

THE COUNTY TOY LIBRARY

England & Wales · Charity number 1166245

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-03-29

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

Contact

Address County Toy Library
4 Park Square
Northampton
NN5 7LQ

Phone 07843642320

Email northamptonshiretoylibrary@gmail.com

Website www.northamptonshirecountytoylibrary.wordpress.com

Activities

Objects: THE RELIEF AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY:(A)THE PROVISION OF A NOT FOR PROFIT LENDING LIBRARY OF EDUCATIONAL, STIMULATING AND AGE APPROPRIATE TOYS AND EQUIPMENT FOR BABIES AND CHILDREN; (B) PROMOTING WITHIN THE COUNTY THE USE AND BENEFIT OF TOY LIBRARIES FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES IN SUCH WAYS AS THE TRUSTEES THINK FIT.

Activities: The County Toy Library provides a toy/equipment lending service for families, groups, schools, Children's Centres and childminders in Northamptonshire.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Northamptonshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£18,911	£18,872	-	-
2024-03-31	£19,498	£13,625	-	-
2023-03-31	£17,959	£11,371	-	-
2022-03-31	£13,209	£12,309	-	-
2021-03-31	£7,836	£2,878	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
LORRAINE ELKS	Chair	2015-06-17
DEBRA SCOTT		2015-06-17
Laura Furr		2018-04-30
Samantha Wright		2025-10-02

THE COUNTY TOY LIBRARY

England & Wales - Charity number 1166245

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date		Period end date					
From	01	04	2024	To	31	03	2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

The County Toy Library

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1166245

Charity's principal address

4 Park Square

Kings Heath

Northampton

NN5 7LQ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Lorraine Elks	Chair		
2	Laura Furr	Board Member		
3	Eve Bond	Co-Secretary		
4	Debra Scott	Co-Secretary		

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Bank	HSBC	22 Abington Square, Northampton, NN1 2AN

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

N/A

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected at AGM

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The relief and education of children in the county of Northamptonshire for the public benefit by:

- (a) the provision of a not-for-profit lending library of educational, stimulating and age appropriate toys and equipment for babies and children;
- (b) promoting within the county the use and benefit of toy libraries for children, families and communities in such ways as the trustees think fit.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

A full report of the main activities are contained in section d.

Summary:

1. Continuation of key objectives of The County Toy Library for the benefit of the local community
2. Increasing awareness profile and ultimately membership of the library
3. Providing a wide range of high-quality toy and equipment and disposing of old stock in the most environmentally friendly and cost-effective manner possible
4. Increasing funding to enable the provision of a better level of service and to be working towards becoming self-financing.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Summary of Achievements

This past year has been one of significant growth and successful outreach for the County Toy Library, reflecting the increasing demand for our services and the dedication of our team. We have seen a remarkable 15% increase in membership, indicating that our members are engaging with the Toy Library. There has been a notable 33% rise in members from the Kings Heath area and a 40% increase in memberships for families with children who have additional needs. These figures underscore the vital role the Toy Library plays within the community.

Community Engagement and Events

Our eighth Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 24th October 2024, providing a valuable opportunity to connect with our members and stakeholders. The event was well-attended by parents, carers, and professionals, all of whom provided positive and constructive feedback. Following the AGM, the Committee dedicated a meeting to discuss this feedback, ensuring that the voices of our users directly inform our future plans.

In August 2024, we were delighted to participate in the Kings Heath Community Fun Day. To celebrate our twelve years on the estate, we shared cakes baked by a local resident, fostering a wonderful sense of community spirit. The event was a great success, allowing us to connect with new families and showcase the range of toys available for hire.

Our fundraising events have also yielded impressive results. We held two successful fairs this year: one at the annual Sports 4 Fitness fair, which raised £54.10, and our Christmas fair, which brought in an outstanding £811.60. This represents an increase of £151.60 compared to the previous year, highlighting the growing support from our community.

Funding and Grants

We have been proactive in securing funding to enhance our services and resources. In January 2024, a successful application to a local councilor resulted in a £2,000 grant. This was allocated to purchasing £1,090 of new toys and equipment, providing £210 for free memberships for children with additional needs, and creating £700 in monetary vouchers for our members. The new resources have been extremely popular with both families and the professionals who borrow on their behalf.

In March 2024, we secured two Well Northants Community grants for the Kings Heath area, totaling £4,948. These grants were awarded following a presentation at the Kings Heath Community Voting Day, where residents voted for our project. The funding has enabled us to offer sixty-eight families from Kings Heath free memberships and a £30 monetary voucher each, with the remaining £2,500 invested in new toys and equipment.

A further successful grant application to the Council in March 2025 has provided families in Kings Heath with the opportunity for free memberships and toy borrowing, further strengthening our support for the local community.

We were also delighted to receive a £1,000 grant from the Tesco Stronger Start initiative, thanks to the support of shoppers using their blue tokens. This funding is dedicated to providing free memberships for children with additional needs, each including a £20 voucher to spend in the Toy Library.

Expanding Our Reach

In response to feedback from parents and carers, particularly those in the north of the county who face transport challenges, we have been exploring ways to make our services more accessible. In collaboration with North Northants Parent Voices, we distributed a questionnaire to gather wider opinions on how we could better serve the community. The feedback indicated a strong desire for a pop-up Toy Library in either Wellingborough or Kettering.

