



Pelican Parcels

Annual Report and Accounts

April 2022 – March 2023

Our vision

Pelican Parcels' vision is a community in which families and carers have the essentials for their children.

Pelican Parcels (PP) is a registered charity (no. 1179866) and our objective is the prevention or relief of poverty in UK communities by providing items to individuals in need and/or charities or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.

Our work

Pelican Parcels accepts donations of new and pre-loved items for babies and children up to age 12 – equipment, clothes, furniture, books and toys – and distributes them to disadvantaged and vulnerable families, principally in Brighton and Hove but also on occasion further afield, free of charge.

Donations are carefully sorted, with love and care by a hard-working team of volunteers, helping to ensure they are ready to be gifted to a new family in beautiful condition.

Various factors contribute to a family's need for help and Pelican Parcels is there to offer support at those times. Indeed, we work with a large number of partners across the city to ensure that we are able to reach people most at need, in their time of need. At the heart of what we do is providing items, but it's important that they are given in beautiful condition, so our families know they are cared about and that they matter.

The need

Child poverty is a growing problem affecting more than 4 million children in the UK and the proportion of the population living in poverty continues to grow. This situation has been worsened by the covid pandemic alongside the on-going cost-of-living crisis. The related outcomes are also quite bleak: the impact of poverty on children's health and educational outcomes is well documented. Lifetime earnings for children raised in poverty are significantly lower, as are their prospects for employment. Children brought up in poverty are more likely to raise their own children in poverty.

Children who have lived in persistent poverty during their first seven years have cognitive development scores on average 20% below those of children who have never experienced poverty, according to Child Poverty Action Group,



In April 2022, Little Village presented a report in conjunction with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Their report highlighted the scale and depth of poverty faced by families across the United Kingdom:

- Half of the 4.2 million children in poverty in the UK live in a family with a child under the age of five.
- 47% of racial minority families with a child under 5 are in poverty.
- 55% of children in single parent families with a child under 5 are in poverty.
- 40% of children in families with a child under 5 and a disabled parent are in poverty.

They also state that the number of children experiencing destitution since 2017 has almost tripled with an increase of 186% to October 2022.

End Child Poverty estimated in 2018 that between 24% and 32.7% of children in Brighton and Hove were living in poverty after housing costs. Certain boroughs in Brighton & Hove are in the top ten per cent most income deprived areas in England. The portion of children receiving free school meals varies considerably across the city but reaches over 62% in areas. This has grown over 17% since the pandemic.

The cost-of-living crisis has deepened and poverty rates are still increasing. This means we are supporting families that have children sleeping on the floor because they can't afford a bed; supplying formula to ensure that babies don't receive watered down formula when parents can't afford the rising weekly cost of this; giving nappies and wipes to foodbanks to help ensure that babies don't end up with sore bottoms.

Brighton and Hove also saw a huge increase in numbers of refugees arriving in the city due to the war in Ukraine and other conflicts around the world. We have worked incredibly closely with Care4Calais and supporting agencies to ensure that those children and families arriving in our city, often with just the clothes on their backs, are given the items they need as quickly as possible.

What we do

Pelican Parcels is based on a simple concept – we take and recycle items from families that no longer need them and give them to families that do. However, we have continued to grow and develop this year and now have four strands of work that we deliver:

- Direct referrals – our partner organisations and professionals refer in families to our service to receive a parcel of specific essential items; be that equipment like beds, buggies and highchairs, or other items like clothing packs and shoes, nappies and toiletries, books, toys and games and more that we have available. This is a checklist of items always stocked and put together as requested.



- Foodbank support – with growing demand we work with foodbanks to supply them with a weekly or monthly order of nappies, wipes and formula to give out to families they are helping, to ensure they are always stocked with the right size nappy and the right type of formula to accompany a weekly food parcel.
- School uniform – we are partnered with 6 local schools and 7 council nurseries to provide unbranded school uniform. These all go out with a mix of preloved and new uniform items, new socks, new school shoes and new PE trainers plus a PE bag with little extras such as age appropriate reading books, notepad and filled pencil case, new water bottle and more.
- Christmas and Eid presents – at Christmas and Eid we help families celebrate by providing brand new gifts both for the children and for any siblings, plus this year for the first time we included the parents/carers too, so they also got to experience the festive joy.

