

Charity number 1165798

READING ADVICE NETWORK
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Report and Accounts

31 March 2024

READING ADVICE NETWORK
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Report and Accounts

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Reading Advice Network
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2024

Members of the Trustee Board at 31 March 2024

Chair	Richard Harrison
Vice-Chair	Hazel Wright
Treasurer	Peter Kayes
Individual member	Andrea West
Individual member	Francesca Yates

Independent Examiner

Julian Ansell FCCA
19 Brooklyn Drive
Emmer Green
Reading
RG4 8SR

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Registered Office

13 Albert Road
Caversham
Reading
Berkshire
RG4 7AN

Registered Charity Number

1165798

Report of the Trustees

The Trustee Board presents its report for the period ended 31 March 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

The Reading Advice Network (RAN) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and was registered by the Charity Commission on 29 February 2016. It has a Trustee Board which was elected at its first Annual General Meeting on 11 October 2016 and is ultimately accountable for the conduct of the organisation.

Member organisations must give information or advice to people in Reading. They pay an annual membership fee of £30, and make two commitments - to achieve the RAN Quality Standard, and the 'Safe and Sound' Governance Mark produced by Reading Voluntary Action. At 31 March 2024 RAN had twenty-two member organisations - ABC to read, Acre, Age UK Reading, Age UK Berkshire, Autism Berkshire, Berkshire Vision, BWA, Citizens Advice Reading, Communicare, Dingley's Promise, Graft, Launchpad, No5, PACT, Parenting Special Children, Reading Welfare Rights, Reading Mencap, Reading Students Union Advice Service, Reading Voluntary Action, Refugee Support Group (Reading), The Mustard Tree and YMCA Reading.

Aims and Objectives

The Network has two aims, with supporting objectives:

- Aim 1: To improve the quality of information and advice that is available to people in Reading by:
- 1.1 setting, maintaining and publicising a quality standard for RAN members
 - 1.2 supporting members to achieve this standard
 - 1.3 helping members to share knowledge and expertise to make each other more effective
- Aim 2: To be a focal point for information and advice services in Reading by:
- 2.1 providing services which enable RAN members can discuss key issues and support each other
 - 2.2 sharing useful information with RAN members
 - 2.3 publicising RAN to non-members
 - 2.4 acting as the collective voice of RAN members to shape service provision

Our Business Plan for the three years 2024-2027 has four strategic priorities:

- remaining financially secure
- continuing to build our membership
- developing and delivering appropriate services for our members
- further strengthening our reputation

Activities and achievements

During the year RAN:

- Lost two member organisations - one which moved the base for its services out of Reading, and a second which merged with another charity
- Welcomed four new member organisations - Berkshire Vision (the newly merged charity), ABC to read, Acre and No5
- Held three Advice Forums on:
 - Current Challenges
 - Labour's policy on the Voluntary Sector
 - Networking
- Held three meetings for member CEOs to discuss current challenges
- Set up an HR Group, for staff with lead responsibility for HR in member organisations, and held three meetings of the Group
- Updated its 'Booklet for Councillors', detailing the services offered by RAN member organisations, to help them refer constituents with particular problems to the organisation most able to help them
- Also updated its booklet for GPs and Social Prescribers, to help them appropriately refer patients with non-medical problems
- Held a major consultation programme with member organisations about RAN's future development, which led to us:
 - Introducing a calendar of events for the year ahead
 - Deciding to hold at least one networking Advice Forum each year
 - Asking members to create and share 'crib sheets' on their areas of particular expertise
 - Asking members to open training sessions, where appropriate and practicable, to staff and volunteers from other member organisations
 - Creating a RAN-wide support group of staff and volunteers from member organisations
- Continued our programme of Quality Standard assessments, with two members achieving the award, and two other members having their awards confirmed for a further four years. Fourteen member organisations, 63% of the membership, now hold the award.
- Saved its member CEOs a significant amount of time which, when costed, offset many times over their £30 annual membership fee by, on their behalf, attending and reporting on a number of meetings with staff at Reading Borough Council and other VCS Leaders meetings.
- Held its eighth Annual General Meeting.

Public benefit

RAN trustees have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on reporting how RAN provides 'public benefit', and in particular to the requirements of the Charities Act & Charity Reporting Regulations.

This report from RAN's trustees is a summary of the main activities undertaken by the charity in carrying out its charitable purposes for the benefit of the public in and around Reading. These activities are principally providing advice-giving charities and similar public bodies with the support and information needed for those organisations to help people disadvantaged by poverty, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship, and similar issues.

Financial Review

The financial accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024 are set out on pages 6 - 10. The Statement of Financial Activities shows a surplus for the year of £83.19. The total reserve at the year end stands at £8,272.35..

The Charity employs no staff, being operated by volunteers, holds no significant fixed assets, property or leases, so has no ongoing financial liabilities. The Board therefore considers that there is no requirement for a reserve fund.

Projected income is £660 a year based on the present membership. The budget for the coming year envisages expenditure of around £480, which will enable the present cash balance to sustain the charity for the foreseeable future.

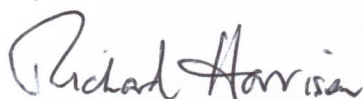
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are required by law to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the Charity. In preparing those 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;
- state whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its work.

The trustees are also responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 / Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution . 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.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on June 13, 2024.



Richard Harrison
Chair

READING ADVICE NETWORK
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the Reading Advice Network for the 12 months ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 6 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



J M Ansell FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountant
19 Brooklyn Drive
Emmer Green
READING
RG4 8SR

24 July 2024

READING ADVICE NETWORK

(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations - Members' Contributions		630	-	630	600
Interest income		16	-	16	11
Reading Voluntary Action for assessments		4,825	-	4,825	3,462
Total	1	5,471	-	5,471	4,073
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	2	5,388	-	5,388	4,174
Total		5,388	-	5,388	4,174
Net Income / (Expenditure) for the year		83	-	83	(101)
Fund balance brought forward at 1 April 2023		2,192	5,997	8,189	8,290
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2024		2,275	5,997	8,272	8,189

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 8 to 10 form part of these financial statements

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Balance Sheet

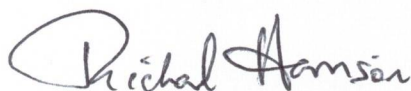
at 31st March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Current Assets			
Debtors and prepayments		247	210
Cash at bank		8,025	7,979
Total current assets		<u>8,272</u>	<u>8,189</u>
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year		-	-
Accruals and deferred income	3	-	-
Net assets		<u>8,272</u>	<u>8,189</u>
Funds of the Charity	4		
Restricted		5,997	5,997
Unrestricted		2,275	2,192
Total Funds		<u>8,272</u>	<u>8,189</u>

The Trustees consider that the charity is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that members have not required the charity to obtain an audit

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

These accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.



Richard Harrison - Chair

24 July 2024

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Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been used in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Organisation's financial statements.

a) Company limited by guarantee

The Organisation is a registered Charity number 1165798 the members of which have no personal liability in the event of the Charity winding up.

b) Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with 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) and the Companies Act 2006.

The accounts have been prepared to give a true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The Charity has early adopted the provisions of bulletin 1 as permitted.

Reading Advice Network meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

After making enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue its activities for the foreseeable future. Accordingly they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements as outlined in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities on page 3.

c) Reconciliation with previously Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the Trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 the restatement of comparative terms was required. The Trustees are of the opinion that no such restatement is required.

d) Critical accounting judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, Trustees are required to make judgments, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimation and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the current and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

In the view of the Trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting the assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

e) Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

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Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

f) Income

i) Recognition of Incoming Resources

These are included in the statement of financial activities when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain that they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with reasonable accuracy.

ii) Grants and donations

Grants are only included in the statement of financial activities when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources standards.

iii) Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for when receivable, at a reasonable estimate of their value to the Charity.

iv) Investment income

Bank and building society interest is included in the statement of financial activities when the interest falls due.

g) Expenditure and liabilities

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources. In previous years Governance costs (costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity, the Independent Examiner fees and costs in respect of the strategic management of the Charity) were shown separately in the Statement of Financial Activities. To comply with Charities SORP FRS 102 Governance costs have been included within charitable activities as an element of other support costs.

h) Fixed assets

Assets over £2000 are capitalised and depreciated over their estimated lives.

Assets costing less than £2,000 are written off in the year of acquisition.

i) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives.

IT Equipment and furniture	3 years straight line
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j) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity and as defined by the donor.

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Notes to the Financial Statements Year to 31 March 2024

2	Expenditure on charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	Business Development	-	-	-	-
	Communications and office	401	-	401	548
	Marketing and website	-	-	-	-
	Insurance	161	-	161	164
	Assessments - Reading Voluntary Action	4,826	-	4,826	3,462
	Governance - independent examination	-	-	-	-
	Training	-	-	-	-
		<u>5,388</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,388</u>	<u>4,174</u>

3	Creditors and accruals				
	Amounts falling due within one year	-	-	-	-
	Accruals and deferred income				
	- subscription received twice	-	-	-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

4	Movement in Funds	As at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers	As at 31 March 2024 £
	Restricted Funds	5,997	-	-	-	5,997
		<u>5,997</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,997</u>
	Unrestricted Funds	2,192	5,471	(5,388)	-	2,275
		<u>2,192</u>	<u>5,471</u>	<u>(5,388)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,275</u>

5 Trustees Remuneration and Expenses

None of the Trustees, nor any persons or parties connected with them, received any remuneration (2023 £Nil) nor were reimbursed any expenses (2023 £Nil) during the year.