

# THE COWSHED

England & Wales · Charity number 1181550

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2019-01-14

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

## Contact

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**Address** Rubra Two  
Mulberry Business Park  
Fishponds Road  
Wokingham  
Berkshire  
RG41 2GY

**Phone** 01189345120

**Email** [info@thecowshed.org](mailto:info@thecowshed.org)

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

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE RELIEF OF POVERTY OF PERSONS IN NEED IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY PROVIDING SUCH PERSONS WITH GOOD QUALITY FREE CLOTHING.

**Activities:** The aim of the charity is to provide good quality cleaned and ironed clothes and other essential items such as bedding free of charge to anyone who is in need. The clothes are donated from the general public and retailers and then sorted, washed and ironed at our warehouse ready to be delivered /collected by social services, other health professionals or our clients.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Bracknell Forest
- Reading
- Slough
- West Berkshire
- Windsor And Maidenhead
- Wokingham

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£656,380	£679,485	£69,025	11
2024-03-31	£692,420	£648,982	£92,123	9
2023-03-31	£525,426	£521,021	£59,145	12
2022-03-31	£368,951	£358,668	-	-
2021-03-31	£283,831	£270,155	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>KESTER RUSSELL</b>	Chair	2019-06-17
Amie Pinder		2025-07-10
Anna Coules		2025-10-15
Avril Couper		2024-05-20
Lesley Feinberg		2025-10-15
Peter Harmston		2025-10-15
Sarah Bailey		2025-10-15
Sharon Ketley		2021-02-02
Steve Formoy		2025-07-10

**THE COWSHED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181550

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# Accounts

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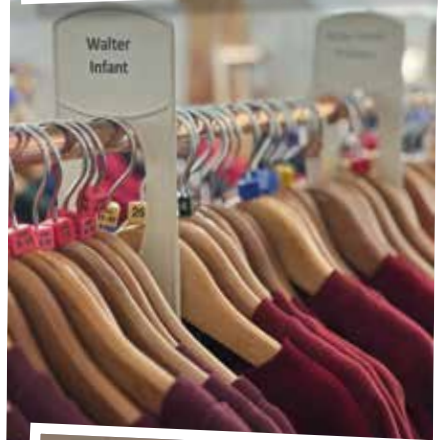


# THE COWSHED

## Annual Report and Accounts

For the period 2024 - 2025





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# Organisation Details

## STAFF

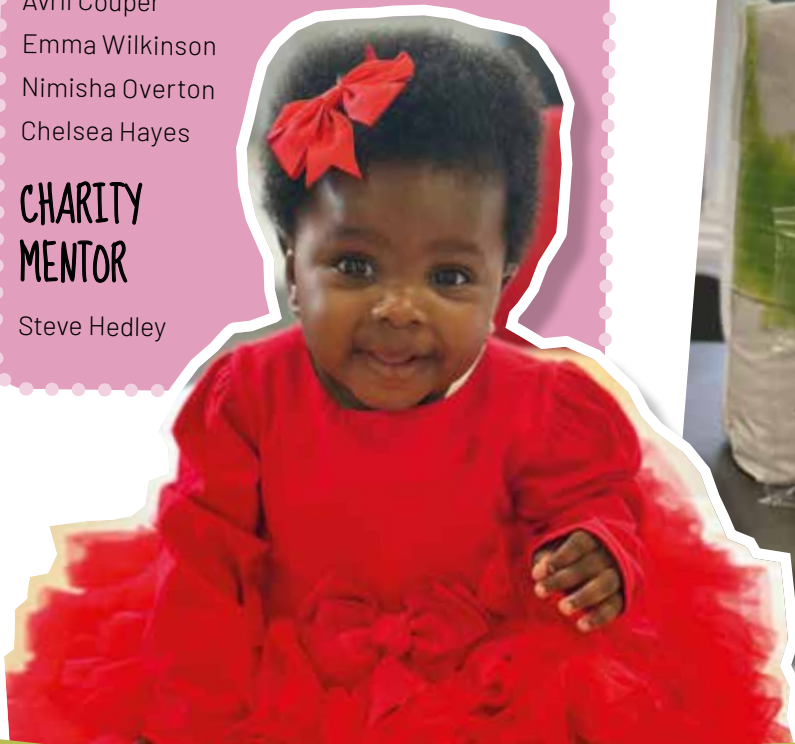
- Sally Russell..... Founder/CEO
- Rebecca Russell..... Operations Manager
- Rebecca Mole ..... Fundraising Manager
- Audrey Knox..... Craft Co-ordinator
- Liz Meadows ..... Donation Centre Supervisor / Hygiene Bank Co-ordinator
- Yvonne John..... Donation Centre Supervisor
- Ruth Warms..... Donation Centre Supervisor
- Alison Mansoor ..... Referrals Supervisor
- Caroline Worman ..... Referrals Supervisor
- Sarah Horton ..... Referrals Co-ordinator
- Claire Hewitt..... Referrals Co-ordinator
- Candice Botha ..... Fundraising Assistant
- Gemma Winder..... Referrals Administrator
- Jess Lawrence ..... Donation Centre Supervisor / Community Engagement Worker
- Michelle Barclay..... Office Administrator
- Anne-Marie Eden ..... Accounts Executive