Our base of operations is Unit 9 Industrial House, Conway Street, Hove, BN3 3LW.

Achievements this year

We have supported 5,833 children, pregnant mums and their families, a 44% increase on 2021.

That includes:

- 1617 direct referrals for essential items.
- 1807 foodbank families were given a week's worth of nappies and/or formula.
- 447 children were given school uniform parcels.
- 1962 Christmas present parcels were given out.

We work hard to develop partnerships with local organisations and key workers; charities, schools, children's centres, health and social care workers, midwives and hospital staff, in order to be able to support local families needing the basic essential items that we can then look to provide. We are now working with over 50 local partner organisations.

Through all four strands of our work, we pride ourselves on giving the best quality to our families.

We have formed close partnerships with all the children's centres in Brighton & Hove to provide their foodbank service with nappies and formula, and working with their volunteer and skills coordinators to make sure families are getting what they need in times of crisis. With the cost-of-living crisis we are hearing that what should be temporary emergency support with food, budgeting, essential items and advice, that sadly families continue to struggle to afford the basics even after this provision and are often moving into requiring longer ongoing help and support.



"I have had some very good feedback from 2 families who have received cots and clothes recently. They said how lovely the items are and were very impressed with the quality and good service you provide." Volunteer and Skills Development Coordinator, Portslade Children's Centre

We get positive feedback from families and referrers and if ever something isn't quite right we work hard to fix that immediately to ensure that everyone we're working with knows that our service offers a dependable net of support.

Direct referrals

This year we have seen an influx of requests to support refugee families arriving in our city. We have built a strong relationship with Care4Calais and the Council teams in order to support the children in these groups. We have also worked with some local families 'hosting' Ukrainian refugees directly as so much needed to be done in a very quick timeframe. Brighton & Hove hosted several 'refugee hotels' in which those arriving often stayed for many months with 'no recourse to public funding', meaning that ongoing support as their children grew, or indeed were born, was needed.

Some families were housed in the hotel for many months, so in the summer we connected with the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) to help those children enjoy and thrive in our seaside city by supplying their 26 children with beach backpacks for taking their things to beach. Each bag was filled with essentials plus some beach toys were provided for the group to use together including buckets and spades, footballs and volleyballs and other games.

