

**Section A****Independent Examiner's Report****Report to the trustees/
members of**

The Dog, Duck and Cat (DDC) Trust

**On accounts for the year
ended**31st March 2021**Charity no
(if any)**

1177187

Set out on pages

7

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2021.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:**Date:**

31/01/2022

Name:

Rachel Gowman

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ACCA

Address:

102 Tettenhall Road

Wolverhampton

WV6 0BW

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



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Finances

Income

	Year Ended 31 st March 2021	Year Ended 31 st March 2020
Income type	Amount	Amount
Grants	£26,218.00	£18,000.00
Commissions	£0.00	£8,000.00
Donations	£4,218.66	£2,162.40
Total	£30,436.66	£28,162.40

Expenditure

Expenditure type	Amount	Amount
Consultancy – including all development and illustrating	£32,825.41	£16,870.00
Printing	£342.00	£1,465.00
Operating costs – IT and insurances	£3,479.18	£624.23
Transport	£0.00	£0.00
Equipment	£789.00	£0.00
Total	£37,435.59	£18,959.23

Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(£6,998.93)	£9,203.17
Bank B/fwd	£11,523.79	£2,320.62
Bank C/fwd	£4,524.86	£11,523.79



The Dog, Duck and Cat (DDC) Trust – Annual Report 2020 - 21

The trustees of the DDC Trust are pleased to present their annual report and financial statement for period year ending 31st March 2021. The DDC Trust is governed by its constitution, adopted 15th August 2017. There are currently 3 Trustees who were re-appointed at beginning of this monitoring period.

The board of Trustees come from a range of professional backgrounds relevant to the Charity's objectives. The Trustees met at least quarterly, and 4 formal meetings were held during the period 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021. Informal meetings also took place, as and when needed, to address Covid issues as they arose.

Aims of the DDC Trust

- For children to learn about staying safe, in a way that is fun and age appropriate, in their day to day lives and in their local community
- To address, and educate on, subjects that affect a child's mental health and emotional well being
- To promote 'safety first' thinking, both inside the home and in the community
- To ensure children receive consistent safeguarding messages to prevent household accidents and incidents
- To assist Parents, Carers and Guardians (PCG) in building rapport with their children
- To promote Quality Time, between PCGs and their children, to build a child's resilience
- To provide resources to facilitate Quality time taking place
- To ensure children know, and they believe, that they have a person in their life, that they trust and can talk to, if they are ever worried or scared about anything, no matter how awful or small their concern may be

About the DDC Trust

The trust provides educational, preventative, harm minimisation resources for young people, aged 0 to 9 years of age, with a focus on safeguarding, promoting safety and developing a child's resilience.

The approach is simple yet effective. The Dog, Duck and Cat characters are utilised, in story form, to help adults educate children about a range of different subjects. The resources have also been created to allow older children to use them for themselves, thus increasing opportunities for the messages to be delivered to our audience.

The resources are available online, but the trust endeavour to make printed resources available whenever possible, as children have told us they 'like having the story books and activities to play with'.



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For the trust to be able to reach the children, partnership working is essential. We work with professionals, in the community, in settings such as primary schools, the NHS, early years providers, and the local authority. All partners are then supported, in a variety of ways, to use the DDC resources.

All the stories are supported by lesson plans and classroom activities, for use by those working in educational settings, and bespoke programmes have been developed to suit the needs of specific professionals, such as health visitors, midwives, libraries and others.

The trust also provides a full set of story resources for Parents, Carers and Guardians (PCG) and the local community to use. To keep children safe, the homes they live in, and the people that care for them, need to be aware of the risks that those children may face. PCG's and the local community are vital partners for the trust, to omit them would vastly diminish the chances of us achieving our aims.

For PCG's we are also promoting the concept of spending Quality Time with their child(ren). By providing story resources, and activities to be done together, we are looking to those that have children in their care, to 'put down the phone' and spend some fun-time with their children.

By doing this we are looking to create positive attachments. This can be a tremendous way to build a child's trust, resilience and thus encourage them to be open and talk if they are ever concerned, worried or scared about anything.

The focus, until the end of 2017, had been on helping children stay safe from accidents, but the remit has now been broadened due to demand. Emotional well-being, bereavement, loss, domestic abuse, positive peer relationships, racism, and a range of other subjects, are now being addressed by DDC resources.

Activities and Achievement's in 2020/21

Dudley Public Health (PH) commission

Dudley Public Health again commissioned the Trust so that all their schools could have free access to all DDC stories, lesson plans and resources. Approx. 50% of Dudley schools are now registered to use DDC resources.

Fun together, Learn Together

Whilst in the first UK COVID lockdown the Trust were asked to bid for funding to work with the Handsworth Association of Schools (HAOS). The bid was to assist HAOS in implementing home studying for the children that would normally access their schools. HAOS also asked for support around emotional wellbeing as this had been raised as a potential concern by some parents. The trust then created a story and resource booklet that was printed and distributed to over 5000 children and their families in Handsworth and its surrounding areas.



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What's up Duck?

This is a project that the trust had recognised for some time was needed. The emotional wellbeing issue flagged by HAOS essentially provided the funding, so this then led to the creation of the 'What's up Duck?' resources.

The resources looked at what feelings and emotions are, how they can affect us in positive and not so positive ways and more importantly, managing difficult emotions and feelings and having techniques to do this.

Due to the lockdowns piloting was a challenge, but we were still able to, and we launched the resources in Summer 2020.

You are great, as you are

Racism, prejudice and intolerance are issues that are unfortunately faced by children and adults. The trust felt they could create resources to address this, so once again teamed up with West Midlands Police Counter Terrorism Unit (WMPCTU). A bid was submitted and WMP CTU agreed to fund 50% of the project.

The resources look at how stereotyping can lead to people forming negative views of others that are just not accurate. It also covers what to do if you are being treated in a prejudicial way, as no one deserves to be spoken to or treated in a discriminatory way.

Due to the lockdowns piloting was a challenge, but we were still able to, and we launched the resources in autumn 2021.

Cat the Pirate

Knife and sharp object awareness was raised by schools as an issue that they wanted to cover but were lacking age-appropriate resources to do this. The trust teamed with the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit (WMVRU) and several local partners and submitted a bid to create a new resource. The bid was successful, and the resources were created.

They look at raising awareness that knives and sharp objects are not toys and can be dangerous if used for anything other than the purpose they are intended for. Adult supervision is essential when using knives and sharp objects and this is another essential element of the programme.

Due to the lockdowns piloting was a challenge, but we were still able to, and we launched the resources in winter 2021.

What happened to me?

The age of children being groomed online has sadly fallen and is now affecting primary aged children.



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The trust was asked if they could create resources to address this, so once again teamed up with West Midlands Police Counter Terrorism Unit (WMPCTU). A bid was submitted and WMP CTU agreed to fund 50% of the project.

The resource had a particular focus around grooming via gaming, as this is the main route of coercive behaviour used by perpetrators with children of this age.

Due to the lockdowns piloting has been challenge, but this again has been successfully addressed, and we plan to launch the resources in summer term 2021.

Broadening the reach

Social Media

The Trust has active social media accounts and continues to develop this element of the business.

COVID 19

On the 23rd March 2020 the UK became subject to a national lockdown. The Trust liaised with key Black Country partners to ensure schools and the local community were made aware of the DDC offer, and how they could access the resources. This liaison continued in to 2020 – 21 with the Trust helping to support young people, adults, and the communities they live in.

Finances

Please see attached spreadsheet for a full financial breakdown for the trust.