

# WALTHAMSTOW TOY LIBRARY AND PLAY CENTRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1178098

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2018-04-25

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

## Contact

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**Address** William Morris Hall  
6-8 Somers Road  
Walthamstow  
London  
E17 6RX

**Phone** 02085093401

**Email** [E17toylibrarymanager@gmail.com](mailto:E17toylibrarymanager@gmail.com)

**Website** [www.walthamstowtoylibrary.org](http://www.walthamstowtoylibrary.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** The charity works for the public benefit having as its objects the development and education of children and young people in particular by:(1) promoting their care and safety;(2) promoting their education and promoting parental involvement;(3) promoting their health and wellbeing;(4) providing services to support them and their families and carers;(5) providing services to individuals holding membership of the CIO; and(6) creating a supportive community for them and their families and carers.

**Activities:** Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre provides safe, creative spaces for children, young people and their adults to play, learn and interact. We run daily play sessions and offer a variety of health and wellbeing support services. We have an extensive toy loaning service and provide a variety of volunteering opportunities for local students and residents.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

## Geography

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- Waltham Forest

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£253,728	£288,321	-	-
2024-03-31	£245,005	£261,166	-	-
2023-03-31	£225,848	£219,383	-	-
2022-03-31	£176,637	£138,378	-	-
2021-03-31	£90,416	£75,600	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Charlotte Peel</b>	Chair	2024-12-16
Amy Henderson		2025-12-15
Andrea Ramsay		2025-04-16
Caroline Keech		2023-11-30
Esme Cooke McGowan		2023-11-30
Katie Fox		2025-12-15
Maria Mana		2025-12-15
Nathan Gabbidon		2024-12-16
Rebecca Musselle		2025-12-15

**WALTHAMSTOW TOY LIBRARY AND PLAY CENTRE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178098

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement 2024-2025



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# Foreword

It's been a busy year and the range of achievements are testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and volunteers. In Walthamstow, it was our first full year settling into our new home at the William Morris Hall, including undertaking extensive repairs. We hope this will be our forever home and what we need to do to ensure a sustainable future at the site is a key priority. During the year, we launched our new website allowing families to book parties and the sensory play room directly online. This has improved access to services and we expect it to help increase visibility and bookings in the year ahead.

In Leytonstone there has been an eclectic calendar of events for families and the wider community, including live theatre, an open air cinema, themed fundraising activities and the annual Langthorne Park festival. The Leytonstone Toy Library was also commissioned by the borough to deliver '*Learning Together*' - a targeted home learning project, and received funding from the Children's Centre and Best Start in Life to provide four free weekly play sessions.

The year saw the addition of an Operations Manager role at the Walthamstow site. The role has provided increased oversight of day-to-day operations, staffing and systems, freeing up the CEO's time to focus on strategic priorities, including grant fundraising, partnerships and long-term development. Together, these changes have improved organisational resilience and positioned the charity well for future growth.

2024 ended with the good news that we've secured three years of funding from the National Lottery Reaching Communities fund for the '*Press Play*' project, which will help us grow and diversify our membership and increase toy loaning, which will benefit both people and the planet.

Charlotte Peel, Interim Chair of Trustees



# Legal & Administrative Information



## **Company Address:**

William Morris Hall  
6 Somers Road  
Walthamstow  
E17 6RX

## **Registered Charity Number:**

1178098

## **Trustees:**

- Noella Gooden (Chair)
- Read Baurtally (Treasurer)
- Caroline Keech
- Esme Cooke-McGowan
- Kayleigh Gray-Layton
- Lorraine Pinter
- Charlotte Peel (appointed Dec 2024)
- Nathan Gabbidon (appointed Dec 2024)
- Sally Bruce (appointed Dec 2024)

## **Senior staff:**

- Chief Executive Officer: Helen Crockford
- Leytonstone Operations Manager: Alyshia Evans
- Walthamstow Operations Manager: Roushka Boyd

## **Accounts prepared by:**

chromatic books

## **Independent Examination by:**

Mr Waqas Hussain

## **Photo credits:**

Laura Martinez	Lisa Thomas
Helen Crockford	Noreen Akram
Gemma Loky	
Jenna Selby	
Suga Suppiah	

# About Walthamstow Toy Library & Play Centre

The charity works for the public benefit having as its objects the development and education of children and young people in particular by:

- Promoting their care and safety
- Promoting their education and parental involvement
- Promoting their health and wellbeing
- Providing services to support children, families and carers
- Providing services to members of the CIO
- Creating a supportive community for families and carers



*"We love the Toy Library! It has been a life saver for me as a Mum. It's so helpful to have your wonderful volunteers on hand - with more than one child it's hard to be in two places at once. I also love the variety of activities provided."* (Parent)



## Our vision

That all families borrow not buy, protecting the planet through sustainable play activities.



## Our mission

Is to provide safe, creative spaces for families to play, learn and interact and borrow toys which don't cost the Earth.



## Our values

We provide services that are child-centred, supportive, educational, fun, sustainable and community-based.



## Our Centres

Are based in Walthamstow and Leytonstone and we deliver pop-up play activities locally.

# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

*“This is a really special place for us.” (Parent)*

Waltham Forest continues to be one of the most diverse boroughs in the country, and this diversity is reflected in the families who access our services. An estimated 53% of local residents are from a minority ethnic background, and our membership includes families from a wide range of cultural, linguistic and socio-economic backgrounds. Excluding White British, the most commonly represented backgrounds among our members are Romanian, Polish, Black British, Black Caribbean and Pakistani families.

Although Waltham Forest has seen improvements in its ranking on the Index of Multiple Deprivation over recent years, it remains one of the most deprived boroughs in London. The borough also has a younger-than-average population, with a higher proportion of children and young people compared to London and national averages. This context continues to shape our work and reinforces the importance of ensuring that our services remain accessible, affordable and welcoming to all families.

Throughout 2024–25, we continued to provide universal play sessions and toy loaning services, welcoming families not only from Waltham Forest but also from neighbouring boroughs. We remain committed to ensuring that financial circumstances do not present a barrier to participation. Families experiencing financial hardship, including those with no recourse to public funds, were supported through free annual membership, reduced session fees, and, where needed, blocks of free play sessions. Families are encouraged to pay what they can afford once initial support has been accessed.



At the end of the financial year, 1,843 families were registered across our sites. Around a quarter (23%) of members received free membership and reduced session fees, reflecting our continued focus on equity of access. This remains a key priority area for the charity. Subject to funding, we aim to further expand targeted support for families most affected by poverty, isolation and structural inequality.

Our inclusive approach extends beyond affordability. Staff are trained to provide a welcoming, non-judgemental environment and to offer informal support, listening and signposting to families facing challenges related to housing, food insecurity, immigration status, health and wellbeing. Our play-based model allows children of different ages, abilities and needs to access activities at their own pace, and we continue to work closely with partners to support children with additional needs through inclusive play and specialist provision.

Looking ahead, the charity remains committed to strengthening its focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, ensuring that our services continue to respond to the changing needs of our community and that all families feel represented, supported and able to participate fully.

***“The sessions are structured enough to make everyone feel part of a group, but relaxed enough to allow babies and toddlers to follow their energy/needs/wants and adults to connect.” (Parent)***



# Play Sessions & Sensory Room



Sensory play support early development and bonding between babies and their carers.



Messy play sessions encourage creativity, confidence and cooperative learning.

Our 90-minute play sessions cater for children aged 0-5 and are led by trained staff. Children benefit from interactions with a wider age range than they are often exposed to in other early years settings, such as nursery. It also means that parents can bring younger siblings and childminders the full range of children they care for. Sessions are based around different themes and stories each month. Staff have developed a successful structure which includes:

- **FREE PLAY:** An initial hour of free play with our diverse range of toys and equipment. Specific activities and toys vary from session to session and include art and craft, messy play, physical play (indoor soft play and outdoor area), imaginative play, construction, puzzles and books. This first hour follows the ethos of 'Learning through Play': children can choose their preferred activity at their own pace both indoors and out.

*"I am very happy with the play sessions. They are well-organised with many different, fun activities. My daughter has learnt a lot and become more confident. I can see a big difference in her since we started coming. It is clear these sessions have played a role in that progress." (Parent)*

- **TIDY-UP TIME:** 5 minutes before snack time children and adults work together to clear toys and prepare the room for snack time and circle time. We believe this is extremely important to develop children's co-operative skills and ownership and care of the play environment.
- **HEALTHY SNACKS & COOKING SESSIONS:** All sessions involve a snack time, where the children sit together and share a selection of healthy snacks. Compared to other toddler and playgroups in the area, the Toy Library is unusual in offering this as a structured activity. We believe this promotes positive attitudes to good nutrition, enables children who might not otherwise do so eat 2–3 portions of their 5-a-day, builds social skills, can educate parents and, in the long-term, help to reduce levels of childhood obesity. At both sites we run a weekly cooking session with families making healthy, nutritious meals on a budget.
- **CIRCLE TIME:** The final half hour of each session is devoted to circle time, which promotes social and emotional wellbeing as well as language development. The play worker encourages the children and their adults to participate in story time and singing favourite action songs and nursery rhymes. These sessions make use of story sacks and song bags, props and musical instruments to accompany the singing.


At the Walthamstow Toy Library we ran 389 play sessions with a footfall of 6,500 children. This was our third full year at Leytonstone Toy Library, where we ran 380 sessions with a footfall of 3,976 children. Numbers remained the same for Leytonstone but dropped for Walthamstow.



*"We love and enjoy the cooking sessions. They are good for our connection and her development". (Parent)*

*"We always appreciate the art activities". (Parent)*



A photograph of a baby sitting on a green mat in a sensory play room. The room is filled with fiber optic light tubes that create a vibrant, colorful environment. The baby is wearing a patterned onesie and is looking towards the camera. In the background, another child is visible, and there are more light tubes and a blue-lit panel.

We continue to work with the borough's Early Years Inclusion Team running sessions in our Sensory Play Room to provide a safe and engaging space for children with SEND. The room is also available to our members to use for a small fee and is popular with new parents whilst on maternity or paternity leave.

*"It has been wonderful working closely with the passionate and hardworking team at both of the Toy Library sites. The sessions they plan and deliver for families in Waltham Forest are so wonderful. The team provide such a high level of care and support to some of the most vulnerable families in the borough and are led by a truly inspirational leader, Helen. Keep up the fantastic work team we hope to work closely with you for many more years to come!"*

*(Sue Grace, Waltham Forest Early Years Service)*

# Toy Loaning

We are the only toy library in Waltham Forest. At both sites we have a variety of toys and equipment which can be borrowed for two weeks at a time. Many items cost as little as £1 to borrow. This service is available to members, community groups and local businesses.

The number of families borrowing toys has decreased across both sites, but families are borrowing more frequently. Across both sites 906 families borrowed toys, compared to 1,182 in the previous financial year: 135 families from Leytonstone, a 14% decrease on the previous year, and 771 families from Walthamstow, a 20% decrease on the previous year. A third of families (33%) borrowed toys 5 or more times, compared to 19% the previous year, with 85 families borrowing 10 or more times, compared to 55 in the previous year. In 2024-25 we generated £18,196 in toy loaning income, a 3% decrease on the previous year.

We continue to run our mobile toy library for large items and orders over £15. There is a delivery and pick up fee.

***“How lucky are we to have this resource in our borough. It saves me money and stops unnecessary waste going to landfill.” (Parent)***



A wide range of high-quality toys and equipment are available for families to borrow.

# Parenting Support

Play sessions don't just focus on children, we also provide support to parents and carers. Everyone is greeted by a member of the team and offered a hot drink and listening ear. At our Walthamstow site we have a designated room called the 'Community Cupboard' where families can donate clothes and equipment that is no longer needed. These can be taken for free or swapped for something new. We run a 'Swap Shop' at our Leytonstone site. We also encourage families to take children's books from our honesty library. These can be kept or returned. We also have a range of parenting books that can be borrowed for free for as long as needed (as we know how hard it can be for busy parents to sit down and read a book!).

*"This is the best stay and play that I have attended because of the culture of the staff. The staff are very present for the adults and understand the importance of looking after the carers of the children." (Parent)*



Cooking activities help children develop independence while supporting parents with ideas for home.



Through our Community Cupboard and Swap Shop, families can access clothing and equipment free of charge, reducing financial pressure.



Access to books supports early language development and a love of reading from a young age.



# Projects & Partnerships

We partnered with a variety of organisations to provide activities which supported education, health and wellbeing, or highlighted the climate and cost of living crisis.

## **Reuse & Repair Fairs**

1-day of activity funded by the London Borough of Waltham Forest (LBWF) and working in partnership with Artillery and Forest Recycling Project, we provided a 'give and take' stall with surplus stock.

## **Langthorne Park Youth Club**

The partnership with Worth Unlimited and Peabody Trust running a weekly youth club for 8 – 15 year olds has gone from strength to strength, engaging 167 young people in a variety of activities from table tennis, football, pool, Play Station, cooking and arts and crafts.

## **Langthorne Park Festival**

1-day event funded by LBWF and co-produced with local groups to bring the community together to celebrate the park, local businesses and talent.

## **Children's Centre & Best Start in Life**

Delivered 179 free play sessions at the Leytonstone Toy Library.



# Volunteering



Good Gym volunteers painting tin cans in preparation for the Easter fundraising trail in Langthorne Park

We continue to offer volunteering opportunities to the local community and students. This year we worked with 32 students through the Waltham Forest Business Education Partnership, Leyton Sixth Form College, Waltham Forest College, Leytonstone School, Walthamstow School for Girls, Trinity Catholic School and George Monoux Sixth Form.

Special thanks go to our regular volunteers Caroline, Judith, Maya, Susanne, Terri, Hazel, Eylul, Iuliana, Khadiza and Nadia (for play session and toy loaning support), Steve (for fixing broken toys), John and Peter (for building maintenance), Robyn and Coral (for event support), Anna (for admin support) and the Good Gym team (for turning up each month and completing whatever tasks we throw at them).

***“Our connection with the Toy Library is a key part of our activities at Good Gym Waltham Forest and we are proud to be able to offer a helping hand to this incredible facility, which is such an asset to our local community.”***

***(Sarah Whitehouse, Good Gym Waltham Forest Coordinator)***

# Community Hub & Events

Our Community Hub and events are vital. They help us generate an income to meet and sustain our charitable aims and objectives and act as a low-cost meeting place for the community.

## Birthday Party Hire

The Toy Library can be hired on Saturdays and Sundays for birthdays, christenings, naming ceremonies and baby showers. The space is hired for 3 hours and a member of staff is on site to open and close and assist if needed. Families can hire additional toys or bring their own.

