438	6,796
Travel, accommodation and subsistence	8,931	13,183
Conferences and meetings	722	9,130
Advertising and website	4,482	7,776
Premises expenses	16,406	18,698
Insurance	14,057	8,909
Bank charges	1,667	1,053
Consulting	6,346	-
Accountancy	2,514	2,394
Total expenditure	<u>437,936</u>	<u>462,038</u>
Operating (deficit) / surplus	(6,535)	(68,999)
Less: Depreciation	2,627	3,502
Total (deficit) / surplus for the year	<u>(9,162)</u>	<u>(72,501)</u>

READ EASY UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1151288

Accounts

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year ending 30th September 2023

*“I’ve finished the course in just under a year.
It proves I have done something with and for my life.”
(Reader)*

Overview

Read Easy UK (REUK) supports adults learning to read. Our vision is for everyone in the UK to have the literacy skills they need to realise their potential and live life to the full. We are the only national charity providing this service - free, confidential, one-to-one reading coaching by trained volunteers, delivering via locally run groups.

The past year has seen our services grow dramatically. We have increased the number of adults learning to read by 35 per cent to 1,283 and have 92 volunteer groups across the country. Growth of delivery in the North East and Yorkshire (a new area for this period) was particularly strong.

Our developments, achievements, and impact in 2022-23

During the year we:

- Helped 1,283 Readers to learn to read, up from 948 the previous year.
- Supported 92 volunteer groups nationally, up from 81 the previous year.
- Expanded in London – from 18 groups to 23.
- Worked with 2,133 volunteers who together gave more than 334,053 hours of their time to help adults learn to read.
- Increased our remote coaching offer for Readers, including a continued project in Cornwall and a new pilot project in Read Easy Shropshire Hills.
- Grew our local offer - one group has over 60 Readers and several other groups have 40+.
- Delivered 6,696 hours of training to volunteer reading coaches.
- Developed our evaluation and impact measurement alongside a theory of change to better demonstrate the broader benefits of learning to read which have always been clear from qualitative data but we are hoping to have more quantitative data to measure and communicate this quality, especially relating to wellbeing. This is on-going.
- Continued to work in partnership with other literacy charities, corporate organisations, and research institutions, to develop and improve our efficiency and share best practice.
- Achieved national billboard coverage with a partnership with JC Decaux – which helped to increase awareness, reduce stigma, and encourage potential Readers to seek help. It also inspired potential volunteers and supporters to contact us.
- Empowered – over 94% of Reading Coaches would highly recommend volunteering with Read Easy!



Group locations and Reader feedback



Since I have done the course with Read Easy, I am interested in reading more things. Texting friends and family is much easier, and I have more confidence. I feel very proud of myself that I have achieved the end of the course even though it was challenging at times and I'm glad I stuck it out.

My thoughts about my coach? It was a joy to come and see her."

(Carol, Graduate Reader)

Fundraising and finance

During the year, REUK managed to grow sustainably by attracting new income and drawing on reserves in a planned manner. We have also begun corporate fundraising and seen an increase in individual donations following a matched-giving campaign.

Results: Total income was £393,039 (2021-22: £275,476), all of which has been, or will be, used for the running and development of the charity. We also had a period of 4 months without a dedicated fundraiser in this period.

Expenditure was £465,540 (2021-22: £396,041). This increase was crucial to support planned growth and was partly funded by the remainder of a modest development fund created to support the charity through a time of transition and development.

Becoming a coach came from my love of reading and a passion to spread the



enjoyment that reading can bring – but it has been so much more than that, more than I could have ever known it could be.

*Being part of my Reader's story, seeing her grow, has been awe inspiring!"
(Volunteer Reading Coach)*

Overall, the Trustees consider financial performance during the year to have been a good outcome in a continual cost of living crisis and other general circumstances including phasing of grant income. They continue to monitor the situation closely and believe that the appointment of a new Head of Fundraising Development in 2023-24, will significantly boost income in the year ahead alongside consistent, quality delivery from our Head of Grants and Trusts.

Volunteers: In addition to employing full and part time staff, REUK is reliant on the support of approximately 2,133 regular volunteers who help Readers in their local communities. The Trustees are hugely grateful for this support, without which the Charity could not function.

Donations: Income during the year was made up of grants from a range of trusts and foundations, individual donations, partnerships, Gift Aid and the annual subscriptions and training income from REUK's affiliated groups.

We are particularly grateful to the following supporters:

Abergavenny Rotary Club	Masonic Relief Chest
Alice Ellen Cooper Dean	National Lottery
Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust	Noble Charity
Ashworth Trust	PATOSS Gloucester
Benefact Trust	Patrick and Helena Frost Foundation
Brownless Trust	Ros and Alan Haigh
Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust	Schroder Charity Trust
Dovedale	Shawdon Charitable Trust
George A Moore Foundation	Sir George Martin Trust
Girdlers Charity	Sir James Knott Trust
Good Gifts	Society of the Holy Child of Jesus
Hadrian Trust	Susanna Peake Charitable Trust
Hedley Foundation	The Dulverton Trust
High Speed Training Ltd	The John Horseman Trust
Highfields Trust	The Lightbulb Trust
Ideas Exchange	The Sir James Reckitt Charity
JC Decaux	Valentine Trust
John Coates Charitable Trust	Vandervell Foundation
Kathleen Hannay Memorial Charity	WO Street Charitable Trust
Magdalen College, Oxford	Worshipful Company of Insurers Charitable Trust
Man Charitable Trust	

Partnership working: Towards the end of this reporting year, we opened talks with the Shannon Trust, another charity helping adults learn to read, and these discussions continued through late 2023 and early 2024. The possibility of merging the two charities was considered but ultimately rejected, and trustees and staff are now firmly focused on strengthening REUK as an independent agency. The discussions strengthened the relationship and collaboration between the two organisations and both charities remain open to discussions about working in strategic partnership and collaborating on projects where this will support and/or accelerate the missions of both organisations.



Reserves policy: The Trustees have always ensured that the Charity has sufficient funds in reserve to withstand any shortfall in income or unforeseen expenditure, and this approach was maintained throughout the year. In addition, in view of our ambitious plans and the difficult economic climate, the Trustees monitored cashflow on a fortnightly basis in August and September. The Charity now holds sufficient cash to cover at least three months' operating costs and Trustees hope to increase this to six months' cover by 2026 by investment in fundraising.

Investment policy: The charity funds its activities on a regular basis and as such is not involved with investment activities. Reserves are placed in interest bearing accounts to provide maximum income but with easy access.

Public benefit: The Trustees note the Charity Commission's guidance on the need for charities to deliver a public benefit, and believe that the achievements outlined above, as well as our ambitious plans to help more adults learn to read in the years ahead, show how we are meeting this need.

Risk review: The Trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed at a national and local level, and processes and systems have been established to mitigate these risks. All identified risks are monitored closely by the CEO and senior staff and are reviewed by Trustees on a quarterly basis.