To facilitate this expansion, we have invested in a new online lending system, 'Lend Engine'. This software will enable families to book toys online and collect them from different venues. While there have been some initial challenges in implementing the new system, our staff and volunteers are working diligently to embed it into our operations.

Operational Updates

To improve our procurement process, we have successfully applied for and are now using a debit card for online purchases of toys and equipment. In conjunction with this, we have developed a comprehensive financial policy to ensure the highest standards of financial safety and accountability.

We have also been fortunate to receive a large donation of toys from the Northamptonshire Childminding Association, which has significantly enhanced our collection. To make way for these new additions, we have conducted several clear-outs throughout the year, selling toys and equipment that were not regularly borrowed. This has proven to be a successful initiative, with online and direct sales increasing by 7.5% compared to the previous year.

Our premises have undergone all required safety and maintenance inspections this year, including for the fire alarm, emergency lighting, electrics, fabric condition, water safety, asbestos, and drains. All surveys were returned as satisfactory, and a new brake was fitted to our door shutter by the council in January.

We are pleased to have welcomed a new volunteer to our team, who is contributing to the shop and has also joined our committee. Their support is greatly appreciated.

Section D Achievements and performance

Due to the ongoing financial pressures faced by many families, the decision was made not to increase membership or borrowing costs this year. We remain committed to providing an affordable service that allows families to access a wide range of toys and equipment, freeing up their resources for other essential items.

Finally, all of our policies, including Safeguarding, Health and Safety, and Data Protection, have been reviewed and updated as required throughout the year to ensure we continue to operate safely and effectively.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

None

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F Other optional information

The chair would like to say a huge thank you to The County Toy Library manager, dedicated volunteers and trustees. All this amazing work would not be possible without your hard work and dedication. It is really very much appreciated!!

Thank you

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

L Elks

Full name(s)

Lorraine Elks

Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

Chair

Date

28.9.25



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name The County Toy Library	No (if any) 1166245
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01.04.24	To	Period end date 31.03.25
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Activities for generating funds	15,911	3,000	-	18,911	19,498
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	15,911	3,000	-	18,911	19,498
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	15,911	3,000	-	18,911	19,498
A3 Payments					
Insurance	840	-	-	840	693
Wages	8,959	-	-	8,959	7,716
Costs of charitable activities	3,839	3,644	-	7,483	3,510
Water and Sewerage	222	-	-	222	180
Telephone	565	-	-	565	595
Light and heating	803	-	-	803	931
Membership costs	3,159	3,159	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	12,069	6,803	-	18,872	13,625
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	12,069	6,803	-	18,872	13,625
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,842	- 3,803	-	39	5,873
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	21,610	7,180	-	28,790	22,917
Cash funds this year end	25,452	3,377	-	28,829	28,790

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in bank	25,452	3,377	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	25,452	3,377	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Inventory	40000	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
LELKS	LORRAINE ELKS	2.10.25
DSCOTT	Debra Scott	2.10.25

THE COUNTY TOY LIBRARY

England & Wales - Charity number 1166245

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date				
From	01	04	2023	To	31	03	2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

The County Toy Library

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1166245

Charity's principal address

4 Park Square

Kings Heath

Northampton

NN5 7LQ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Lorraine Elks	Chair		
2	Laura Furr	Board Member		
3	Eve Bond	Co-Secretary		
4	Debra Scott	Co-Secretary		

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Bank	HSBC	22 Abington Square, Northampton, NN1 2AN

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

N/A

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
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Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected at AGM

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- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The relief and education of children in the county of Northamptonshire for the public benefit by:

- (a) the provision of a not-for-profit lending library of educational, stimulating and age appropriate toys and equipment for babies and children;
- (b) promoting within the county the use and benefit of toy libraries for children, families and communities in such ways as the trustees think fit.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

A full report of the main activities are contained in section d.

Summary:

1. Continuation of key objectives of The County Toy Library for the benefit of the local community
2. Increasing awareness profile and ultimately membership of the library
3. Providing a wide range of high-quality toy and equipment and disposing of old stock in the most environmentally friendly and cost-effective manner possible
4. Increasing funding to enable the provision of a better level of service and to be working towards becoming self-financing.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Memberships from the Kings Heath area has increased by 5% and memberships for those with additional needs also increased by 3%. The main achievement is that our regular users have increased by 88%, this means that members are using The County Toy Library on a more regular basis.

The County Toy Library Facebook page has gained 16% more followers. Regular photo updates are posted, and parents/carers questions are answered promptly.

The County Toy Library held its seventh AGM on November 2nd, 2023. This provided an opportunity to reflect on the work done in the previous year. The County Toy Library received positive feedback from the parents/carers and professionals who attended. The Committee designated the meeting, following last year's AGM, to discuss the feedback given by parents/carers during the AGM.

Everard's donated £150 this year and this was used for six memberships for children with additional needs.

A Grant Application to the Council, which was submitted in January 2023, was successful. This grant included 35 free memberships for those with additional needs, each with a £20 voucher to spend in the Toy Library and this grant allowed our service to purchase £1090 of new additional needs toys/equipment.