The ongoing cost of living crisis continued to affect party hire at our community venues during the year. Families are facing increased financial pressures, which has influenced decisions around discretionary spending such as on celebrations. In 2024–25, we hosted 181 parties across both sites, a slight decrease compared to 187 in 2023–24. Party numbers at Walthamstow remained stable, with 127 parties compared to 126 the previous year, while Leytonstone saw a reduction from 61 to 54 parties. Despite this, party hire remains an important and valued income stream, offering families an affordable, accessible local option while contributing to the sustainability of the charity.

## Venue Hire

We continue to make our space available to a number of providers and community groups whose ethos reflects our own and whose services will benefit our members and the wider community.



***“Walthamstow Toy Library has been home to Singing Mamas Walthamstow for***

***almost two years, and having such a welcoming and friendly space has been incredibly important to us. As a wellbeing group for new mums, we want women to feel safe, supported and nurtured, and being located in the Toy Library has been a big part of that.”***

***(Jen Baker, Singing Mamas Walthamstow)***

## Events

With all events that we organise or partake in, there is a focus on bringing people together, combating isolation and building community. We ensure that our activities are fun, sustainable and promote family learning. We also use these events and activities to fundraise and promote our services to a wider audience or to campaign on issues that matter to our community.

At Leytonstone Toy Library we ran Easter, Halloween and Christmas activities, the Langthorne Park Festival, two open-air cinema nights and a theatre and storytelling festival.

At the Walthamstow Toy Library, we ran Halloween and Christmas activities and 'pop up' play activities at the Ravenswood summer Family Day and Christmas events.



*"The open-air cinema, The Greatest Showman, was a perfect choice—upbeat, inclusive, and ideal for a family audience. What stood out across both events was the sense of community: we met neighbours, saw familiar faces, and felt proud of our local park. These activities make the amphitheatre genuinely useful, encourage families to spend time outdoors together, and create positive memories close to home. Thank you for bringing high-quality, family-friendly culture to our area—we'd love to see more." (Leytonstone Resident)*

# Independent Examiner's Report

## Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre ("the Charity") for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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 in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Name: Waqas Hussain FCCA

Address: 10 Knebworth Avenue, Walthamstow, London, E17 5AJ

Date: 22/12/2025

Signed:



# Financial Statement

## Statement of Financial Activity

Account Year End 31st March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>	2				
Donations and legacies		29,717	42,886	72,603	88,990
Charitable activities		181,125	-	181,125	156,015
		<u>210,842</u>	<u>42,886</u>	<u>253,728</u>	<u>245,005</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>	3				
Raising funds		4,762	-	4,762	5,747
Charitable activities		235,155	44,362	279,517	248,553
Other		4,043	-	4,043	6,866
<b>Total</b>		<u>243,959</u>	<u>44,362</u>	<u>288,321</u>	<u>261,166</u>
<b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>		(33,119)	(1,475)	(34,594)	(16,161)
Total funds at 1st April 2024		<u>100,329</u>	<u>1,475</u>	<u>101,804</u>	<u>117,968</u>
Total funds at 31st March 2025		<u>67,210</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,210</u>	<u>101,804</u>

The notes form part of the accounts

## Statement of Financial Position

Account Year End 31st March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	6	-	-	-	1,391
		-	-	-	1,391
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	7	9,104	-	9,104	14,290
Cash at bank and in hand	9	111,264	-	111,264	95,451
		120,368	-	120,368	109,741
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	12,272	40,886	53,158	9,328
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		108,096	(40,886)	67,210	100,413
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		108,096	(40,886)	67,210	101,804
<b>Accumulated fund</b>	10				
Restricted income funds		-	1,475	-	1,475
Designated building fund		21,500	-	21,500	55,000
Unrestricted funds		78,829	-	80,304	61,493
Result for the period		(33,119)	(1,475)	(34,594)	(16,161)
		67,210	-	67,210	101,804

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Charlotte Peel, Interim Chair of Trustees

Date

## **Note 1 Accounting Policies**

### **Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

### **Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions**

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

### **Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

### **Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. IT Equipment- 20% on a straight line basis, Furniture and Equipment 33% on a straight line basis

### **Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

### **Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate

### **Reserves Policy**

Trustees commit to keeping the equivalent of at least 6 months running costs in reserve to safeguard against future changes in income. The present level is £45,710, which is the equivalent to 2 months running costs. Trustees will keep reserves under constant review to secure the long term future.

## Note 2 Income

Analysis of income	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
<b>Donations and legacies:</b>				
Donations and gifts	31,975	-	31,975	52,669
Government JRS	-	-	-	-
Grants	-2,258	42,886	40,628	36,321
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,717</b>	<b>42,886</b>	<b>72,603</b>	<b>88,990</b>
<b>Charitable activities:</b>				
Toy Library Sessions	59,800	-	59,800	59,789
Toy Library Events	1,418	-	1,418	11,714
Membership Fees	20,588	-	20,588	15,777
Venue Hire	99,009	-	99,009	68,517
Interest received	309	-	309	218
<b>Total</b>	<b>181,125</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>181,125</b>	<b>156,015</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>210,842</b>	<b>42,886</b>	<b>253,728</b>	<b>245,005</b>

### Note 3 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
			£	£
<b>Expenditure on raising funds:</b>				
Sundry costs	4,762	-	4,762	5,747
<b>Total expenditure on raising funds</b>	<b>4,762</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,762</b>	<b>5,747</b>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities:</b>				
Sessions	7,104	8,984	16,088	16,088
Venue Hire	-	-	-	-
Events	-	-	-	-
IT Costs	-	-	-	-
Health and Safety	7	-	7	-
Insurance	2,521	-	2,521	2,237
Compliance	1,326	-	1,326	1,319
Office Supplies	663	-	663	383
Staff Costs	171,543	34,592	206,135	159,406
Pension	4,438	-	4,438	3,365
Training	-	784	784	1,537
Subscriptions	1,478	-	1,478	1,710
Rent	23,233	-	23,233	35,735
Repairs and Maintenance	1,034	5,829	4,796	22,092
Marketing	3,673	95	3,768	1,091
Telephone and Broadband	2,322	752	3,074	3,093
Utilities	10,813	2,282	13,095	499
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>235,155</b>	<b>44,362</b>	<b>279,517</b>	<b>248,553</b>
<b>Other</b>				
Accountancy	2,651	-	2,651	5,141
Depreciation	1,391	-	1,391	1,725
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>4,043</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,043</b>	<b>6,866</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>243,959</b>	<b>44,362</b>	<b>288,321</b>	<b>261,166</b>

#### Note 4 Independent Examiners Fees

	2025 £	2024 £
Independent examiner's fees	250	250

#### Note 5 Staff Costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries and wages	206,135	159,406
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	4,438	3,365
Total staff costs	210,573	162,770

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

	2025 £	2024 £
Key Management Personnel	42,354	39,176

Average Head Count	2025	2024
Fundraising	1.0	0.5
Charitable Activities	5.0	4.7
Total	6.0	5.2

## Note 6 Tangible assets

		Fixtures and Fittings £
Cost	At April 2024	9,998
	Additions	0
	<b>At March 2025</b>	<b>9,998</b>
<hr/>		
Depreciation	At April 2024	8,607
	Charge for the year	1,391
	<b>At March 2025</b>	<b>9,998</b>
<hr/>		
Net Book Value	<u>At 31 March</u> 2025	0
	<u>At 31 March</u> 2024	1,391

## Note 7 Debtors and prepayments

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	6,077	5,622
Prepayments and accrued income	3,027	8,718
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,104</b>	<b>14,340</b>

## Note 8 Creditors and deferred income

	Amounts falling due within one year	
	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	1,200	1,450
Accruals and deferred income	46,574	7,009
Taxation and social security	5,383	869
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,158</b>	<b>9,328</b>

## Note 9 Cash at the bank and in hand

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank and on hand	111,264	95,451
<b>Total</b>	<b>111,264</b>	<b>95,451</b>

## Note 10 Funds movement in current year

	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Fund balances carried forward £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General Fund	45,329	208,341	(207,959)		45,710
Designated Fund	55,000	2,500	(36,000)		21,500
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Restricted Fund	1,475	42,887	(44,362)		
<b>Total Funds as per balance sheet</b>	<b>101,804</b>	<b>253,728</b>	<b>(288,321)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>67,210</b>

**Note 11 Related parties**

No related party transactions took place in the year to 31 March 2025. None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity

**WALTHAMSTOW TOY LIBRARY AND PLAY CENTRE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178098

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# Accounts

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Trustees' Annual  
Report and  
Financial Statement  
2023-2024



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# Foreword

We are delighted to present our Trustees' Annual Report for 2023-24 reflecting on a transformative year of growth, collaboration, and impact for the Toy Library. This year has been marked by milestones that underscore our commitment to serving our community and evolving to meet its needs.

We moved into our new home at Somers Road, Walthamstow—a space we hope will be our forever home. After extensive refurbishment to revive a building that had stood empty for years, we were thrilled to create a new, welcoming environment for members. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the incredible support we received through our crowd-funder. To everyone who contributed, thank you for helping us turn this dream into reality.

Our official opening was held on 15 March 2023, attended by Stella Creasy MP and local councillors, and it marked a new chapter in our journey. Alongside this, we also broadened our charitable objectives within our constitution, enabling us to expand our remit and provide services for older children. This change reflects our ongoing commitment to adapt and respond to the needs of our community.

We were privileged to be named **17 & Central's Charity Partner of the Year for 2023**, a partnership that not only raised crucial funds but also connected us with new audiences. Together, we hosted a variety of engaging activities like our Halloween pop-up with spooky crafts, which brought joy to children and families alike.

Our CEO, Helen Crockford, was invited to speak at the **School of Social Entrepreneurs**, presenting to their board of trustees' 'Mission Moment.' This opportunity allowed us to share our vision and inspire others in the social enterprise sector.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to local businesses like Radek, who built our Community Cupboard, and East of Eden and 17 & Central, whose fundraising support has been invaluable.

As we look back on a year of remarkable progress and community impact, we remain deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our members, partners, and supporters. Together, we continue to make a positive difference, and we look forward to the opportunities ahead in 2024-2025.

Noella Gooden, Chair of Trustees



## Legal & Administrative Information

### **Company Address:**

William Morris Hall  
6 Somers Road  
Walthamstow  
E17 6RX

**Registered Charity Number:** 1178098

**Company Number:** CEO13905

### **Trustees:**

Noella Gooden (Chair)

Read Baurtally (Treasurer)

Natalie Sleight (resigned May 23)

Kate Boyle (resigned Nov 23)

Jeni Day

Caroline Keech (appointed Nov 23)

Esme Cooke-McGowan (appointed Nov 23)

Kayleigh Gray-Layton (appointed Nov 23)

Lorraine Pinter (appointed Nov 23)

**Accounts prepared by:** chromatic books

# About Us & Mission

The charity works for the public benefit having as its objects the development and education of children and young people in particular by:

- promoting their care and safety;
- promoting their education and promoting parental involvement;
- promoting their health and wellbeing;
- providing services to support them and their families and carers;
- providing services to individuals holding membership of the CIO; and
- creating a supportive community for them and their families and carers.

**Our mission is to provide safe, creative spaces for children and their parents and carers to play, learn and interact.**



# Aims & Objectives

Seven aims underpin our mission:

Support

- Support children and young people to learn and develop and to prepare for the next stage of their educational journey

Promote

- Promote bonding and attachment between children and their adults

Reduce

- Reduce isolation and help parents to develop supportive social networks

Encourage

- Encourage good health and wellbeing of children and families

Enable

- Enable access to our services from all sections of the community particularly those on a low income

Provide

- Provide volunteering opportunities to local students and residents

Represent

- Represent the aims and interests of our members



# To meet the aims our work is based around the following objectives:

1. Provide a friendly, welcoming and safe environment;
2. Run high-quality, structured play sessions led by experienced play workers;
3. Make available a diverse range of toys for play and learning, providing play ideas for families to use at home;
4. Support, promote and deliver health and well-being initiatives;
5. Maximise access to our services, especially among those on a low income;
6. Work with schools, colleges, Waltham Forest Business Education Partnership to provide volunteering opportunities;
7. Work in partnership with other organisations, both locally and nationally, to promote our aims; and
8. Involve our members in evaluating, improving and running our services.



# Core values

The Toy Library adheres to its values by providing services that are:

- Child-centred
- Educational
- Healthy
- Sustainable
- Fun
- Community based

***“Thank you Toy Library for creating a nurturing environment where children feel safe, loved and most of all encouraged to explore their unique potential”.***





# Diversity & Inclusion

Our borough is one of the most diverse areas in the country. An estimated 53% of residents are from a minority ethnic background and this is reflected in our membership. Excluding White British the top five nationalities are; Romanian, Polish, Black British, Black Caribbean and Pakistani.


Waltham Forest is currently ranked 82nd most deprived borough nationally according to the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (an improvement from 35th in 2015, and 15th in 2010). Waltham Forest now ranks 12<sup>th</sup> most deprived London borough - an improvement from 7<sup>th</sup> in 2015. Waltham Forest has a younger than average population with 24.5 per cent of residents being aged 0 to 19 compared to 23 per cent in London and 23 per cent nationally.



The Toy Library continues to provide universal play sessions and toy loaning to families, not just from Waltham Forest, but further afield. We strive to assist families in financial need by providing free annual membership (usual cost is £15) and reduced play sessions fees at £1 for the first child and 50p for additional children (usual cost £5.50 for the first child and £2.50 for additional children). We don't want finance to be a barrier to anyone. We support families who have no recourse to public funds or who are struggling financially. We offer free membership and a block of six free play sessions. Once the six sessions have been attended, more are offered or families pay what they can afford.

At the end of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, 2705 families were registered with us across both sites. 22% of members received free membership and reduced session fees. This is a 2% increase on the previous year. With funding, this is an area of our work that we would like to grow, with a greater focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

# Play Sessions

A photograph of a playroom. In the foreground, there is a white and pink unicorn toy, a yellow and red lion-shaped rattle, and a pink toy car. In the background, there is a blue and yellow ring-shaped toy, a blue sofa, and a red toy house.

Our 90 minute sessions cater for children aged 0-5 and are led by trained staff. Children benefit from interactions with a wider age range than they are often exposed to in other early years settings, such as nursery. It also means that parents can bring younger siblings and childminders the full range of children they care for.