## TRUSTEES

- Kester Russell..... First Trustee & Founder
- Sharon Ketley
- Avril Couper
- Emma Wilkinson
- Nimisha Overton
- Chelsea Hayes

## CHARITY MENTOR

Steve Hedley



## DUTIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by The Charities Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

### Address -

**Rubra 2, Mulberry Business Park, Fishponds Road, Wokingham, RG41 2GY**

The Cowshed is a registered charity (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) In England and Wales (1181550) with the following objectives;

The relief of poverty of persons in need in particular but not exclusively by providing such persons with good quality free clothing.



# Who we are and what we do

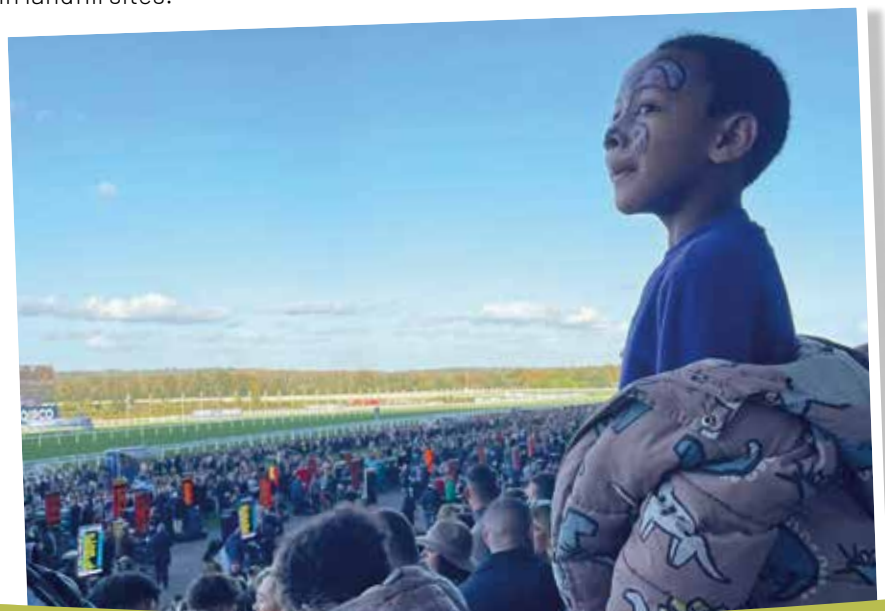
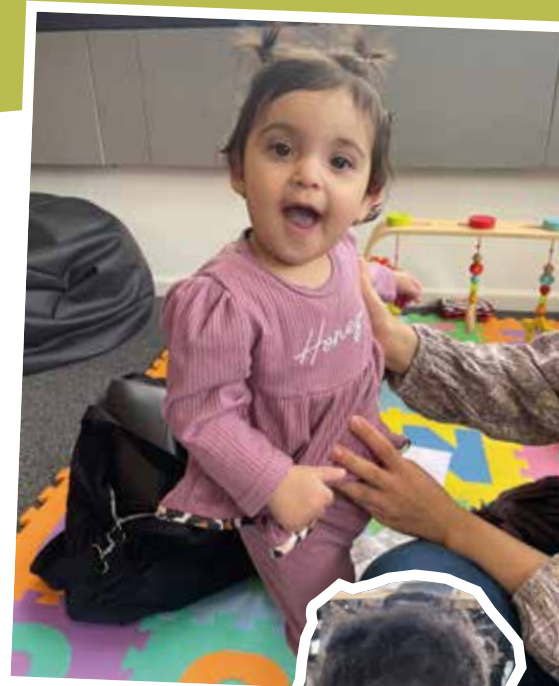
The Cowshed charity started in September 2018 and officially launched in February 2019 to give practical support to people of all backgrounds in a time of personal crisis. Since we started we have supported over 40,000 people in need in Berkshire. The main aim of The Cowshed is to lovingly provide excellent quality, cleaned and ironed clothes, underwear, bedding, curtains, toiletries, and other essential items free to anyone in need. The clothes are donated from the public as well as retailers and manufacturers. They are then sorted, washed, and ironed ready to be delivered by our drivers or collected by social services, other professionals or our clients. The idea is that our clients feel they are receiving a gift to assist them in a time of crisis rather than some old clothes that are over worn, marked or damaged.