In March 2023, The County Toy Library successfully applied for two Well Northants Community grants for the Kings Heath area. The County Toy Library were awarded 1st place for their 'Toy Box' application. The Toy Boxes contained age and development- appropriate toys, together with an accompanying Health and Safety guidance on the toys; a Toy Library advertisement leaflet and a 12 month Toy Library membership

and a £20 monetary voucher. These boxes were distributed by the Health Visitors Nursery Nurses during their 9-month and 2-year health checks. The children used the boxes for 2 months, after which time they were encouraged to utilise their membership to borrow more toys, and perhaps to become regular users. The majority of the toy boxes have been distributed. The second grant for Well Northants was for our rental costs, as The County Toy Library pays £250 per month in rent to West Northants Council.

In March 2024, The County Toy Library successfully applied for two Well Northants Community grants for the Kings Heath area. Upon applying, Toy Library representatives were invited to a Kings Heath Community Voting Day and were asked to present their applications, which were voted for by residents of the area. The Toy Library received £4,948.00 in total, £2448.00 for sixty-eight families from Kings Heath to receive free Toy Library memberships and a £30 monetary voucher to spend in the Toy Library. Then £2500 for new toys and equipment.

In January 2024, The County Toy Library applied to a local councilor for £2000, this was for £1090 to buy new toys/equipment, £210 on additional needs free memberships and £700 on monetary vouchers. The County Toy Library were successful in gaining this grant application.

Asda granted the Toy Library £339, this was for the increased utilities costs. The Toy Library signed a new contract for the electric supply due to the recent increases in our utility's cost.

The Toy Library brought a new phone, so we could take photos of new toys via google and then upload them to our database.

The Toy Library purchased leaflets so these could be shared to gain new memberships and promote our service.

The Toy Library applied for the Tesco Stronger start grant through the blue tokens in the shops and we were successful in receiving £1000. The £1000 is for free memberships for those with additional needs, each with a £20 voucher to spend in the Toy Library.

King's Heath primary school have been promoting the Toy Library through their parent/carer newsletter.

The Toy Library is in talks with North Northants Parent Voices (parent carers or close family members of children and young people with special educational needs and /or disabilities group). As they have had parents/carers commenting that the Toy Library is challenging to travel to if you live in the north of the county and if you don't drive. The Toy Library and parent voices group are going to send out a questionnaire to parents/carers and professionals to gain a wider opinion on what they would like from the Toy Library.

The Toy Library was informed by West Northants Council that they now need to pay Business rates which is an annual cost of £400.

Kings Heath held a community fun day on 4 August 2023, which the Toy Library attended. This was a great opportunity for families to meet us and see what toys we have to hire at the Toy Library.

During the year the Committee Members and Trustees of The County Toy Library have watched several videos created by The Charity Commission to stay updated on charity management. These included: managing Charity Finance, what to send to the Charity Commission and safeguarding.

The Toy Library had the Fire alarm and emergency lighting inspected on 24 August 2023 and there were no issues.

The Toy Library has gained two new volunteers, one is volunteering in the shop weekly and the other person has joined our committee.

During the year the Toy Library has had clear outs to make way for new toys/equipment and sold toys/equipment which are not borrowed on a regular basis.

Section D Achievements and performance

The Toy Library planned and delivered three events this year. The first was at Sports 4 Fitness their yearly fair which raised £87 and the second was our Christmas fair which raised £660 and the third was attending the North Northants parent forum fun day.

The County Toy Library collected donations of unused/surplus toys and items donated by the public/members. These items (if of no use in the library) were sold online or outside the Toy Library, this year this was 32% higher than last year.

The County Toy Library signed up to Amazon Smile, which gives The County Toy Library payment of a small percentage of those funds spent on Amazon Smile by it's supporters £33.02 has been raised this year.

The County Toy Library has raised £142 from the Northampton lottery.

The Toy Library is in talks with the council regarding renting a garage on Kings Heath as our service needs more space to store donations. Our service is waiting to hear about the empty SureStart Centre which is hopefully being renovated to be used as a community venue. The Toy Library wanted to rent the next door unit however currently this is not useable and the council do not have the funds to renovate it.

The County Toy Library Sunday openings remain busy, it is used by local families and families across Northamptonshire.

The County Toy Library decided not to increase membership and borrowing costs this year due to the financial crisis families are facing. The library is a place where families can borrow toys/equipment for a small cost, allowing them to use their remaining funds for priority items.

The County Toy Library policies, together with Risk Assessments where required, were reviewed during the year and updated as required, to include Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Volunteering, DBS, Complaints, Lone Working, Data Protection, Equal Opportunity and Equality and Diversity.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	None
Details of any funds materially in deficit	None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);

- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

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Section F Other optional information

The chair would like to say a huge thank you to The County Toy Library manager, dedicated volunteers and trustees. All this amazing work would not be possible without your hard work and dedication. It is really very much appreciated!!