Sessions are based around different themes and stories each month. Staff have developed a successful structure which includes:

- **FREE PLAY:** An initial hour of free play with our diverse range of toys and equipment. Specific activities and toys vary from session to session but include art and craft, messy play, physical play (indoor soft play and outdoor area), imaginative play, construction, puzzles and books. This first hour follows the ethos of '*Learning through Play*', children can choose their preferred activity at their own pace both indoors and out.
- **TIDY-UP TIME:** 5 minutes before snack time children and adults work together to clear toys and prepare the room for snack time and circle time. We believe this is extremely important to develop children's co-operative skills and ownership and care of the play environment.
- **HEALTHY SNACKS:** All sessions involve a snack time, where the children sit together and share a selection of healthy snacks. Compared to other toddler and playgroups in the area, the Toy Library is unusual in offering this as a structured activity. We believe this promotes positive attitudes to good nutrition, enables children who might not otherwise do so eat 2-3 portions of their 5-a-day, builds social skills, can educate parents and, in the long-term, help to reduce levels of childhood obesity.
- **CIRCLE TIME:** The final half hour of each session is devoted to circle time, which promotes social and emotional wellbeing as well as language development. The play worker encourages the children and their adults to participate in story time and singing favourite action songs and nursery rhymes. These sessions make use of story sacks and song bags, props and musical instruments to accompany the singing.

Play sessions don't just focus on children, we also provide support to parents and carers. Everyone is greeted by a member of the team and offered a hot drink and listening ear.

We believe that investing in our team is not only important for their professional development, but that of our charity and the community we serve. In 2023/24, two members of the team received 'Level 3 Forest School' training. Three staff received 'PEEP Learning Together' training and one member of the team 'Book Start' training. The whole team received 'Violence Against Women and Girls' awareness training and incorporating 'Music and Movement' into play sessions.

At the Walthamstow Toy Library, we ran 348 play sessions, with a footfall of 7222 children.

This was our second full year at Leytonstone Toy Library. We ran 380 sessions, with a footfall of 3980 children. A slight increase on last years figure.

***"The Toy Library is an inclusive community facility. We have attended sessions regularly since our daughter was three months old. The staff are friendly, knowledgeable and show great care and expertise in the services they deliver. Our daughter has a variety of additional needs. The Toy Library went above and beyond in providing a listening ear, signposting and helping us to access the complicated early years SEND provision in the borough. They were there for us as a whole family at a time when we felt lonely and lost trying to navigate where to go next, to get the help that we needed for our daughter. As a result, we are now in a pre-school setting two afternoons a week. We feel this wouldn't have happened so quickly without their support"***



# Toy Loaning

We are the only toy library in Waltham Forest. At both sites we have a variety of toys and equipment which can be borrowed for two weeks at a time. Many items cost from £1 to borrow. This service is available to members, community groups and local businesses.

Across both sites 1182 families borrowed toys. 216 families from Leytonstone, a 14% increase on the previous year, and 966 families from Walthamstow, a 12% increase on the previous year. 19% of families borrowed 5 or more times and 55 families borrowed 10 or more times.

In 2022/23 we generated £21,338 in toy loaning income. Despite more people borrowing toys, in 2023/24 we saw a 12% decrease in income to £18,708, with less people borrowing larger items and borrowing regularly.

We continue to run our mobile toy loaning service for large items and orders over £15.

***"The Toy Library has been an invaluable resource for me and my 19month old son. From loaning toys to mark his developmental milestones - from wooden walkers to sensory toys for travel - to attending morning Stay and Play sessions. We have used and loved it all. The service has now extended further for our family with my son attending weekly with his Grandmother in tow. It's a space for everyone with something for all and I am so grateful to have it on our doorstep - how lucky are we!"***





# Sensory Room

***“The space is amazing. I’d give it 10 out of 10. I don’t want anyone else to know about it, so we can have it all to ourselves!”***



With support from St James Street Big Local and Lloyds of London Foundation we relocated the sensory room from Hurst Road and had it reinstalled with added features. We continue to work with the borough’s Early Years Inclusion Team and the Lloyd Park Children’s Charity ‘Somewhere 2 Belong’ running sessions to provide a safe and engaging space for children with SEND. It’s also available to our members to use for a fee.

# Parenting Support

*“You are so much more than a Toy Library. You are a lifeline for so many parents. I don’t know what I would have done without you this year”.*



The staff continue to provide support and advice to families on a variety of topics or make referrals to specialist organisations such as food banks, housing and debt advice surgeries. The borough’s Speech and Language Therapy team attended several sessions across both sites to answer parents’ concerns and give helpful tips on developing their children’s language and communication skills. Each site also had a visit from HEET to advise on how to keep homes insulated and how to keep warm during the winter months. A specialist respiratory nurse also attended sessions and gave advice on asthma and general health and wellbeing. LBWF Adult Learning Service and the Library teams have also delivered activities with us.

At our Walthamstow site we have a designated room called the ‘Community Cupboard’ where families can donate clothes and equipment that is no longer needed. These can be taken for free or swapped for something new. We run a ‘Swap Shop’ at our Leytonstone site. We encourage families to take children’s books from our honesty library. These can be kept or returned. We also have a range of parenting books that can be borrowed for free for as long as needed, as we know how hard it can be for busy parents to sit down and read!



# Projects & Partnerships

We partnered with a variety of organisations to provide activities which supported education, health and wellbeing or highlighted the climate and cost of living crisis.

## **Reuse & Repair Fair – 1-day of activity**

Funded by LBWF and working in partnership with Artillery and Forest Recycling Project, we provided a give and take stall.

## **Supporting asylum seekers at the Ibis Hotel – weekly 1-hour sessions**

In partnership with Worth Unlimited we delivered after school activities for 0- 8 year olds.

## **Friday Fun Free For All Homework Club, weekly 2-hour sessions**

Funded by Awards for All and working in partnership with NEWPIN. We supported 5 – 11 year olds and their parents with after school learning, providing a variety of play activities, a quiet area and resources to complete homework as well as a cooked meal.

## **Langthorne Park Festival – 1-day event**

Funded by LBWF and co-produced with local groups. The festival brings the community together in celebration of the people and area.

## **'It's Our Park' Outdoor Cinema – 2-day event**

Funded by LBWF ward funding we partnered with Stow Film Lounge and Friends of Langthorne Park to screen two free, family films.

## **Langthorne Park Youth Club – weekly, 2-hour session**

We continue to partner with Worth Unlimited and Peabody to run a weekly youth club for 8 – 15 year olds. A highlight this year was working with artists from the William Morris Gallery on the 'Radical Landscapes' exhibition.



# Community Hub & Events

These activities are vital, they help us generate an income to meet and sustain our charitable aims and objectives and act as a low-cost meeting place for the community.

## Parties

The Toy Library remains a popular venue for party hire. It can be hired on Saturdays and Sundays for birthdays, christenings, naming ceremonies and baby showers. The space is hired for 3 hours and a member of staff is on site to open and close and assist if needed. Families can hire additional toys or bring their own.

***"The Toy Library really is the best venue in town. It's reasonably priced, easy to book and has everything you need to keep the kids happy. All our guests loved it so much that they are hiring it too".***

In this financial year there were 187 parties compared to 193 in 2022/23: 126 in Walthamstow (137 in 2022/23) and 61 in Leytonstone (56 in 2022/23). A slight decrease overall, due to Walthamstow moving and renovating the new venue.





## Venue Hire

We continue to make our space available to a number of providers and community groups whose ethos reflects our own and whose services will benefit our members and the wider community. We have a tiered pricing structure, so it is affordable (£15p/h) for community groups who are offering free, reduced fees or donation only classes. At our Leytonstone site, the Probation Service's Community Payback Team, use the room for free on a weekly basis. In return they help maintain Langthorne Park. At our Walthamstow site the Health Visiting Team have been using the venue for baby weighing clinics and development reviews. This has been a great partnership, as new families are introduced to our services.

***“Fabulous venue in the heart of Walthamstow, accessible to all. Supportive, communicative, friendly staff; space is always clean and ready to use and competitive rates. Perfect!”***



## Events

With all events that we organise or partake in, there is a focus on bringing people together, combating isolation and building community. We ensure that our activities are fun, sustainable and promote family learning. We also use these events and activities to fundraise and promote our services to a wider audience or to campaign on issues that matter to our community.

At Leytonstone Toy Library we ran events for Easter, Halloween and Christmas. The 'Light Up Langthorne' football tournament in collaboration with Worth Unlimited, Peabody and the Langthorne Collective raised awareness about youth safety in the park. The Christmas lantern procession in Leytonstone, furthered this work.

At the Walthamstow Toy Library, we held our annual May Fair and ran 'pop up' play activities at the Ravenswood Family Day, World Refugee Day on Fellowship Square and Community Health Events in Walthamstow and Leyton.

# Volunteering

We continue to offer volunteering opportunities to the local community and students. This year we have worked with 64 students through the Waltham Forest Business Education Partnership, Leyton Sixth Form College, Waltham Forest College and George Monoux.

Special thanks go to our regular volunteers Caroline, Judith, Terri and Susanne (for play session and toy loaning support), Steve (for fixing all the broken toys), John and Peter (for continued building maintenance), Robyn and Coral (for event support), Anna (for admin support) and the Good Gym team (for turning up each month and completing whatever tasks we throw at them).

***“The team's dedication to providing valuable services and hosting fun, impactful events is truly inspiring. It's clear the Toy Library makes a real difference, as many of the families/residents have told me so. I'm proud to be able to support and be a part of an organisation that genuinely cares about those it serves”.***



## **Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre ("the Charity") for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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 in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Name: Waqas Hussain FCCA

Address: 10 Knebworth Avenue, Walthamstow, London, E17 5AJ

Date: 07/11/2024

Signed:



## Statement of Financial Activity

Account Year End 31st March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
		£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming resources</b>	2				
Donations and legacies		73,702	15,288	88,990	48,043
Charitable activities		156,015	-	156,015	177,805
		<u>229,717</u>	<u>15,288</u>	<u>245,005</u>	<u>225,848</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>	3				
Raising funds		5,747	-	5,747	1,789
Charitable activities		219,911	28,642	248,553	212,323
Other		6,866	-	6,866	5,271
<b>Total</b>		<u>232,524</u>	<u>28,642</u>	<u>261,166</u>	<u>219,383</u>
<b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>		(4,282)	(11,879)	(16,161)	6,465
Total funds <u>at</u> 1st April 2023		<u>104,662</u>	<u>13,354</u>	<u>118,016</u>	<u>112,006</u>
Total funds <u>at</u> 31st March 2024		<u>100,379</u>	<u>1,475</u>	<u>101,854</u>	<u>118,470</u>

The notes form part of the accounts

## Statement of Financial Position

Account Year End 31st March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	6	1,391	-	1,391	3,116
		1,391	-	1,391	3,116
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	7	14,340	-	14,340	3,401
Cash at bank and in hand	9	95,451	-	95,451	170,969
		109,791	-	109,791	174,370
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	7,853	1,475	9,328	59,019
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		101,938	(1,475)	100,463	115,351
<b>Total assets <u>less</u> current liabilities</b>		103,329	(1,475)	101,854	118,470
<b>Accumulated fund</b>	10				
Restricted income funds		-	1,475	1,475	13,354
Designated building fund		55,000	-	55,000	55,000
Unrestricted funds		61,543	-	61,543	43,652
Result for the period		(4,282)	(11,879)	(16,161)	6,465
		112,261	(10,404)	101,854	118,470

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Noella Gooden, Chair of Trustees

Date

The notes form part of the accounts

## Note 1 Accounting Policies

### Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

### Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

### Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

### Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. IT Equipment- 20% on a straight line basis, Furniture and Equipment 33% on a straight line basis

### Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of

the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

### Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate

### Reserves Policy

Trustees commit to keeping the equivalent of 3 - 6 months running costs in reserve to safeguard against future changes in income. The present level is £85k which is within this range. £55k has been designated for the renovation of the William Morris Hall. We agreed to split renovation costs with our landlord and are waiting to be billed for the works done (replacing gas central heating and hot water systems, renewing electrics, painting and decorating, new flooring, roof maintenance).

**Note 2 Income**

<b>Analysis of income</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted income funds</b>	<b>Total funds 2024</b>	<b>Total funds 2023</b>
			<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Donations and legacies:</b>				
Donations and gifts	50,323	2,346	52,669	7,786
Government JRS	-	-	-	-
Grants	23,379	12,942	36,321	40,257
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,702</b>	<b>15,288</b>	<b>88,990</b>	<b>48,043</b>
<b>Charitable activities:</b>				
Toy Library Sessions	59,789	-	59,789	66,564
Toy Library Events	11,714	-	11,714	9,599
Membership Fees	15,777	-	15,777	15,601
Venue Hire	68,517	-	68,517	86,017
Interest received	218	-	218	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>156,015</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>156,015</b>	<b>177,805</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>229,717</b>	<b>15,228</b>	<b>245,005</b>	<b>225,848</b>

**Note 3 Expenditure**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
<b>Expenditure on raising funds:</b>			£	£
Sundry costs	5,747	-	5,747	1,789
<b>Total expenditure on raising funds</b>	<b>5,747</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,747</b>	<b>1,789</b>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities:</b>				
Sessions	7,104	8,984	16,088	34,622
Venue Hire	-	-	-	-
Events	-	-	-	-
IT Costs	-	-	-	-
Health and Safety	-	-	-	744
Insurance	2,237	-	2,237	792
Compliance	1,169	150	1,319	633
Office Supplies	383	-	383	244
Staff Costs	141,295	18,111	159,406	127,699
Pension	3,365	-	3,365	2,876
Training	557	980	1,537	3,805
Subscriptions	1,710	-	1,710	1,996
Rent	35,735	-	35,735	37,593
Repairs and Maintenance	21,732	360	22,092	1,090
Marketing	1,034	57	1,091	159
Telephone and Broadband	3,093	-	3,093	2,647
Utilities	499	-	499	-
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>219,911</b>	<b>28,642</b>	<b>248,553</b>	<b>212,323</b>
<b>Other</b>				
Accountancy	5,141	-	5,141	2,649
Depreciation	1,725	-	1,725	2,622
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>6,866</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,866</b>	<b>5,271</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>232,524</b>	<b>28,642</b>	<b>261,166</b>	<b>219,383</b>

**Note 4 Independent Examiners Fees**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Independent examiner's fees</b>	250	250

**Note 5 Staff Costs**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Salaries and wages</b>	159,406	127,699
<b>Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)</b>	3,365	2,876
<b>Total staff costs</b>	162,770	130,575

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Key Management Personnel</b>	39,176	36,032

<b>Average Head Count</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	0.5	0.5
<b>Charitable Activities</b>	4.7	4.7
<b>Total</b>	5.2	5.2

## Note 6 Tangible assets

		Fixtures and Fittings £
<b>Cost</b>	At April 2023	9,998
	Additions	0
	<b>At March 2024</b>	<u>9,998</u>
		<u>9,998</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>	At April 2023	6882
	Charge for the year	1,726
	<b>At March 2024</b>	<u>8,607</u>
		<u>8,607</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>	<u>At 31 March</u> 2024	1,391
	<u>At 31 March</u> 2023	3,116

## Note 7 Debtors and prepayments

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	5,622	1,642
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>8,718</u>	<u>1,759</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>14,340</u>	<u>3,401</u>

**Note 8 Creditors and deferred income**

	Amounts falling due within one year	
	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	1,450	1,300
Accruals and deferred income	7,009	56,790
Taxation and social security	869	929
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,328</b>	<b>59,019</b>

**Note 9 Cash at the bank and in hand**

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank and on hand	95,451	170,969
<b>Total</b>	<b>95,451</b>	<b>170,969</b>

**Note 10 Funds movement in current year**

	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General Fund	50,117	229,717	(232,524)	(1,475)	45,379
Designated Fund	55,000				55,000
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Restricted Fund	13,354	15,288	(28,642)	1,475	1,475
<b>Total Funds as per balance sheet</b>	<b>118,471</b>	<b>245,005</b>	<b>(261,166)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>101,854</b>

**Note 11 Related parties**

No related party transactions took place in the year to 31 March 2024. None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity

**WALTHAMSTOW TOY LIBRARY AND PLAY CENTRE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178098

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# Accounts

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Trustees' Annual  
Report and  
Financial Statement  
2022-2023



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# Foreword

It's been a busy year for the Toy Library team, both the Walthamstow and Leytonstone sites have scaled up activities and increased traded income in all areas, particularly toy loaning, venue hire and community events.