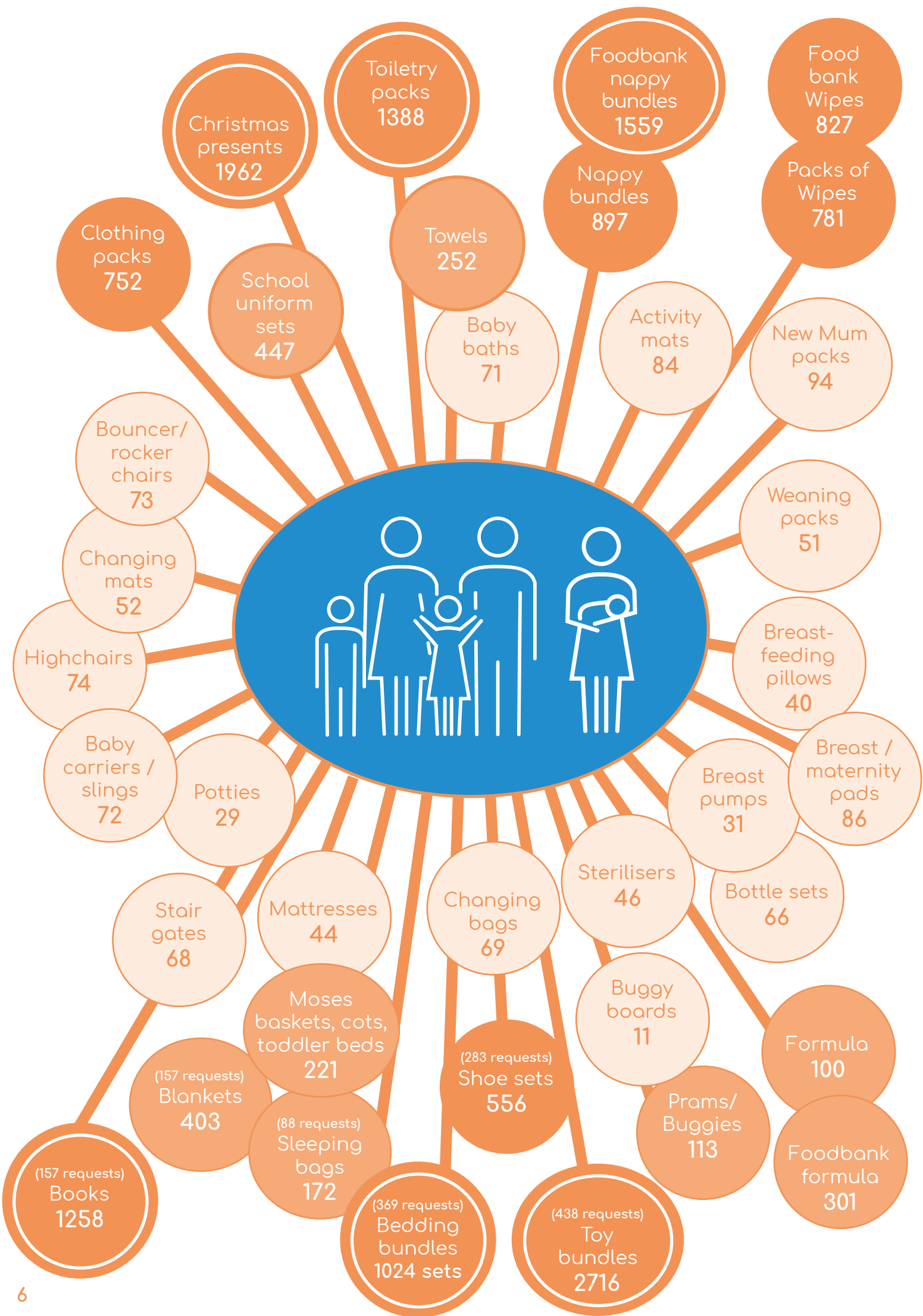
"Shelley and the Pelican Parcels are amazing. I contacted them for help with finding beachwear for 26 children temporarily housed in a hotel with no space to play.

The Pelican Parcels team applied for funding for a brand new backpack for each child filled with a new water bottle, sun cream, a towel and a hat. They also bought lots of fun games for the children to play on the seafront. It was an unbelievable response and the children were delighted.

Pelican Parcels have made such a difference to these families. They respond to the needs of so many families across the city. EMAS are truly grateful for their support."

Christine Booth, Early Years Leader, EMAS





In addition to an increase in refugee support needed, we have also seen a particular increase in requests for beds. We supply from moses baskets, cots and single beds, always with a new mattress. Due to rising demand we are now having to buy a lot more beds, cots and moses baskets, as we can't get enough donated quickly enough. This year we are grateful to both Rotary Soiree Brighton and Brighton Soup, who both gave funding towards our beds project 'Good Nights Sleep'.

Unfortunately, poverty may mean families can't afford a cot and a baby sleeps in the parent's bed, or a child who doesn't have a bed needs to sleep on the sofa or floor; by offering a cot we increase welfare and wellbeing. Research shows 30% of families on low incomes struggled to afford beds for their children (Buttle UK 2020).

'Good Nights Sleep'.

At the end of 2022 we gave out over 100 beds to children in the last 4 months of the year; that's nearly 1 every day! We are giving out 300 parcels a month meaning that around 8% of referrals need beds.

"Thank you, the child has been sleeping on the floor for 3 years and really appreciates receiving a proper bed." Social Worker, Whitehawk.