Strategic Plan

In August and September 2023, the Trustees, CEO and senior team reviewed progress against the year's strategic plan. All the key goals for 2021/22 (as outlined in last year's annual report) had been met or exceeded.

New targets were agreed (see below), and in 2023/24 a new three-year plan will be developed.

Aims and ambitions for 2023/24

REUK has always been committed to delivering an excellent service to adults who want to learn to read, and that remains our top priority. In support of that goal, the charity is working hard to develop diverse and sustainable sources of income, and to raise awareness nationally about the importance of adult literacy and how it can be improved with a relatively simple solution.

We are also developing our infrastructure and business support to best empower local groups to deliver in the most efficient ways possible.

After two years of rapid growth, we will be consolidating our efforts in this financial year and building on our recent success to support groups locally to reach 25 Readers each where possible. Rather than adding very many more groups, we will be looking to strategically strengthen the organisation for sustainability and long-term effectiveness. Helping adults learn to read will remain our core mission, with the Reader at the heart of all we do.

To achieve these goals, in 2023/24 we will:

- Support over 1,500 Readers for the first time.
- Increase the number of volunteer groups from 92 to 100.
- Continue to help more Readers by increasing opportunities for digital learning.
- Further develop partnerships with other literacy charities, to increase impact.



- Further increase our awareness and advocacy work building on national successes of the past two years (BBC and JC Decaux)
- Continue to improve our efficiency by further developing our systems and processes. We are reviewing CRM systems and data management platforms (work began in 2023)
- Continue to develop our Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion strategy.
- Gather data with our new evaluation processes to establish and evidence broader impact.
- Diversify our income sources (corporate and community income).

In Q3 we will be writing our next 3-year strategy and expect that it will focus on remote coaching and further partnership delivery and collaboration.

Trustees are mindful that although a period of planned consolidation is likely in the short-term, the Trustees are confident that the charity is well positioned to continue providing its much-needed services in the community and to develop sustainability.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

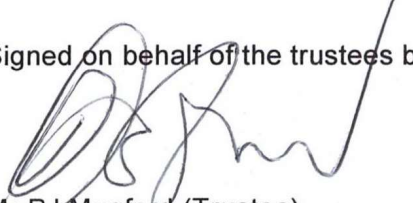
Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2016 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.


The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2016) and that an independent examination is required.

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:


Mr PJ Mugford (Trustee)

Date:

06/06/24



Ms P Koulouri (Trustee)



Read Easy UK

Financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2023

Charity number 1151288

Read Easy UK

Legal and administrative information

Registered charity number:	1151288
Principal address:	Unit 3 Batsford Estate Yard Batsford Moreton-in-Marsh Gloucestershire GL56 9QF
Trustees:	Mr P Espinasse Ms JE Peerless Mr CJ Bale Ms H Ayles Mr PJ Mugford Ms P Koulouri Ms C O'Connor Mrs E Hopes
Chief Executive:	Mrs C Priddon
Bankers:	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JC
Independent examiner:	Asad Noorani FCA Tayabali Tomlin Kenton House Oxford Street Moreton-in-Marsh Gloucestershire GL56 0LA

Read Easy UK

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Read Easy UK

We report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2023.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the financial statements that we have been engaged to compile, report to the charity's trustees that we have done so, and state those matters we have agreed to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our work or for this report.

Respective responsibilities of the council members and reporting Accountants

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of opinion

Our examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- 1 which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act; or
- 2 to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Asad Noorani FCA
Tayabali Tomlin
Kenton House
Oxford Street
Moreton-in-Marsh
GL56 0LA

22 January 2024

Read Easy UK

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 30 September 2023

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
Incoming resources				
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds:</i>				
Voluntary income	236,301	109,705	346,006	227,290
Affiliation fees and subscriptions	18,104	-	18,104	12,550
Investment income	1,639	-	1,639	251
Training income	27,111	-	27,111	35,216
Sundry income	179	-	179	169
Total incoming resources	283,334	109,705	393,039	275,476
Resources expended				
Cost of generating funds:				
Fundraising activities	(5,726)	-	(5,726)	(1,168)
Governance	(2,394)	-	(2,394)	(2,448)
Charitable activities:				
Volunteer support costs	(359,346)	(63,809)	(423,155)	(354,384)
Administration costs	(34,265)	-	(34,265)	(38,041)
Total resources expended	(401,731)	(63,809)	(465,540)	(396,041)
Net movement in funds	(118,397)	45,896	(72,501)	(120,565)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	154,684	9,167	163,851	284,416
Total funds carried forward	36,287	55,063	91,350	163,851

Read Easy UK

Balance Sheet

At 30 September 2023

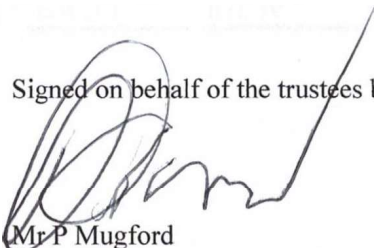
	Note	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Tangible assets	2		10,508		10,508
Current assets					
Debtors	3	7,230		12,946	
Cash at bank		85,377		150,533	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	(11,765)		(11,296)	
Net current assets			80,842		152,183
Total assets less current liabilities			91,350		162,691

Represented by:

General reserve

Balance brought forward		163,851		284,416	
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year		(72,501)		(120,565)	
Balance carried forward	<u>5, 6</u>	91,350		163,851	

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:


Mr P Mugford
Trustee


Ms P Koulouri
Trustee

Date:

06/06/24

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer and office equipment – 25% on reducing balance

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when they are receivable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended (note 9)

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly and those of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Investments

Investments are valued annually at market value. Gains or losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income has been taken into account on an accruals basis.

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2023

	£	£
2 Tangible fixed assets		
	Computer & Office Equipment	Total
Cost		
At 1 October 2022	24,467	24,467
Additions	2,342	2,342
Disposals	-	-
At 30 September 2023	<u>26,809</u>	<u>26,809</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 October 2022	12,799	12,799
Charge for year	3,502	3,502
Eliminated on disposal	-	-
At 30 September 2023	<u>16,301</u>	<u>16,301</u>
Net book values		
At 30 September 2023	<u>10,508</u>	<u>10,508</u>
At 30 September 2022	<u>11,668</u>	<u>11,668</u>
3 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year		
	2023	2022
	£	£
Other debtors	7,230	12,946
	<u>7,230</u>	<u>12,946</u>

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2023

4 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other creditors	11,765	11,296
	<u>11,765</u>	<u>11,296</u>

5 Unrestricted Funds

General unrestricted fund

	£
At 1 October 2022	<u>122,349</u>
Incoming resources	283,334
Outgoing resources	(369,396)
At 30 September 2023	<u>36,287</u>