Thank you

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	LElks	
Full name(s)	Lorraine Elks	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	7.10.24	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name The County Toy Library	No (if any) 1166245
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01.04.23	To	Period end date 31.03.24
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Activities for generating funds	12,211	7,287	-	19,498	17,959
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	12,211	7,287	-	19,498	17,959
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	12,211	7,287	-	19,498	17,959
A3 Payments					
Insurance	693	-	-	693	613
Wages	7,716	-	-	7,716	4,224
Costs of charitable activities	510	3,000	-	3,510	3,100
Water and Sewerage	180	-	-	180	180
Telephone	595	-	-	595	541
Light and heating	592	339	-	931	2,713
Membership costs	4,406	4,406	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	5,880	7,745	-	13,625	11,371
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	5,880	7,745	-	13,625	11,371
Net of receipts/(payments)	6,331	- 458	-	5,873	6,588
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	15,279	7,638	-	22,917	16,329
Cash funds this year end	21,610	7,180	-	28,790	22,917

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in bank	21,610	7,180	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	21,610	7,180	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Inventory	40000	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Lelks	Lorraine Elks	24.10.24
Ebond	Eve Bond	24.10.24

THE COUNTY TOY LIBRARY

England & Wales - Charity number 1166245

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	04	2022		31	03	2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

The County Toy Library

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

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Charity's principal address

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Kings Heath

Northampton

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Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

N/A

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

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Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The relief and education of children in the county of Northamptonshire for the public benefit by:

- (a) the provision of a not-for-profit lending library of educational, stimulating and age appropriate toys and equipment for babies and children;
- (b) promoting within the county the use and benefit of toy libraries for children, families and communities in such ways as the trustees think fit.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

A full report of the main activities are contained in section d.

Summary:

1. Continuation of key objectives of The County Toy Library for the benefit of the local community
2. Increasing awareness profile and ultimately membership of the library
3. Providing a wide range of high-quality toy and equipment and disposing of old stock in the most environmentally friendly and cost-effective manner possible
4. Increasing funding to enable the provision of a better level of service and to be working towards becoming self-financing.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Covid Risk assessment

Continue to raise funds during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The County Toy Library had a great year of increasing memberships and community engagement. The County Toy Library increased its membership by 48% over the year. Membership from the Kings Heath area increased by 82%, and memberships for those with additional needs also increased by 9%. The number of regular users has grown during this period.

The County Toy Library Facebook page has gained 29% more followers. Regular photo updates are posted, and parents/carers questions are answered promptly.

The County Toy Library held its sixth AGM on September 21, 2022. This provided an opportunity to reflect on the work done in the previous year. The County Toy Library received positive feedback from the parents/carers and professionals who attended. The Committee designated the meeting, following last year's AGM, to discuss the feedback given by parents/carers during the AGM.

The County Toy Library received £286 from Northampton Partnership Home in January 2022. This was allocated to 11 free memberships, along with £20 to spend in the shop, for children with special educational needs.

Barratt Homes donated £1,000 to The County Toy Library, which was allocated to local families living in Kings Heath. This covered 14 memberships and £30 spend in the shop, with £500 earmarked for advertising flyers. The County Toy Library contacted local school to promote this offer, which was used by November 2022.

A Grant Application to the Council, which was submitted in August 2022, was successful. This grant included 20 free memberships for those with additional needs, each with a £20 voucher to spend in the Toy Library. It also covered 20 free memberships and £20 vouchers for low-income families. This grant allowed our service to purchase £400 of new additional needs toys/equipment. Currently 15 memberships have been allocated for additional needs, and 14 have been allocated for low-income families.

The County Toy Library successfully applied for a £500 grant from Magic Little Grants which was received in October 2022. The Toy Library is conscious that parents/carers and groups for children with additional needs often cannot afford to buy and store expensive toys/equipment required for skill development. The grant funds were spent on purchasing new equipment for parents/carers and groups to borrow for a small fee.

In March 2022, The County Toy Library successfully applied for two Well Northants Community grants for the Kings Heath area. Upon applying, Toy Library representatives were invited to a Kings Heath Community Voting Day and were asked to present their applications, which were voted for by residents of the area.

The County Toy Library were awarded 1st place for their 'Toy Box' application. The Toy Boxes contain age and development- appropriate toys, together with an accompanying Health and Safety guidance on the toys; a Toy Library advertisement leaflet and a 12 month Toy Library membership and a £20 monetary voucher. These boxes are distributed by the Health Visitors Nursery Nurses during their 9-month and 2-year health checks. The aim is for the child to use the boxes for 2 months, after which time they are encouraged to utilise their membership to borrow more toys, and perhaps to become regular users. Further, it fosters a collaborative approach with local Health Visiting services.

The second grant for Well Northants was for our rental costs, as The County Toy Library pays £250 per month in rent to West Northants Council. The Library received £2,500 during the Voting Day.

Three fundraising events took place this year to promote the charity and raise vital funds. The first was a school fete at Purple Oak's School in June 2022, raising £80 through various activities. The second fundraiser at Abington Park Museum in August 2022 raised £75 via a teddy tombola. In February 2023, the library raised £107.50 at the Doddridge Community Centre event through a teddy tombola and toy sales.

In December 2022, The County Toy Library held a Christmas Fair, raising £552 for the charity by selling toys, books, clothes, and household items.

The County Toy Library collected donations of unused/surplus toys and items donated by the public/members. These items (if of no use in the library) were sold online or outside Toy Library, this year this was 75% higher than last year.

The County Toy Library signed up to Amazon Smile, which gives The County Toy Library payment of a small percentage of those funds spent on Amazon Smile by it's supporters. £45.38 has been raised this year.

The County Toy Library has raised £130 from the Northampton lottery.

During this year The Toy Library secured the donation of a computer and laptop, with Microsoft 10. It is hoped that this will lead to the introduction of new software.

The County Toy Library opened on a Friday in October to hold a professional's open day, which was effective in increasing awareness of the service among professionals.