School uniform

School uniforms can be an effective way to ensure that children in low-income families do not face additional pressure at school to fit in with their peers. This year we have expanded and doubled our uniform provision – in 2021 we provided 199 uniform parcels, in 2022 that rose to 447!

This was achieved by keeping the same school partners in the most deprived areas of Brighton & Hove, but then by children on 30 free hours at Council nurseries in order to provide uniform for children moving from nursery up to Reception at school. Being dressed in the right things and looking smart like all the other children on their first day of school is important to families.

"Your a star for this. I've just started work after being unemployed 6 months, so this month's a low money month. So thank you so much." Mum helped with uniform

We are so grateful to a number of supporters, especially including Enjoolata Foundation for continuing to fund this project. We also partnered with two other charities to help deliver this project; Sals Shoes who provided six boxes of brand new school shoes and PE trainers; and Brighton charity Smarter Uniforms who helped supply preloved uniform items.



Foodbank partnership project

Close partnerships with foodbanks in our city means that whilst they provide the food for a family for the week along with other social and community support, we are able to bolster their service by helping them with nappies, wipes and formula. We have worked closely this year with the seven children's centre foodbank services as well as the refugee foodbank at Voices in Exile and especially Brighton Foodbank.

Our work with these key partners in 2022 meant giving them 53,883 nappies, 900 packs of wipes and 268 tubs of formula.

We have been able to continue this work with foodbanks thanks to the support from the Brighton & Hove City Council's Household Support Grant, which is part of the UK Government's Household Support Fund to support families and those struggling to afford to pay for essential items.

Christmas and Eid presents

This year for the first time for our 'Secret Santa' Christmas campaign, we extended our offer to include presents for parents/carers who otherwise might not get anything. This offer saw us nearly double our orders from 1071 to 1962, which equates to nearly 6,000 items, which we estimate to have a retail value of around £60,000.

Each parcel was given out with wrapping paper, gift tags and cellotape so the parents/carers could have the excitement of wrapping their own children's gifts. The parents were given items in gift bags many of which were hand-made by one of our volunteers with beautiful material.

We worked in partnership with three local toy shops to try and encourage our community to shop locally and were delighted to work again with Meg & Milo, Timeless Toys and Whirligig, who also gave a discount to ensure that anyone purchasing was able to get slightly more for their donation to our campaign.

"I want to say thank you for presents, you left for us with Henry in the nursery. It was unexpected and very very pleasant. British people and Brighton citizens in particular are so kind and generous to the Ukrainians (all this Christmas season I've been crying a lot). These tears are consequence of your incredible attitude to us, unreal warmth, this huge quantity of presents given to us. You will be our friends and saviours forever in our memory." Christmas presents given via EMAS



Lovely donations from local companies including Ardingly College, Close Brothers, Brighton College boarding houses, Element Kids, The Entertainer, The George Payne Pub, More Radio, MRL Consulting Group, Star Properties and Windmill Dental Practice.

“Thank you so much for all the lovely Christmas presents not only for my son but also for me! I’m blown away by thought and effort you put into everything we have ever received from Pelican Parcels.”

Tara, mum supported Dec 2022

In addition to Christmas we are working with the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service to plan the giving of gifts for Eid in April, to ensure that we are celebrating key festive moments for our diverse community.

Who we are

Trustees

Pelican Parcels is overseen by 5 Trustees each with a specialism;

- Shelley Bennett (Chair and Day-to-Day Management)
- James Bennett (Secretary and Governance/Risk)
- Carla Pannett (Fundraising)
- Sinead Thornley (Treasurer and audit)
- Victoria Shead (Marketing) – stepped down July 2022
- Lucy Stone (Trusts and Foundations fundraising) joined March 2022

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the strategic direction of the charity and meets quarterly to review progress, plus a strategic away day, to ensure the charity is on track to meet its objectives and to consider the future direction for the charity. The Board also has additional meetings around fundraising, governance and risk to ensure it is controlled and properly managed operationally and financially.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

Staff

We recruited our first part-time members of staff this year which has been a huge development for the charity. We appointed a Head of Operations in May, followed by an Office Manager in July, thanks to key funds raised by players of People’s Postcode Lottery.