Organisation development fund

	£
At 1 October 2022	<u>32,335</u>
Incoming resources	-
Outgoing resources	(32,335)
At 30 September 2023	<u>-</u>

6 Restricted Funds

General restricted fund

	£
At 1 October 2022	<u>5,000</u>
Incoming resources	4,000
Outgoing resources	(5,580)
At 30 September 2023	<u>3,420</u>

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2023

6 Restricted Funds (continued)

<i>South Region</i>	£
At 1 October 2022	<u>4,167</u>
Incoming resources	20,000
Outgoing resources	(11,554)
At 30 September 2023	<u>12,613</u>
<i>South West Region</i>	£
At 1 October 2022	<u>-</u>
Incoming resources	13,877
Outgoing resources	(9,356)
At 30 September 2023	<u>4,521</u>
<i>London and South East Region</i>	£
At 1 October 2022	<u>-</u>
Incoming resources	40,000
Outgoing resources	(22,008)
At 30 September 2023	<u>17,992</u>
<i>North East and Yorkshire Region</i>	£
At 1 October 2022	<u>-</u>
Incoming resources	31,828
Outgoing resources	(15,311)
At 30 September 2023	<u>16,517</u>

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2023

7 Employees

The average number of employees during the year was 15 (2022 - 14).

8 Trustees' expenses

During the year no payments were made to trustees except in respect of direct reimbursement of expenses in line with our expenses policy.

9 Resources expended

	2023
	£
Cost of generating funds:	
Fundraising activities	5,726
Fundraising salary costs	32,903
	<hr/> 38,629 <hr/>

	2023
	£
Charitable activities:	
Volunteer support costs	77,079
Administration costs	36,229
Salaries	313,603
	<hr/> 426,911 <hr/>

READ EASY UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1151288

Accounts

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year ending September 30th, 2022

"I have been going to Read Easy for two years. I have more confidence and I don't feel ashamed anymore. It's just like they say, it's never too late to learn. I would not have done it without Read Easy." Steve – Reader, Read Easy Bridport

Overview

Read Easy UK (REUK) supports adults learning to read. Our vision is for everyone in the UK to have the literacy skills they need to realise their potential and live life to the full. We are the only national charity providing this service - free, confidential, one-to-one reading coaching by trained volunteers, working in locally run groups across the country.

The past year has seen our services grow dramatically. We have more than doubled the number of readers being coached, and the number of volunteer groups across the country has increased by 35 per cent, with particularly strong growth in London. We have trained more than 1,000 volunteers, and the BBC documentary *Jay Blades Learning to Read at 51* led to an exponential increase in enquiries from Readers and potential volunteers.

This rapid expansion was particularly encouraging in what has also been a year of transition for REUK. Eleven years after setting up the first Read Easy group, our Founder and CEO, Ginny Williams-Ellis, retired in February. Ginny developed REUK from one group in Dorset to 81 groups across England, helping to change the lives of thousands of people, and we were delighted when her achievements were honoured with the award of an MBE. On behalf of all REUK's staff, volunteers and readers, past and present, the Trustees thank Ginny for her vision, hard work and integrity.

Our new chief executive, Carla Priddon, was appointed in November 2021 following a rigorous interview process, and after a six-week handover with Ginny, took over the leadership role officially in April. Carla has extensive experience of charity management and has settled into her new role quickly and successfully.

"On this journey I'll be meeting people who can't read, for whatever reason, and hopefully helping them. I'd love this film to inspire the millions of other adults in the same situation as me."

Jay Blades, MBE, Reader with Read Easy

Our developments, achievements, and impact in 2021/22:

During the year we:

- Helped 948 Readers to learn to read, up from 463 the previous year.
- Supported 81 volunteer groups nationally, up from 60 the previous year.
- Expanded in London – from 9 groups to 18.



- Worked with 1,400 volunteers who together gave more than 218,400 hours of their time to help people learn to read.
- Increased our remote coaching for readers, including pioneering projects in Nottingham and Cornwall.
- Achieved primetime BBC coverage with *Jay Blades Learning to Read at 51* – [Jay Blades' journey of learning to read – BBC](#) – which helped to increase awareness, reduce stigma and encourage potential readers to seek help.
- Celebrated the award of an MBE to REUK Founder Ginny Williams-Ellis.
- Delivered training to 1,210 volunteer reading coaches.
- Developed an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy, with clear plans for measurable actions in 2022-23 and beyond.
- Began working in partnership with other literacy charities, corporate organisations, and research institutions, to continue improving our efficiency and sharing best practice.

"I find Volunteering to be a great way of being involved in something I believe benefits others. Giving some of my time and using some of my skills is really satisfying and a very tangible way of supporting an essential charity. I find I also learn new skills, meet new people, and enjoy the commitment and satisfaction that comes with being part of a scheme and group that clearly makes a difference."

Finn – Venue Organiser for Read Easy Shropshire Hills

Fundraising and finance

During the year, REUK managed to grow sustainably by attracting new income and drawing on reserves and a modest development fund brought forward from the previous year.

Results: Total income was £275,476 (2020-21: £384,804), all of which has been, or will be, used for the running and expansion of the charity. Income in 2020-21 was high, due in part to the Radio 4 Appeal which was a one-off event. This year's total was always expected to be lower, and the situation was exacerbated by unexpectedly high turnover of fundraising staff for personal reasons and a bleak national economic climate.

Expenditure was £396,041 (2020-21: £289,816). This increase was crucial to support planned growth and was partly funded by the modest development fund created to support the charity through a time of transition and development. This growth included an increase in staffing levels from 7.4 to 9 FTE, and all three senior team members moving from 0.8 FTE to full time. The team of freelance Trainers also increased from four to six during the year, to match the growth in reading coach numbers. These staffing levels provide stability and will ensure that REUK has the resources and infrastructure needed to meet our charitable objectives and to grow sustainably.

Overall, the Trustees consider financial performance during the year to have been a good outcome in difficult circumstances. They continue to monitor the situation closely and believe that the appointment of a new Head of Trusts Fundraising in early 2023, with further recruitment in the fundraising team planned, will significantly boost income in the year ahead.

Volunteers:

In addition to employing full and part time staff, REUK is also reliant on the support of approximately 1,400 regular volunteers who help Readers in their local communities. The Trustees are hugely grateful for this support, without which the Charity could not function.



Donations: Income during the year was made up of grants from a range of trusts and foundations, individual donations and the annual subscriptions and training income from REUK's affiliated groups.