Congratulations to our CEO, Helen Crockford for completing the prestigious School for Social Entrepreneurs Lloyds Bank and Bank of Scotland Scale Up Programme. The year long training and subsequent match funding has certainly been reflected in our work this year.

This year we have been involved in several exciting and innovative projects. Highlights include the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration, running family cooking sessions with support from the borough's Health Inequalities Fund and getting involved in the We Play project.

Helen and I were also selected to take part in the Cognizant Community Business Forum Volunteering Event, where we met a skilled team of Cognizant employees who worked with us for the day on challenges our charity faces. It was very insightful, particularly around staffing structures. With funding, this is an area that we would like to explore.

At the end of 2021/22 we committed to creating a Sensory Play Room for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We are delighted to report that this has been achieved and has been well received by our beneficiaries.

With the Hurst Road lease expiring in September 2023, much of our efforts have been focused on finding a permanent venue in Walthamstow. We are delighted that Barnardo's who own the William Morris Hall on Somers Road have agreed to give us a 10 year lease. In the new financial year we will be concentrating efforts on raising funds to renovate and refurbish the new venue. It has been empty for over two years and is in need of much work.

Noella Gooden, Chair of Trustees



## Legal and Administrative Information

**Company Address:**

Hurst Road Health Centre  
36a Hurst Road  
Walthamstow  
E17 3BL

**Registered Charity Number:** 1178098

**Company Number:** CEO13905

**Trustees:**

Noella Gooden (Chair)  
Read Baurtally (Treasurer)  
Natalie Sleight (Secretary)  
Kate Boyle  
Louise Cherrington

**Accounts prepared by:** chromatic books

# About Us & Mission

The aims of Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre as set out in our constitution are to enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their child through community groups and by:

- Offering appropriate play, education and care facilities, family learning and extended hours' groups, together with the right of parents to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of such groups, ensuring that such groups offer opportunities for all children whatever their race, culture, religion, means or ability.
- Encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in recognition of such needs in the local area.

**Our mission is to provide safe, creative spaces for young children and their parents and carers to play, learn and interact.**



# Aims & Objectives

Seven aims underpin our mission:

Support

- Support children under 5 to learn and develop and to prepare for nursery education

Promote

- Promote bonding and attachment between children and their adults

Reduce

- Reduce isolation and help parents to develop supportive social networks

Encourage

- Encourage good health and wellbeing of children and families

Enable

- Enable access to our services from all sections of the community particularly those on a low income

Provide

- Provide volunteering opportunities to local students and residents

Represent

- Represent the aims and interests of our members



# To meet the aims our work is based around the following objectives:

1. Provide a friendly, welcoming and safe environment;
2. Run high-quality, structured play sessions led by experienced play workers, based around the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum;
3. Make available a diverse range of toys for play and learning, providing play ideas for families to use at home;
4. Support, promote and deliver health and well-being initiatives;
5. Maximise access to our services, especially among those on a low income;
6. Work with schools, colleges, Waltham Forest Business Education Partnership to provide volunteering opportunities;
7. Work in partnership with other organisations, both locally and nationally, to promote our aims; and
8. Involve our members in evaluating, improving and running our services.



# Core values

The Toy Library adheres to its values by providing services that are:

- Child-centred
- Educational
- Healthy
- Sustainable
- Fun
- Community based



A large, colorful rainbow made of wooden blocks is positioned on the left side of the page. The rainbow consists of seven distinct bands of color: red, orange, yellow, green, light blue, dark blue, and purple. The blocks are stacked to form a semi-circular arc. The background is a blurred indoor setting with various toys and objects.

# Diversity and Inclusion


Our borough is one of the most diverse areas in the country. An estimated 53% of residents are from a minority ethnic background and this is reflected in our membership. Excluding White British the top five nationalities are; Romanian, Polish, Black British, Black Caribbean and Pakistani.

Waltham Forest is currently ranked 82nd most deprived borough nationally according to the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (an improvement from 35th in 2015, and 15th in 2010). Waltham Forest now ranks 12<sup>th</sup> most deprived London borough - an improvement from 7<sup>th</sup> in 2015. Waltham Forest has a younger than average population with 24.5 per cent of residents being aged 0 to 19 compared to 23 per cent in London and 23 per cent nationally.



The Toy Library continues to provide universal play sessions and toy loaning to families, not just from Waltham Forest, but further afield. We strive to assist families in financial need by providing free annual membership (usual cost is £12) and reduced play sessions fees at £1 for the first child and 50p for additional children (usual cost £5 for the first child and £2.50 for additional children). We don't want finance to be a barrier to anyone and are happy to support families who have no recourse to public funds or who are struggling financially. We offer free membership and a block of six free play sessions. Once the six sessions have been attended, we review and offer more or ask them to pay what they can afford.

At the end of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, 1887 families were registered with us across both sites. 20% of members received free membership and reduced session fees.

A group of children and adults are gathered in a room, clapping their hands. In the foreground, a young child with blonde hair is clapping. Behind them, several other children of various ethnicities are also clapping. Two women, one in a pink top and one in a white top, are smiling and clapping along with the children. The background shows a window with blinds.

Our 90 minute sessions cater for children aged 0-5 and are led by trained staff. Children benefit from interactions with a wider age range than they are often exposed to in other early years settings, such as nursery. It also means that parents can bring younger siblings and childminders the full range of children they care for.

Sessions are based around different themes and stories each month. Staff have developed a successful structure which includes:

- **FREE PLAY:** An initial hour of free play with our diverse range of toys and equipment. Specific activities and toys vary from session to session but include art and craft, messy play, physical play (indoor soft play and outdoor area), imaginative play, construction, puzzles and books. This first hour follows the ethos of *'Learning through Play'*, children can choose their preferred activity at their own pace both indoors and out.
- **TIDY-UP TIME:** 5 minutes before snack time children and adults work together to clear toys and prepare the room for snack time and circle time. We believe this is extremely important to develop children's co-operative skills and ownership and care of the play environment.
- **HEALTHY SNACKS:** All sessions involve a snack time, where the children sit together and share a selection of healthy snacks. Compared to other toddler and playgroups in the area, the Toy Library is unusual in offering this as a structured activity. We believe this promotes positive attitudes to good nutrition, enables children who might not otherwise do so eat 2-3 portions of their 5-a-day, builds social skills, can educate parents and, in the long-term, help to reduce levels of childhood obesity.
- **CIRCLE TIME:** The final half hour of each session is devoted to circle time, which promotes social and emotional wellbeing as well as language development. The play worker encourages the children and their adults to participate in story time and singing favourite action songs and nursery rhymes. These sessions make use of story sacks and song bags, props and musical instruments to accompany the singing.

## Play Sessions

Play sessions don't just focus on the children, we also provide support to parents and carers. Everyone is greeted by a member of the team and offered a hot drink and listening ear if needed.

We believe that investing in our staff team is important for their personal development and that of the organisation and the community we serve. This year, our Play Workers have received training in 'Making Sense of Autism' and 'EYFS vs SEND'. Our admin team received 'Customer Service' training.

At the Walthamstow Toy Library, we ran 354 play sessions, with a footfall of 7378 children.

At the Leytonstone Toy Library, we ran 392 sessions, with a footfall of 3920 children.





# Toy Loaning

We are the only toy library in Waltham Forest. At both sites we have a variety of toys and equipment which can be borrowed for two weeks at a time at a low cost. Many items cost from £1 to borrow. This service is available to members, community groups and local businesses.

In the reporting period, 190 families borrowed toys from Leytonstone Toy Library, a 16% increase on the previous year. At Walthamstow Toy Library 850 families borrowed toys, a 34% increase on the previous year. 30% of families borrowed 5 or more times and 81 families borrowed 10 or more times.

In 2021/22 we generated £11,079 in toy loaning income. In 2022/23 we saw a 93% increase in income to £21,338. With a dedicated toy loaning room at the Walthamstow site it has made it easier for families to pop in throughout the week and browse what we have on offer. At both sites we have invested in large equipment and games, which can be loaned for reasonable fees for parties outside of the Toy Library.

We also provided toys for several 'warm hubs' in the borough and have continued to run our mobile toy loaning service for large items and orders over £15.



## Sensory Room

We opened the sensory room at the start of 2023. We have been working with the borough's Early Years Inclusion Team, Speech and Communication Clinic and the Lloyd Park Children's Charity 'Somewhere 2 Belong' session to provide a safe and engaging space for children with SEND. It's also available to members for a small charge.



## Parenting Support

The staff continue to provide support and advice to families on a variety of topics or make referrals to specialist organisations such as food banks and housing and debt advice surgeries. The borough's Speech and Language Therapy team attended several sessions across both sites to answer parents' concerns and give helpful tips on developing their children's language and communication skills.

At both sites we have a 'Swap Shop' where families can donate clothes and equipment that is no longer needed. These can be taken for free or swapped for something new. We encourage families to take books from our honesty library. These can be kept or returned.

We piloted a project with the Freedom Law Clinic. The team support five women with legal advice. We hope to develop this work further.

At our Leytonstone site we receive a weekly bread donation from Hovis. With the high cost of living, families are incredibly grateful for this.



# Projects and Partnership Work

We partnered with specialist organisations to provide a variety of activities which supported educational and health and wellbeing outcomes. We also worked with construction company Wilmot Dixon Interiors to develop our Leytonstone site.

## Wilmot Dixon Interiors Trainee Programme

Funded by the company, Trainees refurbished the kitchen - a large fridge freezer, chest freezer, cooker, microwave and kettle were donated.

Created raised beds and cleaned the amphitheatre.



## Tinies Tea Party

Funded by Arts Council England for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration, we partnered with Soundcastle, who worked with children with SEND to create 6 music tracks which were performed at our tea party.



## We Play Project Bags

Funded by LBWF and working with the Early Years Inclusion team, 50 sensory play bags were created and distributed to children with SEND.



## Health Inequalities Fund

Funded by LBWF we partnered with Kids Kitchen to run a six-week cooking course at each site, to support families with the cost of living crisis and eating healthily on a budget.



## Community Hub and Events

These activities are vital, they help us to generate an income to meet and sustain our charitable aims and objectives.

### **Birthday parties**

The Toy Library remains a popular venue for party hire. It can be hired on Saturdays and Sundays for birthday parties, christenings and naming ceremonies. The space is hired for 3 hours and a member of toy library staff is on site to open and close up and assist if needed. Families can hire additional toys or bring their own.

In this financial year there were 193 parties compared to 107 in 2021/22: 137 in Walthamstow (78 in 2021/22) and 56 in Leytonstone (29 in 2021/22).



## Venue Hire

We continue to make our space available to a number of providers and community groups whose ethos reflects our own and whose services will benefit our members and the wider community. We have a tiered pricing structure, so it is affordable (£15p/h) for community groups who are offering free, reduced fees or donation only classes. At our Leytonstone site, the Probation Service's Community Payback Team, use the room for free on a weekly basis. In return they help maintain Langthorne Park. At our Walthamstow site the Health Visiting Team have been using the venue for baby weighing clinics and development reviews. This has been a great partnership, as new families are introduced to our services.



## Events

With all events that we organise or partake in, there is a focus on bringing people together, combating isolation and building community. We ensure that our activities are fun, sustainable and promote family learning. We also use these events and activities to fundraise and promote our services to a wider audience.

At both sites we ran events for Easter, Halloween, Christmas and International Women's Day.

At the Walthamstow Toy Library, it was wonderful to hold our May Fair again after a three-year break due to the Covid pandemic.

# Volunteering

We continue to offer volunteering opportunities to the local community and students. This year we have worked 55 students through the Waltham Forest Business Education Partnership, Leyton Sixth Form College, Waltham Forest College and George Monoux. The institutions say; “you provide an invaluable introduction into the world of work”, “your staff are so supportive, our students gain a lot from attending”.

We were also pleased to support two students from Frederick Bremer School complete the volunteering strand of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

Special thanks go to our regular volunteers Lucy (for keeping the garden cheerful), Caroline and Susanne (for play session and toy loaning support), Steve (for fixing all the broken toys), John (for continued building maintenance), Anna (for admin support) and the Good Gym team (for turning up each month and completing whatever tasks we throw at them).