In September, The County Toy Library visited Kings Health school, promoting its service to staff and engaging with children using Toy Library toys. This event encouraged children to attend The County Toy Library with their parents/carers.

In December, The County Toy Library created Christmas vouchers so family members could purchase monetary vouchers to spend in the library.

Section D

Achievements and performance

The County Toy Library resumed Sunday openings again in March 2022, with the first Sunday attracting six families.

A pre visit pack for families was created, to inform them about the library, where to park and what to bring.

The County Toy Library decided not to increase membership and borrowing costs this year due to the financial crisis families are facing. The library is a place where families can borrow toys/equipment for a small cost, allowing them to use their remaining funds for priority items.

During the year the Committee Members and Trustees of The County Toy Library have watched several videos created by The Charity Commission to stay updated on charity management.

The County Toy Library attended the Northants Parent/Carer Forum AGM in November 2022. This was to promote our service to parents/carers of children with additional needs.

The County Toy Library policies, together with Risk Assessments where required, were reviewed during the year and updated as required, to include Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Volunteering, DBS, Complaints, Lone Working, Data Protection, Equal Opportunity and Equality and Diversity.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

None

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F

Other optional information

The chair would like to say a huge thank you to The County Toy Library manager, dedicated volunteers and trustees. All this amazing work would not be possible without your hard work and dedication. It is really very much appreciated!!

Thank you

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

--	--

Full name(s)

Lorraine Elks	
---------------	--

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair	
-------	--

Date

27.8.23



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name The County Toy Library	No (if any) 1166245
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01.04.22	To	Period end date 31.03.23
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Activities for generating funds	11,019	6,940	-	17,959	13,209
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	11,019	6,940	-	17,959	13,209
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,019	6,940	-	17,959	13,209
A3 Payments					
Insurance	613	-	-	613	791
Wages	4,224	-	-	4,224	4,340
Costs of charitable activities	717	2,383	-	3,100	5,914
Water and Sewerage	180	-	-	180	180
Telephone	541	-	-	541	503
Light and heating	2,713	-	-	2,713	581
Costs of generating voluntary income	-	-	-	-	-
Printing, postage, stationery and computer supplies	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	8,988	2,383	-	11,371	12,309
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	8,988	2,383	-	11,371	12,309
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,031	4,557	-	6,588	900
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	13,248	3,081	-	16,329	15,429
Cash funds this year end	15,279	7,638	-	22,917	16,329

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in bank	15,279	7,638	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	15,279	7,638	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Inventory	40000	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
	Lelks	Lorraine Elks		2.11.23
	Ebond	Eve Bond		2.11.23

THE COUNTY TOY LIBRARY

England & Wales - Charity number 1166245

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	01	04	2021	To	31	03	2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

The County Toy Library

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1166245

Charity's principal address

4 Park Square

Kings Heath

Northampton

NN5 7LQ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Lorraine Elks	Chair		
2	Laura Furr	Board Member		
3	Eve Bond	Co-Secretary		
4	Debra Scott	Co-Secretary		

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Bank	HSBC	22 Abington Square, Northampton, NN1 2AN

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

N/A

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected at AGM

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C Objectives and activities

<p>Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document</p>	<p>The relief and education of children in the county of Northamptonshire for the public benefit by:</p> <p>(a) the provision of a not-for-profit lending library of educational, stimulating and age appropriate toys and equipment for babies and children;</p> <p>(b) promoting within the county the use and benefit of toy libraries for children, families and communities in such ways as the trustees think fit.</p>
<p>Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)</p>	<p>A full report of the main activities are contained in section D.</p> <p>Summary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuation of key objectives of The County Toy Library for the benefit of the local community. 2. Increasing awareness profile and ultimately membership of the library. 3. Providing a wide range of high-quality toy and equipment and disposing of old stock in the most environmentally friendly and cost-effective manner possible. 4. Increasing funding to enable the provision of a better level of service and to work towards becoming self-financing.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> policy on grantmaking; <input type="checkbox"/> policy programme related investment; <input type="checkbox"/> contribution made by volunteers. 	<p>Covid Risk Assessment.</p> <p>Continue to raise funds during the Covid 19 pandemic.</p>
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Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The County Toy Library opened on Friday 7th May 2021 after being closed for one year and one month due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The County Toy Library Committee undertook the task to complete a Covid risk assessment for reopening, which was reviewed at our 6 weekly meetings. The manager and volunteer continued to secure donations during this time, selling them online to raise some funds for the Library.

The County Toy Library has had a successful year, increasing membership numbers as well as building community engagement. From March 2019 the Library was closed until Friday 7th May 2021. The County Toy Library has increased its membership by 78%. Further, membership from the Kings Heath area has increased by 120% and memberships in connection with additional needs has increased by 433%. Frequency of use has also increased during this period of time.

The County Toy Library Facebook page has increased its followers by 10%. Photos are regularly posted and parents/carers questions are answered. A volunteer published a video of the Library on Facebook in order to show parents/carers what toys/equipment the Library has to offer.

The County Toy Library had its fifth AGM on 29th September 2021. This gave The County Toy Library the opportunity to reflect on the work undertaken in the previous year. The County Toy Library had positive feedback from the parents/carers and professionals who attended. The Committee designated the meeting after last year's AGM to talk through the feedback parents/carers had given the committee at the AGM.

The County Toy Library received grant funds in the sum of £1,440 in February 2022 to work alongside Re:Store Northampton. Re:store seeks to support vulnerable people within the Borough of Northampton, through practical means. The charity aims to offer people a hand-up rather than a hand out, and does this through equipping individuals and families with the skills required for independent living. These aims are in line with The County Library's objectives, therefore working together on shared goals brings better outcomes for vulnerable families. This grant is funding 30 free memberships and £30 in monetary vouchers to families accessing Re:store. These families will be able to access a year's free membership at The County Toy Library and then £30 credit to spend on toys/equipment during the membership period. When the first year has ended these families will be offered half price memberships for The County Toy Library for a second year. At the end of March 2022 three grant memberships had been utilised.

The Re: Store family worker visited The Library and met the team. This gave them the opportunity to have a look to see what the Toy Library has to offer the families they work with. As a result of the visit, Re:Store suggested that the Library could refer families to the food bank when required.

Northampton Partnership Home awarded The County Toy Library £286 in January 2021. This was allocated to 11 free memberships, plus £20 spend in the shop, for children with special educational needs. By the beginning of March 4 free memberships were left.

Barratt Homes donated £1000 to The County Toy Library. This was allocated to local families living on Kings Heath. This covered 14 Memberships and £30 spend in the shop. £500 was allocated for use for advertising flyers. The County Toy Library contacted local school to advertise this offer. By the beginning of March 2022, 8 free memberships were left.

The County Toy Library secured £500 from the Tesco 'Bags for Life' fund. This money has been spent on a much needed update to 'party package' toys.

The County Toy Library collected donations of unused/surplus toys and items donated by the public/members. These items (if of no use in the Library) were sold by the Toy Library, generating funds of £2,826, which is 15% higher than in March 2019.

The County Toy Library signed up to Amazon Smile, which gives The County Toy Library payment of a small percentage of those funds spent on Amazon Smile by it's supporters. £55 has been raise this year.

The County Toy Library have raised £240.50 from the Northampton lottery.

Section D

Achievements and performance

The County Toy Library were successful in applying for the Arnold Clark grant. Our service received £1000. This was used to purchase new toys and equipment. The reason for this is that over time toys/equipment need replacing due to wear and tear. In other cases it might be that there is a high demand for a toy/equipment therefore The County Toy Library would buy another one so that a child does not have to wait to borrow that item.

The County Toy Library supported the Afghanistan refugees by providing toys for them when they were located to hotels in Northampton.

The County Toy Library attended the Northants Parent/Carer Forum AGM in November 2021. This was to promote our service to parents/carers of children with additional needs.

When The Toy Library reopened after Covid it was decided that a half price membership would be offered. This was a huge success and it was agreed this would continue. This was due to the grow in membership plus the current financial climate.

The County Toy Library policies were reviewed during the year and updated where needed. This includes: Safeguarding, Health and safety, volunteering, DBS, complaints, lone working, data protection, equal opportunity and equality and diversity. The risk assessments which have been updated are: health, safety and lone working and fire.

The yearly fire alarm was inspected in August 2020 and PAT was completed during this year.

The County Toy Library completed its fifth Annual return for the Charity Commission in January this year. This included filing our accounts and Annual report.

The County Toy Library signed up to a new Talk Talk contract which was cheaper per month and increased broadband speed.

Our website has been kept up to date.

During this year The County Toy Library have continue to look for a new database software. This is an area The County Toy Library are working on, as currently there has not been a software which is workable and affordable.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	None
Details of any funds materially in deficit	None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

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Section F Other optional information

The Chair would like to say a huge thank you to The County Toy Library manager, dedicated volunteers and trustees. All this amazing work would not be possible without your hard work and dedication. It is really very much appreciated!

Thank you.

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
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Full name(s)	Lorraine Elks	
---------------------	---------------	--

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
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Date	14.8.22
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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
The County Toy Library

No (if any)
1166245

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01.04.21	To	Period end date 31.03.22
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Activities for generating funds	8,983	4,226	-	13,209
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	8,983	4,226	-	13,209
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,983	4,226	-	13,209
A3 Payments				
Insurance	791	-	-	791
Wages	4,340	-	-	4,340
Costs of charitable activities	3,610	2,304	-	5,914
Water and Sewerage	180	-	-	180
Telephone	503	-	-	503
Light and heating	581	-	-	581
Costs of generating voluntary income	-	-	-	-
Printing, postage, stationery and computer supplies	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	10,005	2,304	-	12,309
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total payments	10,005	2,304	-	12,309
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,022	1,922	-	900
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	15,429	-	-	15,429
Cash funds this year end	14,407	1,922	-	16,329

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in bank	13,248	3,081
			-
		-	-
	Total cash funds	13,248	3,081
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Inventory	40,000	-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name
L Elks	Lorraine Elks
D Scott	Deborah Scott

CC16a



Last year

to the nearest £

7,836
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
7,836

-
-
-

7,836

778
130
925
142
489
414
-
-
-
2,878

-
-

2,878

4,958
-
10,471
15,429



Endowment funds

to nearest £

-
-
-
-

OK

Endowment funds

to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

When due (optional)

Date of approval

21.9.22
21.9.22

THE COUNTY TOY LIBRARY

England & Wales - Charity number 1166245

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	04	2020		31	03	2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

The County Toy Library

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1166245

Charity's principal address

4A Park Square

Kings Heath

Northampton

NN5 7LQ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Lorraine Elks	Chair		
2	Laura Furr	Board Member		
3	Eve Bond	Co-Secretary		
4	Debra Scott	Co-Secretary		

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Bank	HSBC	22 Abington Square, Northampton, NN1 2AN

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

N/A

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected at AGM

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The relief and education of children in the county of Northampton shire for the public benefit by:

- (a) the provision of a not-for-profit lending library of educational, stimulating and age appropriate toys and equipment for babies and children;
- (b) promoting within the county the use and benefit of toy libraries for children, families and communities in such ways as the trustees think fit.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

A full report of the main activities are contained in section D.