We are particularly grateful to the following:

29 th May 1961	Lord Faringdon Charitable Trust
Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Foundation	Man Charitable Trust
Anonymous Donor Trust	Notgrove Trust
Dovedale Foundation	Patrick & Helena Frost Foundation
Dulverton Trust	Ros and Alan Haigh
Ecclesiastical	Schroder Charity Trust
EJ Thompson Memorial Fund	Sharegift
GEMs Book Club	Sobell Foundation
Girdler's Charity	Society of the Holy Child Jesus
Grocer's Charity	Susanna Peake Charitable Trust
Ideas Exchange	Unwin Charitable Trust
John Coates Charitable Trust	Valentine Charitable Trust
John Laing Charitable Trust	Vandervell Foundation
The Lightbulb Trust	Wates Family Enterprise Trust

Reserves policy: The Trustees have always ensured that the Charity has sufficient funds in reserve to withstand any shortfall in income or unforeseen expenditure, and this approach was maintained throughout the year. In addition, in view of our ambitious plans and the difficult economic climate, the Trustees have recently approved a formal Reserves Policy. The Charity now aims to hold sufficient cash to cover at least three months' operating costs, and Trustees hope to increase this to six months' cover by 2026.

Investment policy: The charity funds its activities on a regular basis and as such is not involved with investment activities. Reserves are placed in interest bearing accounts to provide maximum income but with short-term access.

Public Benefit: The Trustees note the Charity Commission's guidance on the need for charities to deliver a public benefit, and believe that the achievements outlined above, as well as our ambitious plans to help more adults learn to read in the years ahead, show how we are meeting this need.

Risk review: The Trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and processes and systems have been established to mitigate these risks. All identified risks are monitored closely by the CEO and senior staff and are reviewed by Trustees on a quarterly basis.

"I want to become something, to make an impact and to do the right thing – and I want to encourage other people like me to come forward and seek help too. Most importantly, I want to see the smiles on my children's faces when I read to them. It's such a massive achievement for me and nothing makes me happier."

Jonathan – Reader.



Strategic Plan

In August and September 2022, the Trustees and Management Team reviewed progress against the year's strategic plan. All the key goals for 2021/22 (as outlined in last year's annual report) had been met or exceeded.

New targets were agreed (see below), and in 2022/23 a new three-year plan will be developed.

Aims and ambitions for 2022/23

REUK has always been committed to delivering an excellent service to adults who want to learn to read, and that remains our top priority. In support of that goal, the charity is working hard to develop diverse and sustainable sources of income, and to raise awareness nationally about the importance of adult literacy and how it can be improved.

To achieve these goals, in 2022/23 we will:

- Support over 1,000 Readers for the first time.
- Increase the number of volunteer groups from 81 to 99.
- Achieve full England coverage, with a new Regional Advisor appointed for the North-East and Yorkshire.
- Increase opportunities for digital learning, to help more Readers.
- Develop partnerships with other literacy charities, to increase our impact.
- Increase our awareness and advocacy work.
- Improve our efficiency by further developing our systems and processes.
- Implement our new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy.
- Strengthen our evaluation processes.
- Diversify our income sources.

Trustees are mindful that, although problems stemming from the pandemic eased during the year, economic prospects are bleak and REUK is likely to face challenges as it continues to expand and help more readers. A period of consolidation is likely, but the Trustees are confident that the charity is well positioned to continue providing its much-needed services.

*"It's the best feeling in the world to be able to read with your children."
Sarah - Graduate Reader*

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

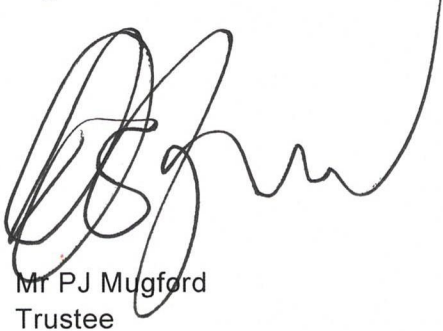


- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2016 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2016) and that an independent examination is required.

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:



Mr PJ Mugford
Trustee



Ms P Koulouri
Trustee

29th April 2023



Read Easy UK

Financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2022

Charity number 1151288

Read Easy UK

Legal and administrative information

Registered charity number:	1151288
Principal address:	Unit 3 Batsford Estate Yard Batsford Moreton-in-Marsh Gloucestershire GL56 9QF
Trustees:	Mr P Gee - resigned Ms P Koulouri Ms C O'Connor Mr P Espinasse Ms JE Peerless Mr CJ Bale Ms H Ayles Mr PJ Mugford
Chief Executive:	Ms C Priddon
Bankers:	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JC
Independent examiner:	Asad Noorani FCA Tayabali Tomlin Kenton House Oxford Street Moreton-in-Marsh Gloucestershire GL56 0LA

Read Easy UK

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Read Easy UK

We report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2022 which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the financial statements that we have been engaged to compile, report to the charity's trustees that we have done so, and state those matters we have agreed to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our work or for this report.

Respective responsibilities of the council members and reporting Accountants

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of opinion

Our examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- 1 which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act; or
- 2 to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Asad Noorani FCA
Tayabali Tomlin
Kenton House
Oxford Street
Moreton-in-Marsh
GL56 0LA

29 April 2023

Read Easy UK

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 30 September 2022

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	2022 Total funds	2021 Total funds
Incoming resources				
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds:</i>				
Voluntary income	177,290	50,000	227,290	368,997
Affiliation fees and subscriptions	12,550	-	12,550	3,800
Investment income	251	-	251	37
Training income	35,216	-	35,216	11,324
Sundry income	169	-	169	646
Total incoming resources	225,476	50,000	275,476	384,804
Resources expended				
Cost of generating funds:				
Fundraising activities	(1,168)	-	(1,168)	(1,209)
Governance	(2,448)	-	(2,448)	(2,113)
Charitable activities:				
Volunteer support costs	(277,218)	(77,166)	(354,384)	(282,176)
Administration costs	(38,041)	-	(38,041)	(4,318)
Total resources expended	(318,875)	(77,166)	(396,041)	(289,816)
Net movement in funds	(93,399)	(27,166)	(120,565)	94,988
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	248,083	36,333	284,416	189,428
Total funds carried forward	154,684	9,167	163,851	284,416

Read Easy UK

Balance Sheet

At 30 September 2022

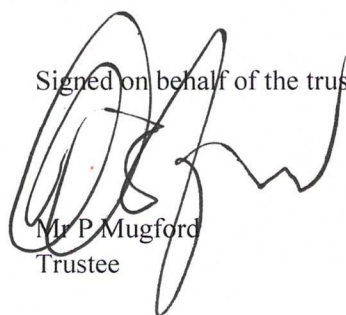
	Note	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	2		11,668		9,219
Current assets					
Debtors	3	12,946		9,956	
Cash at bank		150,533		271,702	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>(11,296)</u>		<u>(6,461)</u>	
Net current assets			152,183		275,197
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>163,851</u>		<u>284,416</u>

Represented by:

General reserve

Balance brought forward		284,416		189,428	
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year		(120,565)		94,988	
Balance carried forward	5, 6	<u>163,851</u>		<u>284,416</u>	

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:



Mr P Mugford
Trustee

29 April 2023



Ms P Koulouri
Trustee

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer and office equipment – 25% on reducing balance

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when they are receivable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly and those of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Investments

Investments are valued annually at market value. Gains or losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income has been taken into account on an accruals basis.