## **Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre ("the Charity") for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Name: Waqas Hussain FCCA

Address: 10 Knebworth Avenue, Walthamstow, London, E17 5AJ

Date: 19/12/2023

Signed:



# Statement of Financial Activity

Account Year End 31st March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
		£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming resources</b>	2				
Donations and legacies		7,786	40,257	48,043	68,807
Charitable activities		177,805	-	177,805	107,830
		<u>185,591</u>	<u>40,257</u>	<u>225,848</u>	<u>176,637</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>	3				
Raising funds		1,789	-	1,789	196
Charitable activities		166,673	45,650	212,323	134,940
Other		5,271	-	5,271	3,243
<b>Total</b>		<u>173,733</u>	<u>45,650</u>	<u>219,383</u>	<u>138,378</u>
<b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>		(1,496)	7,961	6,465	38,259
Total funds at 1st April 2022		<u>106,614</u>	<u>5,393</u>	<u>112,006</u>	<u>73,747</u>
Total funds at 31st March 2023		<u>105,118</u>	<u>13,354</u>	<u>118,470</u>	<u>112,006</u>

The notes form part of the accounts

# Statement of Financial Position

Account Year End 31st March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	6	3,116	-	3,116	1,064
		<u>3,116</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,116</u>	<u>1,064</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	7	3,401	-	3,401	3,094
Cash at bank and in hand	9	170,969	-	170,969	138,056
		<u>174,370</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>174,370</u>	<u>141,150</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	45,665	13,354	59,019	30,208
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		<u>128,705</u>	<u>(13,354)</u>	<u>115,351</u>	<u>110,942</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>131,821</u>	<u>(13,354)</u>	<u>118,470</u>	<u>112,006</u>
<b>Accumulated fund</b>	10				
Restricted income funds		-	5,393	5,393	199
Designated building fund		55,000		55,000	
Unrestricted funds		51,613		51,613	73,946
Result for the period		(1,496)	7,961	6,465	38,260
		<u>73,346</u>	<u>13,354</u>	<u>118,470</u>	<u>112,006</u>

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Noella Gooden, Chair of Trustees

Date

The notes form part of the accounts

# Note 1 Accounting Policies

## **Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

## **Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions**

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

## **Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

## **Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

## **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. IT Equipment- 20% on a straight line basis, Furniture and Equipment 33% on a straight line basis

## **Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

## **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

## **Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate

## **Reserves Policy**

Trustees commit to keeping the equivalent of at least 3 - 6 months running costs in reserve to safeguard against future changes in income and circumstances. Our lease at the Hurst Road site expires in September 2023. We have found a new venue, the William Morris Hall on Somers Road. Landlord Barnardo's have agreed to a 10 year lease. We have designated £55,000 of reserves to support this move; £50,000 for refurbishment and £5k towards the associated legal costs. General reserves are £50,117 which equates to 3 months operating costs. Reserves will be reviewed when Trustees are able to plan more securely for the longer term.

## Note 2 Income

Analysis of income	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
<b>Donations and legacies:</b>				
Donations and gifts	7,786	-	7,786	11,187
Government JRS Grants	-	-	-	-
	-	40,257	40,257	57,620
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,786</b>	<b>40,257</b>	<b>48,043</b>	<b>68,807</b>
<b>Charitable activities:</b>				
Toy Library Sessions	66,564	-	66,564	52,018
Toy Library Events	9,599	-	9,599	704
Membership Fees	15,601	-	15,601	19,053
Venue Hire	86,017	-	86,017	36,055
Interest received	25	-	25	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>177,805</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>177,805</b>	<b>107,830</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>185,591</b>	<b>40,257</b>	<b>225,848</b>	<b>176,637</b>

## Note 3 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
			£	£
<b>Expenditure on raising funds:</b>				
Sundry costs	1,789	-	1,789	196
<b>Total expenditure on raising funds</b>	<b>1,789</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,789</b>	<b>196</b>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities:</b>				
Sessions	20,392	14,230	34,622	8,882
Venue Hire	-	-	-	-
Events	-	-	-	-
IT Costs	-	-	-	5
Health and Safety	744	-	744	480
Insurance	792	-	792	2,531
Compliance	235	-	235	633
Office Supplies	244	-	244	1,098
Staff Costs	99,579	28,120	127,699	103,412
Pension	2,876	-	2,876	1,377
Training	505	3,300	3,805	669
Subscriptions	1,996	703	1,996	1,493
Rent	37,593	-	37,593	12,251
Repairs and Maintenance	1,090	-	1,090	1,066
Marketing	159	-	159	622
Telephone and Broadband	2,647	-	2,647	421
Sundry	-	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>166,673</b>	<b>45,650</b>	<b>7212,323</b>	<b>134,940</b>
<b>Other</b>				
Accountancy	2,649	-	2,649	2,178
Depreciation	2,622	-	2,622	1,065
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>5,271</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,271</b>	<b>3,243</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>173,733</b>	<b>45,650</b>	<b>219,383</b>	<b>138,378</b>

## Note 4 Independent Examiners Fees

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees	250	250

## Note 5 Staff Costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	127,699	103,412
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	2,876	1,377
<b>Total staff costs</b>	<b>130,575</b>	<b>104,789</b>

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

	2023	2022
	£	£
Key Management Personnel	36,032	32,342

Average Head Count	2023	2022
Fundraising	0.5	0.4
Charitable Activities	4.7	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>

## Note 6 Tangible assets

		<b>Fixtures and Fittings</b>
		<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>		
	At April 2022	5,324
	Additions	4,644
	<b>At March 2023</b>	<b>9,998</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
	At April 2022	4,260
	Charge for the year	2,623
	<b>At March 2023</b>	<b>6,882</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>
<b>Net Book Value</b>		
	<u>At 31 March 2023</u>	3,116
	<u>At 31 March 2022</u>	1,064

## Note 7 Debtors and prepayments

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Trade debtors</b>	1,642	1,442
<b>Prepayments and accrued income</b>	1,759	1,652
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,401</b>	<b>3,094</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

## Note 8 Creditors and deferred income

	Amounts falling due within one year	
	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	1,300	1,860
Accruals and deferred income	56,790	27,692
Taxation and social security	929	656
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>59,019</u></b>	<b><u>30,208</u></b>

## Note 9 Cash at the bank and in hand

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash at bank and on hand	170,969	138,056
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>170,969</u></b>	<b><u>138,056</u></b>

## Note 10 Funds movement in current year

	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General Fund	106,613	185,591	(173,733)	(68,354)	50,117
Designated Fund				55,000	55,000
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Restricted Fund	5,393	40,257	(45,650)	13,354	13,354
<b>Total Funds as per balance sheet</b>	<b>112,006</b>	<b>225,848</b>	<b>(219,383)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>118,471</b>



## Note 11 Related parties

No related party transactions took place in the year to 31 March 2023. None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity

**WALTHAMSTOW TOY LIBRARY AND PLAY CENTRE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178098

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# Accounts

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Trustees' Annual  
Report and  
Financial Statement  
2021-22



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# Foreword

The start of the financial year was uncertain with Covid-19 restrictions still in place. Fortunately, we made it through thanks to generous financial support from the London Borough of Waltham Forest's Hardship and Growth Fund and our loyal membership championing us all the way.

Sadly, we lost our campaign to save Walthamstow Toy Library's Comely Bank venue. NHS Property Services came to our rescue and offered us a temporary home (until September 2023) at the Hurst Road Health Centre and financial support through their Social Prescribing Fund. The venue is incredible with so much potential, we realised how we'd outgrown the old space and that there's room for growth in our new home.

Due to the pandemic, renovations and our move to Langthorne Park Pavilion was put on hold. We finally got the keys in June and to much excitement locally we opened the Leytonstone Toy Library and Play Centre in July.

Our Director, Helen Crockford received a place on the prestigious School for Social Entrepreneurs Scale Up Programme. This is the third programme that she has participated in. The opportunity came at a crucial time, with the move to bigger premises and opening a new venue in the borough.

In October 2021 we hired our first Operations Manager to support the Director and the team to scale up services. This has been an important development for the Toy Library and has resulted in an increase revenue generation.

For the 2022/23 financial year we will continue to look for a Walthamstow home, develop our traded income streams and build a sensory play space for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities at the Hurst Road site.

Noella Gooden, Chair of Trustees



## Legal and Administrative Information

**Company Address:**

Comely Bank Community Clinic  
46 Ravenswood Road  
Walthamstow  
E17 9LY (until October 2021)

Hurst Road Health Centre  
36a Hurst Road  
Walthamstow  
E17 3BL

**Trustees:**

Noella Gooden (Chair)  
Read Baurtally (Treasurer)  
Natalie Sleigh (Secretary)  
Kate Boyle

**Registered Charity Number:** 1178098  
**Company Number:** CEO13905

**Accounts prepared by:** chromatic  
books



## About Us & Mission

The aims of Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre as set out in our constitution are to enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their child through community groups and by:

- Offering appropriate play, education and care facilities, family learning and extended hours' groups, together with the right of parents to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of such groups, ensuring that such groups offer opportunities for all children whatever their race, culture, religion, means or ability.
- Encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in recognition of such needs in the local area.

**Our mission is to provide safe, stimulating places for young children and their parents and carers to play, learn and interact.**

# Aims & Objectives

Seven aims underpin our mission:

Support

- Support children under 5 to learn and develop and to prepare for nursery education

Promote

- Promote bonding and attachment between children and their adults

Reduce

- Reduce isolation and help parents to develop supportive social networks

Encourage

- Encourage good health and wellbeing of children and families

Enable

- Enable access to our services from all sections of the community particularly those on a low income

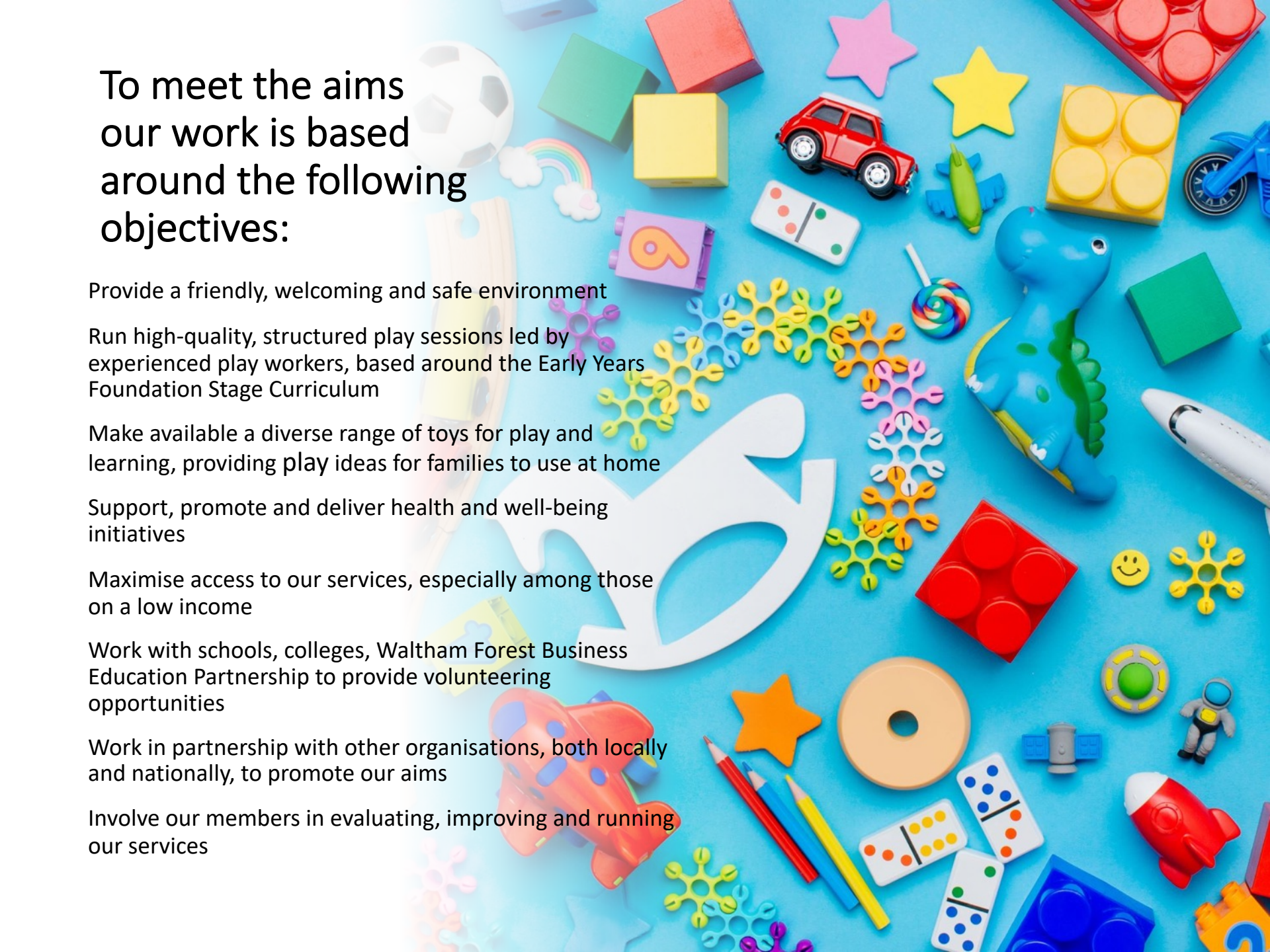
Provide

- Provide volunteering opportunities to local students and residents

Represent

- Represent the aims and interests of our members





# To meet the aims our work is based around the following objectives:

Provide a friendly, welcoming and safe environment

Run high-quality, structured play sessions led by experienced play workers, based around the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

Make available a diverse range of toys for play and learning, providing play ideas for families to use at home

Support, promote and deliver health and well-being initiatives

Maximise access to our services, especially among those on a low income

Work with schools, colleges, Waltham Forest Business Education Partnership to provide volunteering opportunities

Work in partnership with other organisations, both locally and nationally, to promote our aims

Involve our members in evaluating, improving and running our services



## Core values

The Toy Library adheres to its values by providing services that are:

- Child-centred
- Educational
- Healthy
- Sustainable
- Fun
- Community based



## Diversity and Inclusion

Our borough is one of the most diverse areas in the country. An estimated 53% of residents are from a minority ethnic background and this is reflected in our membership. Excluding White British the top five nationalities are; Romanian, Polish, Black British, Black Caribbean and Pakistani.

Waltham Forest is currently ranked 82nd most deprived borough nationally according to the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (an improvement from 35th in 2015, and 15th in 2010 edition). Waltham Forest now ranks 12<sup>th</sup> most deprived London borough - an improvement from 7<sup>th</sup> in 2015. Waltham Forest has a younger than average population with 24.5 per cent of residents being aged 0 to 19 compared to 23 per cent in London and 23 per cent nationally.



The Toy Library continues to provide universal play sessions and toy loaning to families, not just from Waltham Forest, but further afield. We strive to assist families in financial need by providing free annual membership (usual cost is £12) and reduced play sessions fees at £1 for the first child and 50p for additional children (usual cost £5 for the first child and £2.50 for additional children). We don't want finance to be a barrier to anyone and are happy to support families who have no recourse to public funds or who are struggling financially. We offer free membership and a block of six free play sessions. Once the six sessions have been attended, we review and offer more or ask them to pay what they can afford.

We are grateful to the Virgin Media O2 Together Fund and Neighbourly and Tesco Bags of Help for supporting this work. At the end of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, 2146 families were registered with us. 20% of members received free membership.