Summary:

1. Continuation of key objectives of The County Toy Library for the benefit of the local community
2. Increasing awareness profile and ultimately membership of the library
3. Providing a wider range of high-quality toy and equipment and disposing of old stock in the most environmentally friendly and cost-effective manner possible
4. Increasing funding to enable the provision of a better level of service and to be working forwards becoming self-financing.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Covid risk assessment

Continue to raise funds during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The County Toy Library was closed this annual report period due to Covid 19 pandemic.

The County Toy Library had it's fourth AGM on 29th September 2020. This gave The County Toy Library the opportunity to reflect on the work undertaken in the previous year. The County Toy Library had positive feedback from the parents/carers who attended and one of these parents is hoping to become a County Toy Library volunteer. The Committee designated the meeting after last year's AGM to talk through the feedback parents/carers had given the committee at the AGM.

The County Toy Library Committee undertook the task to complete a Covid risk assessment and this risk assessment was reviewed at our 6 weekly meetings to ensure it was kept up to date. Our service purchased the safety equipment which was needed to ensure our volunteers/parents/carers were kept safe during this time.

The County Toy Library received grant funds in the sum of £4,234 on the 2nd May 2019. Receiving this grant enabled The County Toy Library to purchase specialist toys and equipment; to promote our services to families/groups involving children with special educational needs and to offer these families/groups free memberships for 1 year. These families/groups also had a monetary voucher to spend on toy hire. The project was due to end on 1st May 2020, however due to the Coronavirus outbreak, The County Toy Library had to temporarily close, therefore the project was brought to an end prematurely. The County Toy Library had 18 families/groups sign up under the scheme equating to a rise of 360% in SEN memberships.

During this year The County Toy Library agreed that a new software was needed as currently, from the viewpoint of the users of the service, the current system is not adequately accessible. There is no digital visibility of the toys and equipment available to hire. This is an outdated and inflexible solution requiring users to physically visit the shop and browse to find items that they want to borrow. Parents/carers/professionals have let The County Toy Library know on several occasions that they would find a click and collect system very useful. This is always been a challenge for our service due to the financial impact of updating our software to a platform that would enable this. Internally, The County Toy Library is also aware of the need to update their database software. The current software is out of date and has not been supported for a number of years. It is limited in terms of its functionality, future stability and is incompatible with currently supported versions of Microsoft Windows.

The new database software would...

- Facilitate a click and collect service for our toys/equipment
- Accept online payments
- Allow online browsing of the library of toys
- Function with current versions of windows
- Provides a more modern, flexible and user-friendly experience for both staff/volunteers and service users
- Enable cloud based backup of systems
- Allow users to manage their account online
- Increase the digital presence of the organisation, allowing it to integrate with social media platforms where it already has a presence, thus extending its reach

These features would make our service more accessible to families, thereby increasing memberships and ultimately, furthering The County Toy Library's key objectives with regard to the provision of stimulating toys and equipment. It would also provide a platform for the organisation that is fit for the future, stable and secure.

This database software would also enable our service to extract data and produce reports. These would enable analysis of loans, which in turn would support the service in becoming more relevant and targeted. Reports and data would also support the library with grant applications and demonstration of success. Obtaining grant money is critical to our ongoing operation and service development. Data for grant applications is extremely important and often without this data a grant application can be declined, something of a catch 22 situation in an organisation with limited data gathering capability.

The new database will...

- Draw in more users of the service and therefore benefit more children and their families
- Make it easier to access and use the service
- Assist foster carers in more quickly finding and securing the toy/equipment they need at short notice
- Continue to support a sustainability agenda through the reuse of toys/equipment, reducing plastic waste and landfill
- Introducing the value of sharing to a wider audience and promote the idea of looking after things that belong to others
- Helping to develop a sense of community and reducing the importance of ownership
- Help to keep the shop open and operational for future users
- Our service will encourage parents/carers/professionals to book online, particularly relevant at the current time of COVID-19.

Therefore, The County Toy Library will be applying for a grant for the Lend Engine System which will pay for three years subscription, Microsoft Windows 10 Pro and to pay volunteer to complete the transfer of data plus trailing the system.

During this time The County Toy Library has been in contact with Re:Store Northampton. Re:store seeks to support vulnerable people within the Borough of Northampton, through practical means. The charity aims to offer people a hand-up rather than just a hand out, and does this through equipping individuals and

families with skills for independent living. These aims are in line with The County Library's objectives, therefore working together brings greater outcomes for vulnerable families.

The County Toy Library would like to work collaboratively with Re:store Northampton. The projects which The County Toy Library would like to be involve in within Re:store are: the Food Bank, the Nest and the Growbaby. The food bank distributes food to those who have difficulty purchasing enough to avoid hunger. The Nest is a friendly and welcoming baby and toddler group for under 5's, with a fun mix of activities to encourage health and wellbeing. Growbaby is a family focused drop in for families who require practical help with children's clothing as well as additional support needs. The session provides families with a bundle of children's clothing and other essentials for children aged 0-5.