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2022

	£	£
2 Tangible fixed assets		
	Computer & Office Equipment	Total
Cost		
At 1 October 2021	18,129	18,129
Additions	6,338	6,338
Disposals	-	-
At 30 September 2022	<u>24,467</u>	<u>24,467</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 October 2021	8,910	8,910
Charge for year	3,889	3,889
Eliminated on disposal	-	-
At 30 September 2022	<u>12,799</u>	<u>12,799</u>
Net book values		
At 30 September 2022	<u>11,668</u>	<u>11,668</u>
At 30 September 2021	<u>9,219</u>	<u>9,219</u>
3 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year		
	2022	2021
	£	£
Other debtors	12,946	9,956
	<u>12,946</u>	<u>9,956</u>

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2022

4 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other creditors	11,296	6,461
	<u>11,296</u>	<u>6,461</u>

5 Unrestricted Funds

General unrestricted fund

	£
At 1 October 2021	<u>206,464</u>
Incoming resources	225,476
Outgoing resources	(309,591)
At 30 September 2022	<u>122,349</u>

Organisation development fund

	£
At 1 October 2021	<u>41,619</u>
Incoming resources	-
Outgoing resources	(9,284)
At 30 September 2022	<u>32,335</u>

6 Restricted Funds

General restricted fund

	£
At 1 October 2021	<u>-</u>
Incoming resources	30,000
Outgoing resources	(25,000)
At 30 September 2022	<u>5,000</u>

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2022

6 Restricted Funds (continued)

South Region

	£
At 1 October 2021	<u>-</u>
Incoming resources	20,000
Outgoing resources	(15,833)
At 30 September 2022	<u>4,167</u>

Central West Region

	£
At 1 October 2021	<u>11,458</u>
Incoming resources	-
Outgoing resources	(11,458)
At 30 September 2022	<u>-</u>

London and South East Region

	£
At 1 October 2021	<u>24,875</u>
Incoming resources	-
Outgoing resources	(24,875)
At 30 September 2022	<u>-</u>

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2022

7 Employees

The average number of employees during the year was 14 (2021 - 12).

8 Trustees' expenses

During the year no payments were made to trustees except in respect of direct reimbursement of expenses for which vouchers were provided.

READ EASY UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1151288

Accounts

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year ending September 30th 2021

'I feel I've changed quite a bit. I do feel more confident. My next challenge is to pass my theory test and driving test. I want to be able to read the questions myself, rather than having someone read them to me.' Guy, new reader

Charitable activities

Read Easy UK has had another strong year. In response to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, our existing volunteers have continued to provide reading coaching remotely, when necessary, and the charity as a whole has continued to expand, launching more volunteer-led groups than in any previous year. To support this growth, we have increased our income and built our head office capacity to support our volunteers.

By the end of last year, we realised that Covid could be with us for some time and that we needed to encourage those volunteers who were less confident about using remote working methods. We therefore moved our usual autumn conference onto Zoom and used it as a platform to allow volunteers to share their successes. The conference was a 3-hour event, with over 160 attendees, and extremely well received.

Following the conference, we saw a definite growth in the confidence of many volunteers to experiment with remote coaching, and a steady increase in the numbers of Readers either starting or returning to coaching. Read Easy Nottingham, which was launched just after the pandemic began, has to date only enrolled and coached Readers using online methods, and by the end of the year had a cohort of 22 reading pairs working remotely. Although 79 Readers had not been able to resume coaching because of insurmountable problems, all groups were active again and, overall, the number of reading pairs was not far off pre-pandemic levels (463 as opposed to 503).

Given the difficulties of starting new groups during a pandemic, volunteer Pioneers also continued to be remarkably active. During the year, 24 new Pioneers were recruited, leading to 15 new groups being established, while four existing groups expanded their geographic reach. The overall increase, with one group closing, was from 33 to 47 affiliated groups. Seven of the new groups were in major conurbations in North West England. At the end of the year, 13 Pioneers were still working towards setting up new groups. The number of regions covered increased during the year from five to seven, with the appointment of two new Regional Advisers to cover London North & Region and London South & South East. As a result, by the end of September, nine new Pioneers had been recruited across these two regions alone.

Across the country, Read Easy had nearly 1100 volunteers. This included 361 Management Team members and 71 Coordinators, as various groups increased their number of Coordinators in order to support more Readers. These increases provide significant potential for future growth. In addition, there was a welcome, if modest, increase in overall diversity amongst volunteers, including significant growth in the number of younger people volunteering.



Read Easy's proactive approaches have helped to attract the funding needed to support growth. As well as funding the two new Regional Advisers, increased income has enabled us to strengthen our infrastructure. The Management Team was expanded with the appointment of a Head of Administration and Finance, and the head office administrative support team was increased to two, making a total of six head office staff including the Chief Executive. We also moved from an office in the Chief Executive's home to a new and bigger office nearby.

All staff continued to work on a part-time basis, allowing the maximum spread of skills or geographic coverage from the funds available. The team of freelance Trainers also increased from three to four during the year, and two new Trustees were appointed.

'I didn't think that I would ever be able to read a book, but when I heard about Read Easy, I thought I would give it a go. I didn't think it would be as amazing as it is. I can now have a go at reading the newspaper which I have never done before. I was also given my first book for Christmas, which I have now read three pages of. My confidence has grown thanks to an amazing and patient teacher. It's really changed my life.' Linda, new reader

National publicity and website development

Throughout the year, Read Easy significantly raised its profile with Readers and volunteers being featured in national and local media. This included a very successful BBC Radio 4 appeal on Easter Sunday, as well as several features on BBC News online, Radio 5 Live and on national and local TV. To maximise the benefits of this publicity, we undertook a major rebuild of our website.

Recruitment of new Chief Executive

Following the decision of Read Easy's founder and Chief Executive to step down at the end of March 2022, the Trustees spent some time in the early part of the year planning a careful process to recruit a new Chief Executive. The post was advertised during September 2021 in anticipation of an appointment being made in November.

Fundraising and finance

It is encouraging that during this year Read Easy UK was able to continue to attract new funding and significantly increase its income to ensure its sustainable growth.

Results: The total incoming resources for the year October 2020–September 2021 amounted to £384,804 (2019-20: £280,743), all of which has been or will be used for the running and expansion of the charity. Expenditure amounted to £289,816 (2019-20: £203,580).

The increased expenditure for the year was in line with expectations and was crucial to support planned growth and predicted activities. In particular, there was an increase in staffing levels from 5 to 7.4 fte. In addition, a significant amount was invested in the rebuilding of the Read Easy website in order to maximise the benefits of both the BBC Radio 4 Appeal and future publicity and fundraising opportunities. There was also a one-off investment in the recruitment process for our new Chief Executive to ensure we were able to find the best possible person to lead the charity on to its next stage of development.