Volunteers

Now that we have bigger premises we have expanded our volunteer programme. These extra volunteers help with sorting and processing donations. We have organised a central sorting table for volunteers to work together creating a fun and inclusive working environment. We have grown to 19 volunteers in total and have plans to recruit more.

Our dedicated volunteers check everything and clean items to ensure they are the kind of things we would happily put our own children in or give them to play with, the charity simply couldn't function without them, they are at the heart of everything we do. We're proud to see them giving their absolute best for our families; checking and rechecking items to ensure that they are happy everything is exactly how it should be – that no small stains sneak through our checking process, or that a buggy is super clean right down to the wheels and ready to make a family feel special when receiving it.



I love volunteering with Pelican Parcels. Such a lovely, friendly supportive team. They just encourage you to do what you can and as I have a back problem (and teaching experience) I also have the task of sitting and sorting donated books - which I love doing. If anyone is experiencing loneliness at home this is definitely worth trying.

Sheelagh, Pelican Parcels Volunteer

I am a Health Visitor in the Brighton area and I work with very vulnerable families that need a lot of support – including homeless families, families in emergency accommodation and the Brighton Women's Refuge.

I am fortunate to see the difference Pelican Parcels and their generous donations make to these families, which is why I happily offer some spare time each week to help them out. This service is VITAL and has become a complete necessity for families suffering from real hardship. The amount of love and care that goes into each parcel received should never be underestimated and this is fully felt by the recipients.

The atmosphere in the warehouse is always upbeat and lively, with genuinely warm, kind people offering some time for such a special cause. It's a pleasure to be part of such an amazing team. Thank you for all you do! Zoe Fernay, Health Visitor and Pelican Parcels Volunteer

Collaboration

A National Alliance of Baby Banks is evolving and meetings with organisations to share and pool knowledge more regularly have begun. This is being led by Little Village in London and Bristol Babybank with a view to seeing collective funding and telling a national story about the impact of child poverty and how necessary our work is. We are grateful to be part of this network and to share and learn from similar charities and organisations.



Our premises

Moving to a larger building last year enabled us to store larger items. Key reorganisation and expansion of stock means we can hold a variety of items, to respond to families quicker and be ready with beds, highchairs and buggies.

We were also delighted to receive some funding from The Dodgson Foundation for a washing machine and drier, allowing us to finally stop needing volunteers to take bags of washing home with them and return clean items! This is also speeding up our processes as we're not waiting a week for a volunteer to return a much needed item.

Unfortunately, we suffered a major roof leak in our premises across an extended period from November to January. This started as a small drip down a pipe and ended up as a significant flood with us mopping 10+ buckets full of water daily. This put enormous pressure on a stretched team across the Christmas and winter period. However catastrophe really struck as once we closed for two weeks for our annual Christmas break, we came back to realise that we'd been fighting a losing battle and that we simply couldn't reopen and operate safely in January as the leak covered over 50% of our warehouse.

Of course we began planning immediately for reopening, however re-checking every single piece of stock and washing a large amount of items, whilst waiting for the roof, floor and wall damage to be repaired, was a huge and slow process. We had to temporarily close to new referrals for seven weeks. By the end of this financial year we are still awaiting the Council to repair the internal damage to certain areas of the warehouse that remain unusable.

It is in times of struggle and tribulation, however, that you really appreciate your team; our staff and volunteers were utterly incredible in rechecking every single piece of stock and clothing to ensure it was fit to go to our families. We worked hard to 'catch up' on the backlog whilst accepting new referrals again.

Our financial overview

Pelican Parcels has had a very successful year financially securing a mix of private donations, corporate sponsors and grant funders. We have raised the full amount of planned budget. We have also been pleased to see some grant funders move from in-year funding to multi-year funding and have been delighted by this support from the Ambergate Charitable Trust and The Homity Trust.