# Play Sessions

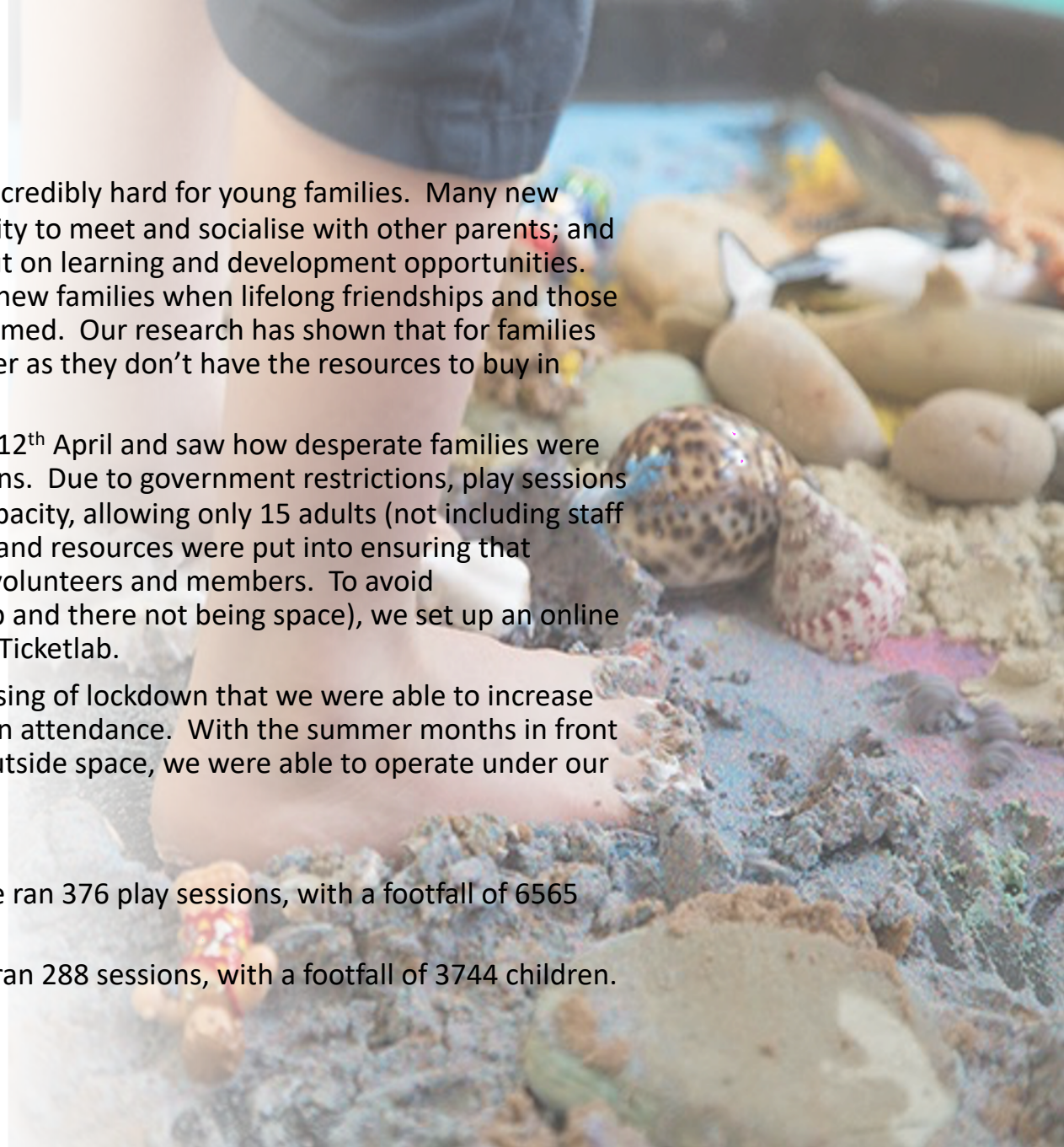
The Covid-19 pandemic has been incredibly hard for young families. Many new parents have not had the opportunity to meet and socialise with other parents; and babies and toddlers have missed out on learning and development opportunities. The early years is a crucial time for new families when lifelong friendships and those important support networks are formed. Our research has shown that for families on low income, it's been even harder as they don't have the resources to buy in services.

We reopened for play again on the 12<sup>th</sup> April and saw how desperate families were for social interaction and connections. Due to government restrictions, play sessions were run at a smaller than usual capacity, allowing only 15 adults (not including staff or under 5s) to attend. Much time and resources were put into ensuring that activities were Covid safe for staff, volunteers and members. To avoid disappointment (families turning up and there not being space), we set up an online booking system with local provider Ticketlab.

It wasn't until mid-May with the easing of lockdown that we were able to increase the number of adults and children in attendance. With the summer months in front of us and families free to use our outside space, we were able to operate under our new 'normal'.

At the Walthamstow Toy Library, we ran 376 play sessions, with a footfall of 6565 children.

At the Leytonstone Toy Library, we ran 288 sessions, with a footfall of 3744 children.



Our case studies demonstrate how important our sessions are for the whole family.

T, a single mother, lives in an upstairs one-bedroom flat which is managed by a housing provider. There have been a number of issues with her accommodation. Addicts break into the block of flats to take drugs in the stairwell, they also rummage through the communal bins leaving rubbish strewn all over the street and urinate and defecate around the flats. Her block has a mouse infestation. *“The Leytonstone Toy Library has been a second home for me and my son, I feel more secure at the play sessions than being in my flat”.*

*“Coming to the Walthamstow Toy Library helped me to not go mad”. M says that the benefits to her mental health indirectly helped her to bond with her children. “At home there are a lot of distractions and chores. The quality of time is sparse and sporadic. Carving out time is challenging. It helps to have a dedicated space where the other stuff does not exist, where I can be available.”*

*“It’s great stimulation for my son and get’s me out of the house. It’s interesting to see kids who are older and hear other parent’s stories”.*





# Forest School

In our 2021 annual survey beneficiaries told us they wanted Forest School activities.

A Magic Little Grant enabled us to run a four-week course in Langthorne Park for 12 families.

The course was facilitated by a Level 3 practitioner with support from a member of the Toy Library team.

We wanted our Forest School to be affordable and provided subsidised spaces for low-income families. Our focus was on minibeasts and protecting the local environment, at the end of the course we built a bug hotel for the park.

*"I was looking into Forest Schools, but they were too expensive. As a single parent, I went from being low income to no income. I loved the ethos of your Forest School; it enabled my daughter and I to participate".*

This is an area of work that we would like to develop further, with staff training and collecting resources to run outdoor activities.

# Toy Loaning

We are the only toy library in Waltham Forest. At both sites we have a variety of toys and equipment which can be borrowed for two weeks at a time. This service is available to all our members, community groups and local businesses.

In the reporting period, 164 families borrowed toys from the Leytonstone Toy Library. At the Walthamstow Toy Library 634 families borrowed toys, with 25% borrowing 5 or more times. 38 families borrowed 10 or more times throughout the year.

In 2020/21 we generated £7440 in toy loaning income. In 2021/22 we saw a 33% increase in income to £11079. Our move to Hurst Road with a dedicated toy loaning room has made it easier for families to pop in throughout the week and browse what we have on offer.

*"It is so brilliant to be able to try out new toys. I love that as soon as the kids get a bit bored, we can get something new. It's great knowing that if they aren't a success it doesn't matter, I can return them. It is so much better for the environment".*

We have continued to run our mobile toy loaning service for large items and big orders.



# Parenting Support



Thanks to the generosity of our local community, we are able to provide free books and clothes for all families to take.

*“Our ethos with books is, keep it if you like it, give it to a friend, put it in a Little Free Library or bring it back and get more. We want to encourage home learning and language and communication skills which books provide”. Helen Crockford, Director*

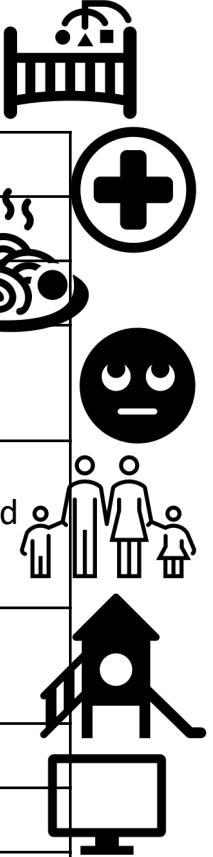
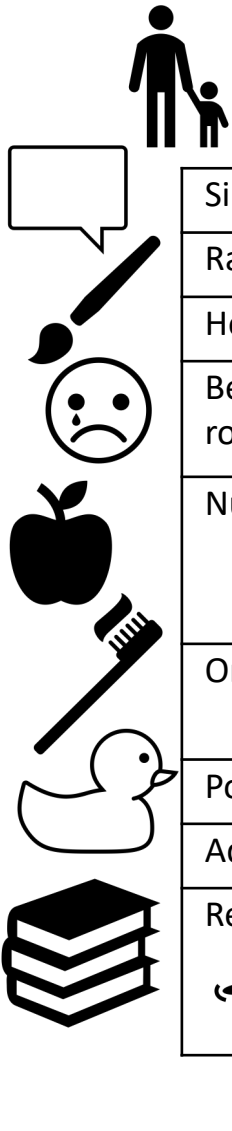
For families in need, we can quickly source any equipment they might need and have regularly supported 10 families throughout the year.

*“Coming to play sessions has given me confidence. It has definitely helped with my parenting skills. Any questions that I have about eating habits, sleeping, teeth, I will ask the team. They are really good and support me”.*

*“The best advice the Play Workers gave me was be consistent. It’s worked!”*



Parents have been supported with a variety of issues. If the team can't answer questions or provide support, we sign post to other organisations who can help.



Single parenting	Sleep
Raising bi-lingual children	Skin conditions
Home learning - activity ideas	Food Bank – referred 5 families
Behaviour – hitting, biting, tantrums, crying, routines	Parent feeling overwhelmed
Nutrition – healthy eating, breastfeeding	Childcare – where to look for nurseries/childminders, what to ask, 2 year old funded places
Oral health and teething	Other activities – museums, city farm, library, forest walks
Potty training	Screen time
Adult learning	Speech and Language
Returning to work	Waltham Forest Hardship grant for low income families – referred 5 families

£



# Partnership Work

We partnered with specialist organisations to provide a variety of activities which supported both education and health and wellbeing outcomes.

**Kids Kitchen** - monthly cooking sessions at Leytonstone Toy Library. Families learnt to cook nutritious meals on a budget.

**Groundswell Arts - Dancing Together** classes at the Walthamstow and Leytonstone Toy Library. The mother and baby class gave women a chance to connect with other mothers whilst spending quality time with their baby. Each week the facilitator focused on a body part that suffers strain during early motherhood. Activities during the toddler class helped children develop fine and gross motor skills whilst adults got a chance to gently exercise.

**Soundcastle** – weekly creative family music making at the Leytonstone Toy Library.

**Chit Chat Pitter Pat** - weekly storytelling sessions at the Walthamstow and Leytonstone Toy Library. Run by the borough's early years specialists, it supported children's language and communication and taught parents about the benefits of reading to their children.

Author Natalie Newman did a reading of her book 'Lark the Shark' during National Ocean Week. A positive message about litter pollution.





# Community Hub and Events

These activities are vital, they help us to generate an income to meet and sustain our charitable aims and objectives.

## **Birthday parties**

The Toy Library remains a popular venue for party hire. It can be hired on Saturdays and Sundays for birthday parties, christenings and naming ceremonies. The space is hired for 3 hours and a member of toy library staff is on site to assist with setting/packing up and cleaning the premises. We have introduced a new toy loaning package where families can hire additional toys.

In this financial year there were 107 parties: 78 in Walthamstow and 29 in Leytonstone.

## Venue hire

We continue to make our space available to a number of providers and community groups whose ethos reflects our own. We have changed our pricing structure, so it is affordable (£15p/h) for community groups who are offering free, reduced fees or donation only classes. At our Leytonstone site the Probation Service's Community Payback Team, use the room for free. In return they help maintain Langthorne Park.

### Walthamstow:

Tiny Time Music with Anita  
The Health Works – Antenatal Hypnobirthing Class  
Daisy First Aid  
Breathe Beside Me Yoga  
Tiny Talk – baby signing  
Magic Box – storytelling  
Hartbeeps – music and movement  
Forest Philharmonic Orchestra – rehearsal space  
Body People – fitness classes  
Boxing with Saf – youth and women's boxing  
Baby Yoga  
Phonics and Maths with Robot Reg

### Leytonstone:

The Man Den – board games for boys and men  
Langthorne Youth Club – with Worth Unlimited and Peabody  
Armchair Aerobics for the over 50s  
Idea Space – film making workshops for young people  
La Leche League – breastfeeding support group  
Community Business Forum – LBWF  
Childminders drop in – weekly session run by LBWF  
MPV Media – youth mentoring  
Movers and Shakers – music  
Daisy First Aid  
A Mother's Voice – radio play and workshop on climate change





## Events

With the uncertainty around Covid-19 restrictions and moving premises we decided not to run big fundraising events at our Walthamstow site.

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In Leytonstone we took part in the following:

- Langthorne Park Relief Festival (August)
- Leytonstone Loves Film (September) in partnership with the Barbican.
- Big Draw (October)

In all of the events that we organise or partake in, there is a focus on bringing people together, combating isolation and building community. We ensure that our activities are fun, sustainable and enable family learning. We also use these events and activities to fundraise and promote our services to a wider audience.



tips to make the evening safe and enjoyable for all:  
y spirit, please be kind and generous towards others  
feel safe and welcome at Leytonstone Le  
each other's wellbeing as  
nd space.  
to



## Volunteering

We continue to offer volunteering opportunities to the local community and students. A special mention to Lucy Pearce for looking after the Walthamstow garden. Anna Pakskte for supporting with memberships and finance. Chris Eyre for creating a beautiful video for the Leytonstone Toy Library and volunteers from the Good Gym (pictured) for the endless cleaning!