Donations: Income over the last year has been made up of grants from a range of trusts and foundations, individual donations and the annual subscriptions and training income from Read Easy UK's affiliated groups. We are particularly grateful to the following:



29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	Patrick & Helena Frost Foundation
Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Foundation	Ros and Alan Haigh
CHK Charities Ltd	Schroder Charity Trust
Dovedale Foundation	Sobell Foundation
Dulverton Trust	Society of the Holy Child Jesus
EJ Thompson Memorial Fund	Susanna Peake Charitable Trust
Grocers' Charity	Swire Charitable Trust (discretionary grant fund)
John Coates Charitable Trust	Tesco Bags of Help
John Laing Charitable Trust	TS Eliot Foundation
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	Unwin Charitable Trust
Lightbulb Trust	Valentine Charitable Trust
National Lottery Covid-19 Fund	Vandervell Foundation
Notgrove Trust	

Reserves policy: Funds are held to meet the projected costs of the charity for a period of six to nine months. This policy is reviewed annually by the Trustees.

Investment policy: The charity funds its activities on a regular basis and as such is not involved with investment activities. Reserves are invested in interest bearing accounts to provide maximum income but with short-term access.

Risk review: The Trustees have conducted their own review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate these risks. These procedures are reviewed annually to ensure they still meet the needs of the charity.

Progress against strategic plan and goals for the coming year

In August and September 2021, the Trustees and Management Team took time to review progress against the previous year's strategic plan and to create further detailed goals for the next three years. All key goals for the last year (as outlined in last year's annual report) had been met or exceeded and there were no areas of concern.

Key goals for the year October 2021 – September 2022 include:

1. Appoint a new Chief Executive;
2. Appoint a part-time Regional Adviser to allow Read Easy to expand its services into North East England;
3. Increase the combined number of affiliated and Pioneer groups around the country from 60 to 81;
4. Launch a pilot project in Cornwall to test the feasibility of one management team covering an entire county using remote coaching methods for outlying rural areas;
5. Begin development of a new CRM system to streamline processes and increase efficiency across the organisation;
6. Strengthen collaboration with other literacy and adult education organisations, to increase effectiveness and influence national policy on literacy at all levels;
7. Develop productive relationships at a national level with other organisations and businesses who can refer staff or clients to Read Easy;



8. Continue to raise public awareness of the extent of adult reading difficulties and reduce the stigma of not being able to read.

A full breakdown of our goals, targets and measures for the coming year is contained in our strategic plan.

'The biggest change in my life is my self-confidence. I now just think "What's the worst that can happen?" and I have a go. I used 'pay at the pump' for the first time the other day – I would never have done that before because I'd be worried I couldn't read the instructions on the screen. If you can't read, don't be ashamed, just go out and ask for help'. Steve, new reader

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2016 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2016) and that an independent examination is required.

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:

Mr PJ Mugford
Trustee

Mr CJ Bale
Trustee

29 January 2022



Read Easy UK

Financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2021

Charity number 1151288

Read Easy UK

Legal and administrative information

Registered charity number: 1151288

Principal address: Unit 3
Batsford Estate Yard
Batsford
Moreton-in-Marsh
Gloucestershire
GL56 9QF

Trustees: Mr J Hunt – resigned 10 October 2021
Mr P Gee
Ms P Koulouri – appointed 26 July 2021
Ms C O’Connor – appointed 26 July 2021
Mr P Espinasse
Ms JE Peerless
Mrs L Aspey – resigned 21 October 2020
Mr CJ Bale
Ms H Ayles
Mr PJ Mugford

Chief Executive: Mrs V J Williams-Ellis

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JC

Independent examiner: Sophia Maynell FCA
Tayabali Tomlin
Kenton House
Oxford Street
Moreton-in-Marsh
Gloucestershire
GL56 0LA

Read Easy UK

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Read Easy UK

We report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2021 which are set out on pages 7 to 13.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the financial statements that we have been engaged to compile, report to the charity's trustees that we have done so, and state those matters we have agreed to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our work or for this report.

Respective responsibilities of the council members and reporting Accountants

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of opinion

Our examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- 1 which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act; or
- 2 to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Sophia Maynell FCA
Tayabali Tomlin
Kenton House
Oxford Street
Moreton-in-Marsh
GL56 0LA

29 January 2022

Read Easy UK

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 30 September 2021

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	2021 Total funds	2020 Total funds
Incoming resources				
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds:</i>				
Voluntary income	274,997	94,000	368,997	250,309
Affiliation fees and subscriptions	3,800	-	3,800	7,792
Investment income	37	-	37	19
Training income	11,324	-	11,324	6,160
Furlough grant	646	-	646	16,463
Total incoming resources	290,804	94,000	384,804	280,743
Resources expended				
Cost of generating funds:				
Fundraising activities	(1,209)	-	(1,209)	(442)
Governance	(2,113)	-	(2,113)	(1,795)
Charitable activities:				
Volunteer support costs	(204,087)	(78,089)	(282,176)	(192,772)
Administration costs	(4,318)	-	(4,318)	(8,571)
Total resources expended	(211,727)	(78,089)	(289,816)	(203,580)
Net movement in funds	79,077	15,911	94,988	77,163
Reconciliation of funds				
Unrestricted funds brought forward	169,006	20,422	189,428	112,265
Total funds carried forward	248,083	36,333	284,416	189,428

Read Easy UK

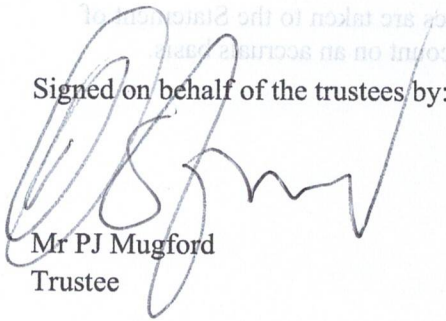
Read Easy UK

Balance Sheet

At 30 September 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Tangible assets	2	9,219	2,909
Current assets			
Debtors	3	9,956	4,578
Cash at bank		271,702	188,490
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>(6,461)</u>	<u>(6,549)</u>
Net current assets		275,197	186,519
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>284,416</u>	<u>189,428</u>
 Represented by:			
<i>General reserve</i>			
Balance brought forward		189,428	112,265
Surplus for the year		94,988	77,163
Balance carried forward	5, 6	<u>284,416</u>	<u>189,428</u>

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:



Mr PJ Mugford
Trustee

Chris Bale

Mr CJ Bale
Trustee

29 January 2022

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer and office equipment – 25% on reducing balance

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when they are receivable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly and those of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Investments

Investments are valued annually at market value. Gains or losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income has been taken into account on an accruals basis.

