



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
<b>From</b>	01	04	2024	<b>To</b>	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)

## 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

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

Period start date  
01.04.24

To

Period end date  
31.03.25

### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Activities for generating funds	15,911	3,000	-	18,911	19,498
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>15,911</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,911</b>	<b>19,498</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>15,911</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,911</b>	<b>19,498</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
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	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>12,069</b>	<b>6,803</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,872</b>	<b>13,625</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>12,069</b>	<b>6,803</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,872</b>	<b>13,625</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>3,842</b>	<b>- 3,803</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>5,873</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>21,610</b>	<b>7,180</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,790</b>	<b>22,917</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>25,452</b>	<b>3,377</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,829</b>	<b>28,790</b>

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash in bank	25,452	3,377	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>25,452</b>	<b>3,377</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Inventory	40000	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	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	2.10.25	
	DSCOTT	Debra Scott	2.10.25	