*“Students who carried out work experience at Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre have commented on how friendly and supportive the staff are. From day one, each understood what was expected of them. They felt motivated to carry out the routine tasks because of the positive and cheery atmosphere they encountered. They felt part of a team which made them feel valued. For the first time they came to the realisation that there is a world of work and opportunity out there that is very different to school and college. After each of their block placements they returned to college with a more confident and mature approach to their studies – Verity Kelly, Leyton Sixth Form College*

*“It helped my teamwork and communicating skills” – Nusrat*

*“I learnt how a Health and Social Care setting is run and how serious hygiene is” – Farah*

*“I learnt how to interact with children and was more able to understand them” – Maryam*

**Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre ("the Charity") for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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 in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Name: Waqas Hussain ACCA

Address: 10 Knebworth Avenue, Walthamstow, London, E17 5AJ

Date: 20/12/2022

Signed:



Statement of Financial Activity  
Account Year End 31st March  
2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>	2				
Donations and legacies		10,387	58,420	68,807	72,568
Charitable activities		107,830	-	107,830	17,847
		<u>118,217</u>	<u>58,420</u>	<u>176,637</u>	<u>90,415</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>	3				
Raising funds		196	-	196	1,814
Charitable activities		82,112	52,828	134,940	70,076
Other		3,243	-	3,243	3,710
<b>Total</b>		<u>85,550</u>	<u>52,828</u>	<u>138,378</u>	<u>75,600</u>
<b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>		32,668	5,592	38,259	14,815
Total funds at 1st April 2021		73,946	- 199	73,747	58,331
Total funds at 31st March 2022		<u>106,614</u>	<u>5,393</u>	<u>112,006</u>	<u>73,746</u>

The notes form part of the  
accounts

Statement of Financial  
Position  
Account Year End 31st March  
2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	6	1,064	-	1,064	2,129
		<u>1,064</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,064</u>	<u>2,129</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	7	2,594	500	3,094	3,004
Cash at bank and in hand	9	138,056	-	138,056	71,131
		<u>140,650</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>141,150</u>	<u>74,134</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>13,673</u>	<u>16,535</u>	<u>30,208</u>	<u>3,118</u>
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		126,977	-	110,942	71,017
			16,035		
					-
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>128,041</u>	<u>16,035</u>	<u>112,006</u>	<u>73,746</u>
<b>Accumulated fund</b>					
Restricted income funds	10		-	-	-
			199	199	199
Unrestricted funds		73,946		73,946	58,531
Result for the period		<u>32,668</u>	<u>5,592</u>	<u>38,260</u>	<u>14,814</u>
		<u>106,614</u>	<u>5,393</u>	<u>112,006</u>	<u>73,746</u>

The notes form part of the accounts

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Date  
dd/mm/yyyy

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Date  
dd/mm/yyyy

## Note 1 Accounting Policies

### Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

### Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

### Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

### Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

### Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. Fixtures and fittings - 20% on a straight line basis

### Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

### Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate

### Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees have agreed to keeping an appropriate reserves range for our organisation of between £51,000 and £102,000, to safeguard against future changes in income. This represents a minimum of 3 months (£51,000) and a maximum of 6 months operating costs (£102,000) based on the running of two sites across Walthamstow and Leytonstone. The level at the end of 2022 is £112,006; whilst this marginally exceeds the upper limit by c. 10%, this has been earmarked for the development of a Sensory Play Space at our Walthamstow site.

## Note 2 Income

Analysis of income		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
<b>Donations and legacies:</b>	Donations and gifts	10,387	800	11,187	11,425
	Government Job Retention Scheme Grants	-	-	-	17,633
	<b>Total</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>57,620</u>	<u>57,620</u>	<u>43,510</u>
		<u>10,387</u>	<u>58,420</u>	<u>68,807</u>	<u>72,568</u>
<b>Charitable activities:</b>	Toy Library Sessions	52,018	-	52,018	11,865
	Toy Library Events	704	-	704	17
	Membership Fees	19,053	-	19,053	4,280
	Venue Hire	36,055	-	36,055	1,685
	Interest received	-	-	3	-
	<b>Total</b>	<u>107,830</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>107,830</u>	<u>17,847</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>118,217</u>	<u>58,420</u>	<u>176,637</u>	<u>90,415</u>	

## Note 3 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
<b>Expenditure on raising funds:</b>				
Sundry costs	196	-	196	1,814
<b>Total expenditure on raising funds</b>	<u>196</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>1,814</u>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities:</b>				
Sessions	7,885	997	8,882	5,959
Venue Hire	-	-	-	-
Events	-	-	-	2,182
IT Costs	5	-	5	98
Health and Safety	480	-	480	160
Insurance	2,471	60	2,531	-
Compliance	529	104	633	316
Office Supplies	1,098	-	1,098	9
Staff Costs	52,270	51,142	103,412	56,483
Pension	1,377	0	1,377	1,605
Training	209	460	669	128
Subscriptions	1,493	-	1,493	951
Rent	12,251	-	12,251	-
Repairs and Maintenance	1,066	-	1,066	-
Marketing	622	-	622	-
Telephone and Broadband	356	65	421	2,185
Sundry	-	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<u>82,112</u>	<u>52,828</u>	<u>134,940</u>	<u>70,076</u>

## Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre CIO

### Note 3 Expenditure

<b>Other</b>				
Accountancy	2,178		2,178	2,645
Depreciation	1,065		1,065	1,065
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>3,243</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,243</b>	<b>3,710</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>85,550</b>	<b>52,828</b>	<b>138,378</b>	<b>75,600</b>

## Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre CIO

### Note 4 Independent Examiners Fees

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Independent examiner's fees</b>	250	250

## Note 5 Staff Costs

	2022 £	2021 £
Salaries and wages	103,412	56,483
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	1,377	1,605
<b>Total staff costs</b>	<u>104,789</u>	<u>58,088</u>

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

	2022 £	2021 £
Key Management Personnel	<u>32,342</u>	<u>25,011</u>

Average Head Count	2022	2021
Fundraising	0.4	0.3
Charitable Activities	4.0	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<u>4.4</u>	<u>3.0</u>

## Note 6 Tangible assets

Cost	At April 2021	At March 2022	Fixtures and Fittings £
			5324
	Additions		<u>0</u>
		<b>At March 2022</b>	<u><b>5324</b></u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
	At April 2021		3195
	Charge for the year		<u>1066</u>
		<b>At March 2022</b>	<u><b>4260</b></u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
	At 31 March 2022		1064
	At 31 March 2021		2129

Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre CIO

Note 7 Debtors and prepayments

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	1,442	310
Prepayments and accrued income	1,652	2,694
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,094</b>	<b>3,004</b>

Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre CIO

Note 8 Creditors and deferred income

	Amounts falling due within one year	
	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	1,860	440
Accruals and deferred income	27,692	2,747
Taxation and social security	656	(69)
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,208</b>	<b>3,118</b>

Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre CIO

Note 9 Cash at the bank and in hand

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash at bank and on hand	138,056	71,131
<b>Total</b>	<b>138,056</b>	<b>71,131</b>

Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre CIO

Note 10 Funds movement in current year

	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Fund balances carried forward £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General Fund	73,946	118,217	(85,550)	-	106,613
					-
Restricted Funds	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted Fund	199	58,420	(52,828)	-	5,393
<b>Total Funds as per balance sheet</b>	<b>73,747</b>	<b>176,637</b>	<b>(138,378)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>112,006</b>

Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre CIO

Note 11 Related parties

No related party transactions took place in the year to 31 March 2022. None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity

**WALTHAMSTOW TOY LIBRARY AND PLAY CENTRE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178098

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# Accounts

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## **Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements 2020-21**

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# Foreword

It goes without saying that 2020 was an incredibly challenging year for Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre (the Toy Library). Not only were we working in the midst of a global pandemic, we were also continuing our long running campaign with our landlord Community Health Partnerships (CHP) and the Waltham Forest Clinical Commissioning Group (WF CCG) to remain at our Comely Bank home.

The start of the 2020-21 financial year saw Covid-19 restrictions continue; having stopped all face to face activities in early March, we sadly didn't open our doors again for play until mid-September. With limited Government guidance for our sector, our members were instrumental in helping us plan for a safe reopening.

The pandemic has highlighted the multitude of inequalities for both women and children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Families were delighted to be able to return to face to face activities, albeit with restricted numbers and a variety of safety measures in place. As one parent noted on a local Facebook group; *"it's easier to get a ticket to Glastonbury!"*, demonstrating just how popular our services are.

Human contact is so important; for young children's learning and development it is vital. For new parents, the peer to peer support cannot be underestimated. Parents have told us how they and their children have missed out on so much during the pandemic, again demonstrating the impact that an important community service such as the Toy Library has on people's lives.

Our traded income saw a reduction from £72,834 in the 19-20 financial year to £17,847 in 2020-21. With limited play sessions, our membership numbers decreased from 1000 to 500 members. We stopped all community fundraising events and birthday party and venue hire ceased. Due to rising Covid-19 cases in the borough, we decided to close the Toy Library in mid-December and remained closed for the rest of the financial year.

Despite these difficulties, the Toy Library was able to adapt services and respond creatively to fulfil our charitable aims and objectives. We found new ways of working, developed and expanded partnerships with other providers and businesses and received grant funding to respond to the needs of our members and the wider community to help alleviate the effects of Covid-19.

A major response to the pandemic was to expand the outreach of our toy loaning service; we ran a mobile toy library and a click and collect system for parents and carers to borrow toys for their children. The take-up of this service was incredible.

We have had to delay the opening of the Leytonstone Toy Library and Play Centre in Langthorne Park and are looking forward to summer 2021 to begin this exciting new phase for the Toy Library.

Our focus for the 2021-22 financial year will be the expansion of services in Leytonstone, setting up the new site in Langthorne Park, continuing our search for a Walthamstow home, building our staff and volunteer team, rebuilding membership to pre-pandemic levels and bringing back all activities. We anticipate that families will still need continued support due to the pandemic.

Helen Crockford, Director

Noella Gooden, Chair of Trustees

# Legal and Administrative Information

## Registered Company Address

Comely Bank Community Clinic

46 Ravenswood Road

Walthamstow

London

E17 9LY

Registered Charity Number: 1178098

Company Number: CEO13905

## Trustees

Read Baurtally (Treasurer)

Nadia Bostock (Secretary) (resigned Nov 2020)

Kate Boyle

Noella Gooden (Chair)

Romily O'Connor

Hannah Randle

Natalie Sleigh

Farah Syed

Accounts prepared by: chromatic books

## Communications

[www.walthamstowtoylibrary.org](http://www.walthamstowtoylibrary.org)

Facebook @WalthamstowToyLibrary

Instagram @walthamstowtoylibrary

Twitter @e17toylibrary



# About Us

The aims of Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre (the Toy Library), as set out in our constitution, are to enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups and by:

- Offering appropriate play, education and care facilities, family learning and extended hours' groups, together with the right of parents to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of such groups, ensuring that such groups offer opportunities for all children whatever their race, culture, religion, means or ability.
- Encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in recognition of such needs in the local area.



## Mission, Aims and Objectives

Our mission is to provide a safe, stimulating place for young children and their parents and carers to play, learn and interact. Seven aims underpin this mission. These are to:

- Support children under 5 to learn and develop and to prepare for nursery education
- Promote bonding and attachment between children and their parents or carers
- Reduce isolation and help parents to develop supportive social networks
- Promote the health and wellbeing of children and families
- Enable access to our services from all sections of our local community particularly those on a low income
- Provide volunteering opportunities to local students and residents
- Represent the aims and interests of our members

In order to meet these aims, the Toy Library's work is based around the following objectives:

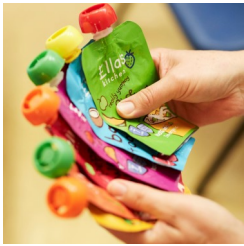
- Provide a friendly, welcoming and safe environment for children and parents/carers
- Run high-quality, structured play sessions led by experienced play workers, based around the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum
- Make available a diverse range of toys for play and learning, providing play ideas for parents and carers to use at home
- Support, promote and deliver a variety of health and well being initiatives
- Maximise access to our services, especially among those on a low income
- Work with local schools, colleges, Waltham Forest Business Education Partnership and Community Waltham Forest to provide volunteering opportunities
- Work in partnership with other organisations, both locally and nationally, to promote our aims
- Involve our members in evaluating, improving and running our services

# Core Values

In all our work the Toy Library aims to adhere to its core values by providing activities and services that are:



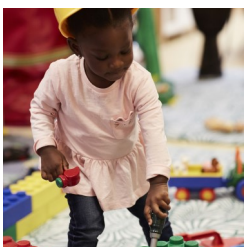
Educational



Sustainable



Fun



Child-centred



Community based



Healthy

The Toy Library continues to provide universal play sessions and toy loaning to local families. We strive to assist families in financial need by providing free annual membership (usual cost £12) and discounted session fees at £1 for the first child and 50p for additional children (usual cost £5 for the first child and £2.50 for additional children). We don't want finance to be a barrier to anyone and are happy to support families who have no recourse to public funds or those who are struggling financially with free play sessions or a 'pay what you can afford' model. During 2020-21 10% of members were on this rate.

# Covid-19 Response

Despite the majority of its staff furloughed at the commencement of the pandemic, and play sessions forced to close, we were determined to make a positive impact on the learning and development of young children and the health and wellbeing of Waltham Forest families.

## Telephone Support Service



Throughout the year, our Director, contacted all concessionary members by telephone to check on their welfare and to ask if there was any assistance that could be provided.

*"Families were grateful for the phone call and to know that we were thinking of them. Most were well and didn't need anything. It was nice to hear this. I was able to give specific support to several families, such as activity ideas for families with balconies, I popped some story books and new colouring books round to one family, renewed toys for others. Language was a barrier for some – it was frustrating not being able to help them over the phone. Some families didn't know that they were allowed to go out for daily exercise and didn't know where to go. I was able to give advice and suggestions depending on where they lived". – Helen Crockford, Director*

Further assistance included providing craft packs, a new toy giveaway and toy loaning.

*"This sense of support and togetherness was further shown when I was contacted more than once to receive arts and crafts for my child during the pandemic. At such a vulnerable time, I couldn't have been any more grateful for such help. Also, my child and my well-being was also checked on. I honestly was extremely humbled by the consideration and care from such a service". – Toy Library member*

## Online Presence

Using #ToyLibraryAtHome we connected with families through Facebook and Instagram, posting activity and play ideas, advice and competitions. We also used these platforms to help raise awareness of our fundraising campaigns and to support other local organisations and businesses. We improved the quality and quantity of our online content, increasing followers and likes on both platforms.

## Toy Giveaway

Thanks to an anonymous donor we received boxes of new toys, books and equipment for children aged 0 – 11 years. These were distributed to 100 families in need, some kept aside for our online competitions, and what we didn't give away we used in our online Christmas shop to raise funds to continue our work.



# Craft and Activity Packs

With face to face sessions not running, we wanted to ensure families had free or inexpensive play activities during lockdown, so we created a variety of packs to support home and family learning.



**May 2020** – Thanks to funding from Tesco Bags of Help we created and distributed 100 art packs full of craft supplies and a useful information leaflet. Local estate agent Stow Brothers printed the leaflets for us, which detailed essential information on local food banks, support services such as drug and alcohol, mental health, domestic violence and what do to if you are worried about a child or adult. These were distributed to our concessionary members. Other organisations such as PL8-4U Al-Suffa, Higham’s Park Mutual Aid Group, Kukoolala Café and the borough’s Young Advisors also helped distribute them to food bank beneficiaries, two women’s refuges and to young parents.



**July 2020** - We developed and created 500 craft packs to make and distribute for Walthamstow Garden Party – Up in the Air. In lieu of our usual attendance at the annual Walthamstow Garden party, in conjunction with the Barbican, an ‘at home’ event was held which involved families creating DIY Toy Chimes. This was a partnership project between the Toy Library and a local arts organisation, Scribble and Smudge. We asked families to give their colourful and noisy old toys a new lease of life. Packs contained materials and instructions to create a wind chime to hang in their window, balcony, front door, park or garden and bring that festival feel to their local neighbourhood. We were able to bring two members of staff out of furlough and provided 20 hours work for each.