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2021

	£	£
2 Tangible fixed assets		
	Computer & Office Equipment	Total
Cost		
At 1 October 2020	8,746	8,746
Additions	9,383	9,383
Disposals	-	-
At 30 September 2021	<u>18,129</u>	<u>18,129</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 October 2020	5,837	5,837
Charge for year	3,073	3,073
Eliminated on disposal	-	-
At 30 September 2021	<u>8,910</u>	<u>8,910</u>
Net book values		
At 30 September 2021	<u>9,219</u>	<u>9,219</u>
At 30 September 2020	<u>2,909</u>	<u>2,909</u>
3 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year		
	2021	2020
	£	£
Other debtors	9,956	4,578
	<u>9,956</u>	<u>4,578</u>

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2021

4 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other creditors	6,461	6,549
	<u>6,461</u>	<u>6,549</u>

5 Unrestricted Funds

General unrestricted fund

	£
At 1 October 2020	<u>119,006</u>
Incoming resources	290,804
Outgoing resources	(203,346)
At 30 September 2021	<u>206,464</u>

Organisation development fund

	£
At 1 October 2020	<u>50,000</u>
Incoming resources	-
Outgoing resources	(8,381)
At 30 September 2021	<u>41,619</u>

6 Restricted Funds

General restricted fund

	£
At 1 October 2020	<u>-</u>
Incoming resources	31,500
Outgoing resources	(31,500)
At 30 September 2021	<u>-</u>

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2021

6 Restricted Funds (continued)

<i>North West Region</i>	£
At 1 October 2020	<u>20,422</u>
Incoming resources	-
Outgoing resources	(20,422)
At 30 September 2021	<u>-</u>
<i>Central West Region</i>	£
At 1 October 2020	<u>-</u>
Incoming resources	12,500
Outgoing resources	(1,042)
At 30 September 2021	<u>11,458</u>
<i>South West Region</i>	£
At 1 October 2020	<u>-</u>
Incoming resources	10,000
Outgoing resources	(10,000)
At 30 September 2021	<u>-</u>
<i>London and South East Region</i>	£
At 1 October 2020	<u>-</u>
Incoming resources	40,000
Outgoing resources	(15,125)
At 30 September 2021	<u>24,875</u>

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2021

7 Trustees' expenses

During the year no payments were made to trustees except in respect of direct reimbursement of expenses for which vouchers were provided.

READ EASY UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1151288

Accounts



Read Easy UK

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 September 2020

Charity number 1151288

Read Easy UK

Legal and administrative information

Registered charity number:	1151288
Principal address:	The Old Post Office Bell Lane Blockley Moreton-in-Marsh Gloucestershire GL56 9BB
Trustees:	Mr J Hunt Mr P Gee Mr J Price – resigned 23 April 2020 Mr P Espinasse Mrs JE Peerless Mrs L Aspey Mr CJ Bale Mrs H Ayles Mr PJ Mugford
Chief Executive:	Mrs V J Williams-Ellis
Bankers:	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JC
Independent examiner:	Sophia Maynell FCA Tayabali Tomlin Kenton House Oxford Street Moreton-in-Marsh Gloucestershire GL56 0LA

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 September 2020

Charitable activities

The Trustees are pleased to report that during this year, despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, Read Easy UK has been able to consolidate its existing activities and steadily increase its geographic reach to enable an increasing number of adults to learn to read.

At the start of the lockdown in March 2020, all in-person, one-to-one reading coaching stopped, meaning that initially there was very little volunteer activity. There were also indications that Read Easy UK's funding could be seriously impacted as a result of regular funders diverting funds to coronavirus-related causes. In response to these two factors, many staff – particularly those directly responsible for volunteers - were put on furlough for three months, with short returns to work during that period to provide support where needed.

At the same time, the charity quickly recognised the potential for moving at least some of its activities online and began to develop new resources and methods of working to facilitate this, using phones, computers and tablets. As a result, by the end of June, around 100 reading pairs had managed to restart using remote coaching methods, and by the end of September there were nearly 200 active reading pairs across approximately 33 groups.

These developments have been extremely valuable and have provided Read Easy with immediate and longer-term possibilities for offering remote coaching to those who are otherwise unable to access our services. However, many of those adults that Read Easy works with do not have access to computers, tablets and the internet (or even smart phones), either for financial reasons or because of their lack of reading skills and general confidence. It was therefore challenging, if not impossible, for many of those who had earlier been receiving one-to-one, in-person coaching, to move to remote coaching during the pandemic.

In addition, the pandemic made it very difficult for other adults with reading difficulties to come forward and enrol with Read Easy after the lockdown started in March, so enrolment numbers were significantly down during the year. It was therefore encouraging that the overall number of Readers coached during the year, just over 500, was still up from the year before, although not as high as it would have been under normal circumstances.

It can be estimated that Read Easy provided 11,500 hours of volunteer reading coaching during the first half of the year, and – on a very conservative estimate – at least 2,500 hours using remote coaching methods in the second half of the year. In total, this amounts to at least 14,000 hours of reading coaching in what was a very difficult year.

After the initial shock of the lockdown, other aspects of volunteering were also able to restart by moving online, including local group management team meetings and the pioneering of new Read Easy groups. Remarkably, several new Pioneers were recruited after the start of the pandemic, and several were able to conduct remotely the entire process of setting up a new group, from holding online public and other meetings, to recruiting and interviewing all the members of new management teams. As a result, by the end of the year, three new groups were very close to affiliating to Read Easy UK. As four other new groups had affiliated during the first half of the year and two existing groups had expanded their geographic reach, there was remarkable growth overall during the year considering the circumstances.

The Trustees are very grateful to all the staff, local Management Team members, Coordinators and Coaches who have worked so tirelessly and effectively during a particularly difficult year to continue to deliver Read Easy's services.

Diversity and Inclusivity Survey

In April, the Trustees established a Diversity & Inclusivity working group, to explore how the charity could increase diversity amongst both its volunteers and employees. During the summer, Read Easy UK was fortunate to be able to take on a funded-intern from the London School of Economics to conduct a survey on the subject of volunteer diversity and inclusivity. His report was provided at the end of the summer, in time for sharing at Read Easy's conference in October, and will provide a basis for further work on this important topic in the coming year.

Fundraising and finance

Initial concerns about the impact of the pandemic on Read Easy's fundraising were not entirely unfounded, as some existing and potential funders did decide to divert their funds to Covid-related causes. It has therefore been encouraging that Read Easy UK has still been able to attract new funding this year, even since the beginning of the pandemic.

Results: The total incoming resources for the year ended 30 September 2020 amounted to £264,280 (2019: £241,227), all of which has been or will be used in providing for the running and expansion of the charity. Expenditure amounted to £187,117 (2019: £200,070).