The people in need are referred to us through social services, churches, schools, charities, doctors, and other professionals. We then provide the items that are requested free of charge. The Cowshed is staffed mostly by our amazing volunteers.

The Cowshed has a threefold impact: recycling used clothing, helping those most in need in our communities with essential items and creating a community craft group to support the main charity.

All the clothes that are donated to us are repurposed. The excellent quality clothes are washed and ironed ready for our clients, the slightly damaged clothing /bedding is repurposed by our arts and crafts group to make items for us to sell and tote bags for us to put our referrals in. Pre-loved Bras are sent to Against Breast Cancer and the plastic bags we receive donations in are given to the food banks locally or recycled. We also work with many other groups to recycle as much as we can. Anything left after this is sold to a recycling organisation to raise further funds to help sustain the charity.

We are extremely excited about having established a movement which directly impacts those most in need in the local community in a positive, loving, non-judgemental way, as well as helping the environment by reusing clothes and other items which would otherwise have ended up in landfill sites.



# Chair of Trustee's Statement

## INTRODUCTION

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present this year's Report and Accounts on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

The past year has once again demonstrated the extraordinary impact of The Cowshed's work, both in terms of scale and significance. In a period marked by ongoing financial hardship across the community and increased pressure on both individuals and public services, the role of The Cowshed as a frontline response charity has never been more vital.

This year we have seen a remarkable increase in demand across all areas of service, with referrals rising by over 25%. Our reach continues to extend far beyond our original footprint, supporting people from across Berkshire including a substantial and growing number of asylum seekers now housed within the county. The volume of individuals and families we have been able to support, often at the most difficult points in their lives, stands as testament to the tireless work of our staff and volunteers.

Despite considerable operational challenges, The Cowshed has remained steadfast in its mission to deliver dignity, stability and practical support. Our sustainability continues to depend on careful stewardship, strong community partnerships, and the extraordinary generosity of individuals, corporates, and funders who believe in our work. We are particularly

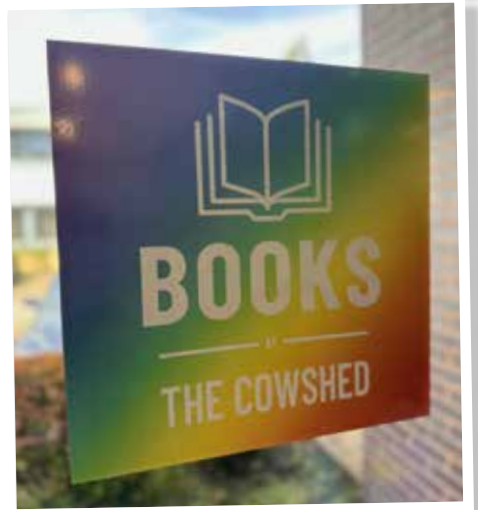
grateful to the National Lottery Community Fund, whose support is enabling strategic long-term planning.

On behalf of the Trustees, I offer our heartfelt thanks to all who contribute to The Cowshed's work – staff, volunteers, donors, referrers and community partners. The impact reflected in these pages is your achievement too.

We look forward to building on this strong foundation in the year ahead.



**Chair of Trustees,  
The Cowshed**



# Chief Executive's Message

This year, more than ever, I wanted our Annual Accounts and Impact Report to focus on what truly matters: the difference The Cowshed makes every single day. Whenever we welcome visitors into our building, their reaction is always the same: surprise, amazement, and often disbelief at the sheer breadth and scale of the work we do. In the constant activity of meeting urgent need, we rarely pause to share these stories or celebrate the impact our supporters and team create. My hope is that this report offers a snapshot of the incredible work happening here, and the public benefit this charity quietly but powerfully delivers.

It has not been an easy year for the charity sector. The impending increases in National Insurance and the Real Living Wage have placed growing pressure on already stretched organisations like ours. We have had to look creatively at new ways to bring in income, because we simply cannot reduce our staffing levels any further without compromising essential services, something I am absolutely committed to protecting.

Running a charity is never easy, and this year has brought its share of added pressures. Supporting an organisation of more than 450 people is a significant undertaking. Despite this, our small and remarkable team consistently goes above and beyond, showing extraordinary skill, commitment, and care. While funding uncertainty and short-term planning challenges remain, we continue to move forward thanks to the resilience of our team and the generosity of individuals and organisations who support us, even in difficult times.