The County Toy Library would like to provide 30 free memberships and £30 in monetary vouchers to families accessing these projects at Re:store. These families will be able to access a year's free membership at The County Toy Library and then £30 to spend on toys/equipment during the membership. When the first year has ended these families will get a half price membership for The County Toy Library for a second year.

These memberships and the monetary vouchers would enable children to play, learn and develop. They would support early years education, with the hope that this sets them on a stronger footing to enable them to continue this development throughout their schooling life. These children will feel included with their peers as they will have access to age appropriate toys/equipment.

Parents/carers will be able to support their child(ren) by playing with them, which will in turn build positive relationships within the family. Parents/carers will be able to use the money they might have spent on toys/equipment on other important items for the family. Parents/carers will have less guilt as their child/ern will have the toys/equipment which they need to learn.

The family worker, staff and volunteers at Re:store will refer families as and when they feel a family could benefit from a free membership and monetary voucher.

The County Toy Library is aware that parents/carers who access Re:store are facing financial challenges and may struggle to feed and/or clothe their children. Therefore, it is logical to assume that these parents/carers may not have access to age appropriate toys/equipment to support their child/ren's education and development. We feel that there are benefits to the collaborative working proposed and mutual referral to each other's services.

The Chair of The County Toy Library proposed this project to Re:store and the response was very positive as they felt that there is a definite need for this project. They thought that this project would be a positive addition to the services they are already offering to families. Since the Covid pandemic Re:store have been busier than ever, providing food, clothing, toys and gifts to over 1500 children and adults in financial crisis through lockdown. Thereby indicating that there is a definite need for this project owing to the number of vulnerable families accessing Re:store.

The County Toy Library is currently waiting for Northampton Borough Council to open up their grant applications to proceed with this project.

The chair of The County Toy Library attended a training session, "Measuring Social Impact in November 2020". This training highlighted that there is now a requirement amongst funders and commissioners for voluntary and community organisations to provide measurable evidence of the impact or change the activities they provide makes to communities and individuals. It enforced that in recent years there has been a shift from simply counting inputs and outputs (for example the number of people using a service) to measuring outcomes (the difference that service has made to people). This has proved useful and has impacted the way in which our recent grant applications have been written.

The County Toy Library collected donations of unused/surplus toys and items donated by the public/members. These items (if of no use in the library) were sold online, generating funds of £2,450.

Section D Achievements and performance

The County Toy Library signed up to Amazon Smile, which gives The County Toy Library payment of a small percentage of those funds spent on Amazon Smile by it's supporters. £65.63 has been raise this year - double the payment of the previous year.

The County Toy Library have raised £321 from the Northampton lottery, an increased from £207 last year.

The County Toy Library were successful in applying for the Discretionary Fund from Northampton Borough Council. Our service received £5,000. This has been vital for rent payments, Covid safety equipment and utility and running costs during the pandemic.

The County Toy Library policies were reviewed during the year and updated where needed. This includes: safeguarding, health and safety, volunteering, DBS, complaints, lone working, data protection, equal opportunity, equality and diversity. The risk assessments which have been updated are: health and safety and lone working.

The County Toy Library have developed a volunteer handbook, which includes what our service has to offer a volunteer, the recruitment process and key policies.

The yearly fire alarm was inspected in August 2020.

The County Toy Library completed its fourth Annual return for the Charity Commission in January this year. This included filing our accounts and Annual report.

Our website has been kept up to date.

The County Toy Library Facebook page at the end of March 2019 had 1,737 members and at the end of March 2021 had 1,944. Photos are regularly posted and parents/carers questions answered.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	None
Details of any funds materially in deficit	None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising); <input type="checkbox"/> how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity; 	
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- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

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Section F Other optional information

The chair wishes to thank all the committee members and volunteers for their hard work and dedication over the last year, and it is the chair's view that with your continued assistance, The County Toy Library will not only continue to provide a much needed service but will expand and grow with the needs of the local community.

Thank you

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	LElks	EBond
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Full name(s)	Lorraine Elks	Eve Bond
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary
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Date	28/9/21
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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name The County Toy Library	No (if any) 1166245
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01.04.20	To	Period end date 31.03.21
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Activities for generating funds	7,836	-	-	7,836	14,921
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	7,836	-	-	7,836	14,921
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	7,836	-	-	7,836	14,921
A3 Payments					
Insurance	778	-	-	778	770
Wages	130	-	-	130	3,460
Costs of charitable activities	925	-	-	925	5,882
Water and Sewerage	142	-	-	142	66
Telephone	489	-	-	489	463
Light and heating	414	-	-	414	587
Costs of generating voluntary income	-	-	-	-	-
Printing, postage, stationery and computer supplies	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,878	-	-	2,878	11,228
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,878	-	-	2,878	11,228
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,958	-	-	4,958	3,693
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,471	-	-	10,471	6,778
Cash funds this year end	15,429	-	-	15,429	10,471

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in bank	14,270	1,159	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	14,270	1,159	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Inventory	40,000	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Lelks	Lorraine Elks	29.9.21
Ebond	Eve Bond	29.9.21