Donations: Income over the last year has been made up of grants from a number of trusts, individual donations and the annual subscriptions and training income from Read Easy UK's affiliated groups. We are particularly grateful to the following:

- The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
- Alta Advisers
- CHK Charities Ltd.
- The Dovedale Foundation
- EJ Thompson Memorial Fund
- Ecclesiastical Movement for Good Awards
- The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
- The Garfield Weston Foundation
- John Laing Charitable Trust
- The Patrick & Helena Frost Foundation
- Ros and Alan Haigh
- Schroder Charity Trust
- The Sobell Foundation
- Souter Charitable Trust
- Susanna Peake Charitable Trust
- Swire Charitable Trust (discretionary grant fund)
- Tesco Bags of Help
- TS Eliot Foundation
- Unwin Charitable Trust
- The Valentine Charitable Trust
- Vandervell Foundation

Reserves policy: Funds are held to meet the projected costs of the charity for a period of six to nine months. This policy is reviewed annually by the Trustees.

Investment policy: The charity funds activities on a regular basis and as such is not involved with investment activities. Reserves are invested in interest bearing accounts to provide maximum income but with short-term access.

Risk review: The Trustees have conducted their own review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate these risks. These procedures are reviewed annually to ensure they still meet the needs of the charity.

Looking ahead

The Trustees are encouraged by how much has been achieved in the first year of this strategic plan, especially given the challenges presented by the pandemic, and by the fact that the charity has finished the year in a strong financial position. Based on this, and on the fact that new methods of working remotely have now been developed, they are confident that Read Easy can continue to operate and expand successfully in the year ahead, even if the impact of the virus continues to some extent to limit activities.

Plans for the year October 2020 – September 2021 include:

- appointing two part-time Regional Advisers to allow Read Easy to expand its services into London and the South East;
- increasing the combined number of affiliated and Pioneer groups around the country from 42 to 55;
- further developing methods for delivering remote coaching in the future to adults who live in parts of the country where there are no Read Easy groups;
- appointing a Head of Administration & Finance to strengthen central support for our volunteers;
- developing a new website that will attract more volunteers and potential new readers (including a facility for those who cannot read);
- raising public awareness of the extent of adult illiteracy and reducing the stigma of not being able to read, and
- contributing to the ongoing national conversation about how to improve adult basic skills.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2016 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2016) and that an independent examination is required.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:



Mr J Hunt
Trustee



Mr P Gee
Trustee

21 May 2021

Read Easy UK

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Read Easy UK

We report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2020 which are set out on pages 7 to 12.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the financial statements that we have been engaged to compile, report to the charity's trustees that we have done so, and state those matters we have agreed to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our work or for this report.

Respective responsibilities of the council members and reporting Accountants

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of opinion

Our examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- 1 which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act; or
- 2 to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Sophia Maynell FCA
Tayabali Tomlin
Kenton House
Oxford Street
Moreton-in-Marsh
GL56 0LA

21 May 2021

Read Easy UK

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 30 September 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
Incoming resources		
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds:</i>		
Voluntary income	250,309	226,266
Affiliation fees and subscriptions	7,792	5,369
Investment income	19	42
Training income	6,160	9,550
Total incoming resources	<u>264,280</u>	<u>241,227</u>
Resources expended		
<i>Cost of generating funds:</i>		
Fundraising activities	(442)	(1,084)
Governance	(1,795)	(1,795)
<i>Charitable activities:</i>		
Volunteer support costs	(176,309)	(191,135)
Administration costs	<u>(8,571)</u>	<u>(6,056)</u>
	(185,060)	(197,191)
Total resources expended	<u>(187,117)</u>	<u>(200,070)</u>
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains	77,163	41,157
General fund brought forward	112,265	71,108
Transfer to organisation development fund	(50,000)	-
General fund carried forward	<u>139,428</u>	<u>112,265</u>
Organisation development fund		
Transfer from general fund	50,000	-
Organisation development fund carried forward	<u>50,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>189,428</u>	<u>112,265</u>

Read Easy UK

Balance Sheet

At 30 September 2020

	<i>Note</i>	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	2		2,909		3,335
Current assets					
Debtors	3		4,578	-	
Cash at bank			188,490	115,050	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4		<u>(6,549)</u>	<u>(6,120)</u>	
Net current assets			186,519		108,930
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>189,428</u>		<u>112,265</u>
Represented by:					
<i>General reserve</i>					
Balance brought forward			112,265		71,108
Surplus for the year			77,163		41,157
Balance carried forward	5,6		<u>189,428</u>		<u>112,265</u>

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:



Mr J Hunt
Trustee



Mr P Gee
Trustee

21 May 2021

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when they are receivable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly and those of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Investments

Investments are valued annually at market value. Gains or losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income has been taken into account on an accruals basis.

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2020

	£	£
2 Tangible fixed assets		
	Computer Equipment	Total
Cost		
At 1 October 2019	8,202	8,202
Additions	544	544
Disposals	-	-
At 30 September 2020	<u>8,746</u>	<u>8,746</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 October 2019	4,867	4,867
Charge for year	970	970
Eliminated on disposal	-	-
At 30 September 2020	<u>5,837</u>	<u>5,837</u>
Net book values		
At 30 September 2020	<u>2,909</u>	<u>2,909</u>
At 30 September 2019	<u>3,335</u>	<u>3,335</u>
3 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year		
	2020	2019
	£	£
Other debtors	4,578	-
	<u>4,578</u>	<u>-</u>

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2020

4 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Other creditors	6,549	6,120
	<u>6,549</u>	<u>6,120</u>

5 Unrestricted Funds

General fund

	£
At 1 October 2019	<u>112,265</u>
Incoming resources	187,780
Outgoing resources	(131,039)
Transfer to organisation development fund	(50,000)
At 30 September 2020	<u>119,006</u>

Organisation development fund

	£
At 1 October 2019	<u>-</u>
Transfer from general fund	50,000
At 30 September 2020	<u>50,000</u>

6 Restricted Funds

South West Region

	£
At 1 October 2019	<u>-</u>
Incoming resources	5,000
Outgoing resources	(5,000)
At 30 September 2020	<u>-</u>

Read Easy UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 September 2020

6 Restricted Funds (continued)

<i>North West Region</i>	£
At 1 October 2019	-
Incoming resources	41,500
Outgoing resources	(21,078)
At 30 September 2020	20,422
<i>Central West Region</i>	£
At 1 October 2019	-
Incoming resources	22,500
Outgoing resources	(22,500)
At 30 September 2020	-
<i>South Region</i>	£
At 1 October 2019	-
Incoming resources	7,500
Outgoing resources	(7,500)
At 30 September 2020	-

7 Trustees' expenses

During the year no payments were made to trustees except in respect of direct reimbursement of expenses for which vouchers were provided.

8 Related party transactions

During the year office rent in the sum of £2,500 (2019: £3,333) was paid to Mrs V J Williams-Ellis, the Chief Executive of Read Easy.