Toy Chimes also featured in the National Trust’s Online Play Pack.



**August 2020** – Thanks to funding from City Bridge Trust we created and distributed 150 Puppet Theatre packs. Containing emotions puppets, we wanted children to explore their feelings during lockdown through storytelling. We asked families to share their creations with us.

Middle photo credit © Robin Singha

## Craft and Activity Packs Continued



December 2020 – Thanks to funding from Hypnobirthing teacher Jo Redmond we created and distributed 100 Christmas craft packs.



March 2020 – Thanks to funding from Magic Little Grants and local estate agent Stow Brothers we created 100 physical play packs, 50 we gave away to families in need and 50 we sold for a suggested donation of £5. We wanted to get children active, outside in the garden and connecting with nature through growing seeds. For families without a garden, the kit was perfect for a balcony or window sill.

# Online Coffee Mornings

From May – July 2020, we set up online coffee mornings via Zoom, with a variety of guest speakers and topics as requested by our members. Speakers all donated their time and expertise for free. Our intention was to support families with health and wellbeing, children’s education and development and combat isolation and feelings of loneliness. Over 12 weeks, 30 families took part.

*“The speakers have been excellent – really informative sessions”. – Toy Library Member*

Jo Redmond, Healthworks	Massage and self-care to relive anxiety
Fiona Lundie-Smith, Bongalong	The Power of Music in the Early Years
Verena Dickson, Kinder Nutrition	Weaning and Family Nutrition
Melissa Gaul, Fitness Expert	Pelvic Floor Health
Kids Kitchen	Cooking with Kids
Sian Naftal, Counsellor	Mental Health Awareness
Sue Grace, Chit-Chat Pitter-Pat	Starting School
Gemma, HENRY	Oral Health
Jo Redmond, Healthworks	Store Cupboard Remedies
Chloe Redmond, The Body People	Family Fitness
Clair Wright, Waltham Forest	Sustainable and Low Cost Living
Rachel Boyett, Little Veggie Eats	Raising Vegetarian Children



From January 2021, we ran a weekly online social as a place for parents to meet and connect – this was supported by our Director and Trustee, Natalie Sleigh. Parents and carers were invited to meet up virtually on Zoom with other parents to help reduce loneliness and isolation and provide peer to peer support. Over the weeks 15 parents joined in the weekly sessions, with 5 regulars.

*“These meet ups have been a welcome distraction to lockdown life, which is so mundane. I wasn’t expecting my maternity leave to be like this. I have found connecting with other parents and the Toy Library team really supportive”.—Toy Library member*

## Mental Health Support

Early on in the pandemic we realised that there was a lack of support for women's mental health. Funding from the London Community Response Fund helped us to provide four one to one counselling sessions to 6 women. They were facilitated online, by a trained counsellor. This is an area of our work that we would like to improve further, by providing all staff with Mental Health First Aid Training.

## Feeding Support

We stopped running our weekly drop in feeding support sessions; we felt that face to face contact with new parents and babies was not safe. We were able to offer support over the phone and online. When we were able to resume face to face sessions again, we paid a trained lactation consultant to work with two families.

## Practical Support

We have been able to regularly support five families with donations of clothes, food and equipment.

*"Thank you so much once again . You are a magic fairy always helping me . I love the tops for me and clothes for my little girl. Thank you!" - Toy Library member*

*"I am grateful for the clothes you gave me and thankful to the Walthamstow community who are always ready to help those in need. Bless you all. Thanks a million.".—Toy Library member*



## Play Sessions

With the lack of play opportunities for young children and families from March to September it was a relief to be able to open our doors again on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Families were instrumental in helping us to run safe sessions by responding to a 'return to safe play survey' . We reduced numbers, we asked families to book in advance through an online booking platform, we followed the hands, face, space guidance from Public Health England, improved ventilation and set up a one way system in and out of the building. We initiated a thorough cleaning regime, with all toys and the centre being cleaned after each play session.

# Toy Loaning

Responding to the pandemic meant the Toy Library had to shift its way of thinking on how it could help the local community. Government restrictions meant more families staying at home and unable to enjoy their usual activities. The Toy Library made toy loaning the forefront of its offer. Families were able to book 'click and collect' time slots to pick up and return a variety of educational and sensory toys and toys saved from landfill thanks to our community donors.

Loaned toys were handled in a Covid-safe manner, quarantined and cleaned thoroughly before being loaned out again.

With support from the London Borough of Waltham Forest and National Lottery Community Fund, we set up 'Play Around' a mobile toy library using a cargo bike, which was loaned to us from the council's *Walk, Cycle, Enjoy* scheme. We were able to employ a member of staff for this role, we produced an online catalogue and posted pictures of toy stock on our social media platforms to encourage families to borrow, not buy. Toys were loaned from as little as £1 for three weeks and families could borrow up to three items.

We went from loaning out £3922 of toys in 2019-20 to £7440 in the 2020-21 financial year. 363 families engaged in toy loaning, 122 families with the mobile toy library project. Over 50% of families borrowed toys three times or more. During periods of high demand, in lockdown and beyond, we delivered toys to local families twice a week. In the Wood Street Ward delivery was free, and other local families in the borough paid a small fee to cover the cost. Happily, the mobile toy library has been a success and this unique aspect of our work is something that we intend to continue to grow beyond the pandemic.

*"The Toy Library was a lifeline during lockdown, it enabled us to keep things fresh and rotate some different toys without having to buy loads of new stuff". - Toy Library member*

*"When my kid was sent home from nursery to isolate, the Toy Library was an amazing help." - Toy Library member*



## Partnership work

In December we partnered with the Lloyd Park Children’s Charity and other local groups to support their *Brighter Christmas Appeal* – we bought toiletries for 400 families and organised for our members to donate presents and food for hampers. The Toy Library made five referrals for members to receive hampers and gifts.



In December we were able to run an ‘in person’ storytelling sessions with the brilliant Once Upon a Children’s Theatre Company. They performed Rumpelstiltskin to 30 families during a morning and afternoon session. In the spring we took the shows online to show case Faber and Faber’s Gender Swapped Fairy Tales— Little Red Riding Hood and Mr Rapunzel.

*“I love how you have managed to bring the community together at such a difficult time, my little ones thoroughly enjoyed themselves and have talked about the experience non-stop”.—Toy Library member*



We also partnered with the wonderful Kids Kitchen, CiC to deliver two family cooking workshops. Families cooked a nutritious lunch together from scratch.

*“I can’t believe that my son has just eaten vegetables, I have been trying for months to get him to do that! Not sure if it was because he was copying other children or because he helped make the food. Will definitely try this approach at home”.—Toy Library member*

# Comely Bank Community Clinic

As a longstanding tenant at Comely Bank, we were disappointed by the landlord's approach to raise rent charged to levels that are blatantly unaffordable for the Toy Library and for the Waltham Forest Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to remove all support.

The Toy Library reached out to its members to ask them to express their feelings to the local CCG at the prospect of the Toy Library being displaced, or worse, being forced to shut its doors. We were overwhelmed and touched by the response from local families to our cry for help. Some 200 comments were submitted to the WEL CCG ahead of its AGM. The key message was that we are a 'vital community resource' and 'a lifeline' for families with young children.

Our local MP Stella Creasy has provided much support in relation to this matter and has had much correspondence with the CCG. In December 2020 she raised questions in Parliament with the Minister for Health and also met with him in January 2021 to follow up on the Toy Library's potential eviction from a building that was purpose built for us.

Separately, a local GP started a petitions to lobby the CCG to provide more support to the Toy Library. It had over 1400 signatures.

At the end of the 2020-21 financial year, it seems unlikely that we will be able to remain at Comely Bank. We have a number of leads on new premises close to the current site.





# Langthorne Park and Leytonstone Toy Library

In 2019, the Toy Library was successful in its bid to Waltham Forest Council to take a long lease on the Pavilion in Langthorne Park. This was an exciting development, coming with it both the opportunity to expand into a new part of the borough – Leytonstone – and also to take on a space with a considerably larger footprint and scale up activities.

The Toy Library had intended to open this new branch in January 2021, however due to the pandemic this was delayed. In the meantime, Waltham Forest Council has undertaken significant re-development works on the Pavilion, including new flooring and décor throughout the building, and a new kitchen in the play space all in preparation for the proposed opening date in June 2021.

Via the Leytonstone Toy Library, we hope to reach out to a new local community including residents from the nearby Peabody and Avenue Road Housing Estates.



# Independent Examiner's Report

## Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Walthamstow Toy Library and Play Centre ("the Charity") for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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 in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Name: Waqas Hussain FCCA

Address: 10 Knebworth Avenue, Walthamstow, London, E17 5AJ

Date: 26/09/2021

Signed:



# Financial Statements

## Statement of Financial Activity

Account Year End 31st March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>	2				
Donations and legacies		25,879	46,689	72,568	12,833
Charitable activities		17,847	-	17,847	72,834
		<u>43,726</u>	<u>46,689</u>	<u>90,416</u>	<u>85,667</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>	3				
Raising funds		424	1,390	1,814	527
Charitable activities		26,285	43,791	70,076	73,081
Other		2,003	1,708	3,710	3,318
<b>Total</b>		<u>28,712</u>	<u>46,888</u>	<u>75,600</u>	<u>76,926</u>
<b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>		15,014	(199)	14,815	- 8,741
Total funds at 1st April 2020		<u>58,331</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,331</u>	<u>49,590</u>
Total funds at 31st March 2021		<u>73,345</u>	<u>(199)</u>	<u>73,146</u>	<u>58,331</u>

The notes form part of the accounts

## Statement of Financial Position

Account Year End 31st March  
2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2021	Total funds 2020
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	6	2,129	-	2,129	3,194
		<u>2,129</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,129</u>	<u>3,194</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	7	3,004	-	3,004	1,187
Cash at bank and in hand	9	71,131	-	71,131	56,582
		<u>74,134</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,134</u>	<u>57,768</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	3,118	-	3,118	2,631
<b>Net current assets/ (liabilities)</b>		<u>71,017</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71,017</u>	<u>55,137</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>73,146</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>73,146</u>	<u>58,331</u>
<b>Accumulated fund</b>	10				
Restricted income funds			-	-	-
Unrestricted funds		58,332		58,332	49,590
Result for the period		<u>15,014</u>	<u>(199)</u>	<u>14,814</u>	<u>8,741</u>
		<u>73,346</u>	<u>(199)</u>	<u>73,146</u>	<u>58,331</u>

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Noella Gooden, Chair of Trustees      Date

The notes form part of the accounts

## **Note 1 Accounting Policies**

### **Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

### **Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions**

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

### **Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

### **Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. Fixtures and fittings - 20% on a straight line basis.

### **Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

### **Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

## Reserves Policy

With the Leytonstone Toy Library and Play Centre due to open in 2021, Trustees have calculated an appropriate reserves range to cover operations across two sites. A minimum level of £36,000, represents 3 months of operating costs and a maximum level of £72,000, represents 6 months of operating costs.

£5,000 has been designated for the setup of the new Leytonstone site and negotiations with our landlords Community Health Partnerships still continue, with backdated rent and services charges for 2018/21 estimated to be £30,000. Given these designated costs, we will still be operating within the minimum level of reserves set.

## Note 2 Income

Analysis of income	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
<b>Donations and legacies:</b>				
Donations and gifts	8,246	3,179	11,425	4,801
Government JRS	17,633	-	17,633	-
Grants	-	43,510	43,510	8,032
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,879</b>	<b>46,689</b>	<b>72,568</b>	<b>12,833</b>
<b>Charitable activities:</b>				
Toy Library Sessions	11,865	-	11,865	28,920
Toy Library Events	17	-	17	13,487
Membership Fees	4,280	-	4,280	9,531
Venue Hire	1,685	-	1,685	20,897
Interest received	-	-	-	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,847</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,847</b>	<b>72,834</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>43,726</b>	<b>46,689</b>	<b>90,415</b>	<b>85,667</b>

## Note 3 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds 2021	Total funds 2020
<b>Expenditure on raising funds:</b>			£	£
Sundry costs	424	1,390	1,814	527
<b>Total expenditure on raising funds</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>527</b>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities:</b>				
Sessions	914	5,045	5,959	5,687
Venue Hire	-	-	-	4,243
Events	155	2,027	2,182	1,645
IT Costs	79	19	98	323
Health and Safety	-	160	160	71
Insurance	-	-	-	-
Compliance	-	316	316	164
Office Supplies	-	9	9	619
Staff Costs	22,250	34,232	56,483	61,058
Pension	1,186	419	1,605	1,126
Training	15	113	128	542
Subscriptions	248	703	951	524
Telephone and Broadband	1,439	747	2,185	1,031
Sundry	-	-	-	143
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>26,285</b>	<b>43,791</b>	<b>70,076</b>	<b>73,081</b>
<b>Other</b>				
Accountancy	938	1,708	2,645	2,253
Depreciation	1,065	-	1,605	1,065
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>2,003</b>	<b>1,708</b>	<b>3,710</b>	<b>3,318</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>28,712</b>	<b>46,888</b>	<b>75,600</b>	<b>76,926</b>

## Note 4 Independent Examiners Fees

	2021 £	2020 £
Independent examiner's fees	250	250

## Note 5 Staff Costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Salaries and wages	56,483	61,058
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	1,605	1,126
Total staff costs	58,088	62,185

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

	2021 £	2020 £
Key Management Personnel	25,011	22,342

Average Head Count	2021	2020
Fundraising	0.3	0.3
Charitable Activities	2.7	2.2
Total	3.0	2.5

## Note 6 Tangible assets

		Fixtures and Fittings £
Cost	At April 2020	5324
	Additions	0
	At March 2021	<u>5324</u>
Depreciation	At April 2020	2130
	Charge for the year	1065
	At March 2021	<u>3195</u>
Net Book Value	At 31 March 2021	2129
	At 31 March 2020	3194

## Note 7 Debtors and prepayments

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	310	295
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>2,694</u>	892
Total	<u>3,004</u>	<u>1,187</u>

## Note 8 Creditors and deferred income

	Amounts falling due within one year	
	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	440	950
Accruals and deferred income	2,747	1,450
Taxation and social security	<u>69</u>	231
Total	<u>3,118</u>	<u>2,631</u>

## Note 9 Cash at the bank and in hand

	2020 £	2019 £
Cash at bank and on hand	71,131	56,582
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,131</b>	<b>56,582</b>

## Note 10 Funds movement in current year

	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General Fund	58,331	43,726	(28,712)	-	73,345
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Restricted Fund	-	46,689	(46,888)	-	(199)
<b>Total Funds as per balance sheet</b>	<b>58,331</b>	<b>90,415</b>	<b>75,600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>73,145</b>

## Note 11 Related parties

No related party transactions took place in the year to 31 March 2021. None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity