



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)

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)

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.

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

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01.04.22

To

Period end date
31.03.23

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	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	