In order to remain resilient and grow, we will continue to focus energy on a spread of fundraising including grants, private donations and community events and are planning a crowdfunder campaign next year to further grow our community of supporters.



Key expenditure for the charity includes the premises costs, utilities, salaries, insurances and new/replacement items for families which currently are growing inline with income.

Pelican Parcels is a member of the Fundraising Regulator and we understand our duty to protect vulnerable people, people's privacy and to not engage in intrusive methods of fundraising.

Pelican Parcels has assessed the risks and opportunities of the year ahead, and based on these, the Trustees have agreed our reserves policy. Current reserve policy is to hold £15,000 based on 3 months wind down costs. We will review this policy annually, taking into consideration any new risks or opportunities.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that financial statements are compliant.

Funding and partnerships

Thank you to our supporters including:

- Sussex Community Foundation, Brighton & Hove City Council, players of People's Postcode Lottery, East Brighton Trust, Tesco Bags of Help, The Chalk Cliff Trust, The Homity Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, Rotary Social Innovation, Brighton Soup, Bupa Foundation, Masonic lodges: Burrell Lodge and Royal Pavilion Chapter 315, Dodgson Foundation, Hall & Woodhouse, Ambergate Charitable Trust, Enjoolata Foundation and Lancing PTA.
- Private donors Andrew Bird and Yan Foye.
- Bird and Blend Tea Company have supported us across this year as their 'Charitea of the quarter'. Silverado who organised a Black Friday donation for every order received. George Payne pub who sold sweets across Christmas and also hosted our volunteer get together.
- A huge thank you to the companies that have supported us with donations of money, in-kind stock, come and volunteered and run collections for us, it has made a big difference to our impact and profile locally.
- Thank you also to our community who have organised a range of events from car boot sales and book auctions to toy-exchanges and curry lunches, and more!



Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable group. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which the charity's independent examiner is unaware.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The Trustees' annual report has been approved by the Trustees on 18 January 2024 and signed on their behalf by



Shelley Bennett
Co-founder and Chair of Trustees

Receipts and payments Account

01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds – to the nearest £	Restricted funds – to the nearest £	Total funds – to the nearest £	Last year – to the nearest £
Receipts				
Trusts and Foundations	33,550	11,023		36,950
Local Councils		18,000		16,348
Corporate supporters	12,207			3,902
Fundraising events	4,069	1,000		156
Individual donations	10,650			10,133
Gift aid				4,771
Total receipts	60,476	30,023	90,499	74,938
Payments				
Rent	15,090	10,000	25,090	12,000
Fundraising	1,512		1,512	1,402
Utilities	3,727		3,727	1,020
Insurance	1,638		1,638	
Office expenses	878		878	358
Office maintenance and repairs				493
IT, broadband and phone	1,067		1,067	
Packaging				922
Office equipment and furniture	4,626		4,626	
Staff and volunteer costs	7,647	9,522	17,169	
Volunteer costs	1,329		1,329	
Storage	825		825	441
Purchases of items for families	23,692	10,500	34,192	7,593
Mattresses				1,313
Stairgates and child safety equipment				
Toys and books for parcels				
Clothing and bedding				1,064
Formula and nutrition				432
Nappies, wipes and toiletries				4,783
School uniform project				
Total payments	62,031	30,022	92,053	51,802
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,555	1	1,554	23,135
Cash funds last year end	44,033	5,963	44,033	20,897
Cash funds this year end	42,478	5,964	42,479	44,033

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2023

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
Cash funds	Bank balance	43,950	19,907
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
Other monetary assets	Rental deposit	6,250	6,250
Investment assets	Details – Not applicable		
Assets retained for the charity's own use	Furniture/ racking/ white goods/ electrical goods	Fund to which asset belongs 1,890	Fund to which asset belongs: 1,835
Liabilities	Details – Not applicable		



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity name
Pelican Parcels

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2023

Charity no 1179866

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023.

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 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.

Signed:

Amanda Foon

Date:

01/12/2023

Name:

Amanda Foon

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

Chartered Accountants ANZ

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