

							<h2 style="text-align: center;">Trustees' Annual Report for the period</h2>					
From			Period start date			To			Period end date			
			01	04	2023				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)

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

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/carers 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

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01.04.23

To

Period end date
31.03.24

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	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
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	24.10.24	
	Ebond	Eve Bond	24.10.24	