And yet, despite all of this, it is impossible to feel discouraged for long. Every day, we witness the profound impact of The Cowshed's work. Lives are changed here. Families are supported at their lowest moments. Volunteers find purpose, connection, and healing as they give their time to help others. The good far outweighs the worry.

My faith has carried me through the hardest moments this year. Time and again, at the very moment we feel stretched to breaking point, The Cowshed magic happens. The exact item a client needs appears at our door. A grant we desperately hoped for is awarded. The perfect person applies for a role, seemingly nudged by something bigger



than any of us. In the midst of daily pressures, it is easy to overlook these moments, but they remind us why this work matters so deeply.

Looking ahead, our priority is to make The Cowshed as secure as possible so we can continue supporting as many people as we can. The latest Joseph Rowntree Foundation UK Poverty 2025 report shows that poverty levels in the UK remain persistently high, with around 14.3 million people, including 4.3 million children, about three in ten, living in poverty in 2022/23. Children continue to have the highest poverty rates, with especially high levels among families with younger children, three or more children, and lone-parent households. Disabled people, those with long-term mental health conditions, and people with caring responsibilities also remain significantly more likely to experience poverty. JRF highlights that poverty has not diminished and, in many cases, has become deeper, with rising levels of hardship and destitution across the UK. These are the very people who come to our door, and with your support, we will continue to be there for them.

Next year, we will continue doing what The Cowshed does best: showing love, kindness, and practical support to those who need it most. None of this would be possible without our exceptional team and our incredible army of volunteers, who pour compassion, energy, and heart into everything we do.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey so far, our staff, volunteers, donors, partners, and supporters. Your support makes it possible for The Cowshed to be a place of hope, care, and transformation for everyone in our community.

With heartfelt gratitude,

**Chief Executive,  
The Cowshed Charity**

# What makes The Cowshed

## 1. OUR VISION FOR BERKSHIRE



We firmly believe that everyone deserves access to basic necessities, regardless of their circumstances. Our vision is a community where no one goes without the essentials they need to live with comfort and dignity and where kindness and sustainability go hand in hand.

## 2. HOW WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS THIS

We support families and individuals in crisis by providing high-quality donated clothing, bedding, toiletries and household items, all free of charge through our trusted referral network.

But The Cowshed is about more than practical help. We're building a culture of compassion across Berkshire, one where people come together to care for their neighbours and protect our planet.

Through volunteering, we give people the chance to contribute their time, skills and kindness, creating a strong sense of shared purpose. We collaborate with community groups, schools, businesses and faith organisations, strengthening the network of local support. And by nurturing relationships of trust and respect, we're helping to build a community where everyone feels valued and included.



Everything we do is rooted in kindness and in the belief that small acts of care can make a big difference.

## 3. WHY OUR WORK MATTERS

Hardship can happen to anyone. By providing families and individuals in crisis with good-quality clothing and essential items, we give them one less thing to worry about and the confidence to face other challenges.

The Cowshed's impact extends beyond meeting immediate needs. Through our work, we:

- **SUPPORT THOSE IN NEED**
- **PROMOTE CLOTHING RECYCLING**
- **BUILD COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**



Every donated item serves a purpose. Quality clothes are prepared for clients; slightly damaged garments are repurposed by our community arts and crafts group into tote bags or sold to raise funds; and remaining textiles are sent for recycling, contributing to a circular economy.

Fast fashion has fuelled waste with brands releasing up to 24 collections a year and less than 1% of discarded garments are recycled. At The Cowshed, we aim to change that narrative, showing how compassion and sustainability can go hand in hand.

## 4. OUR VALUES



**Love** - we care deeply about the people we help, showing compassion and respect in every interaction.

**Community** - we bring people together to share what they have, creating a network of kindness and mutual support.

**Collaboration** - we work hand in hand with volunteers, partners and referral agencies to reach those most in need.

**Recycling** - every donation tells a story. With more than 150 tonnes of items recycled annually, we turn generosity into action, helping people in need while caring for the environment.

**Empowerment** - we aim to give people a leg up, not a handout, helping them get back on their feet and rebuild their confidence.

## 5. WHERE TO FIND US



All aspects of our work take place from our main base:

**The Cowshed, Rubra 2, Mulberry Bus. Park, Fishponds Road, RG41 2GY**

Visitors are welcome by appointment, and donations can be dropped off during our opening hours.



## 6. CONNECT WITH US

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

email: [info@thecowshed.org](mailto:info@thecowshed.org)



@cowshedcharity

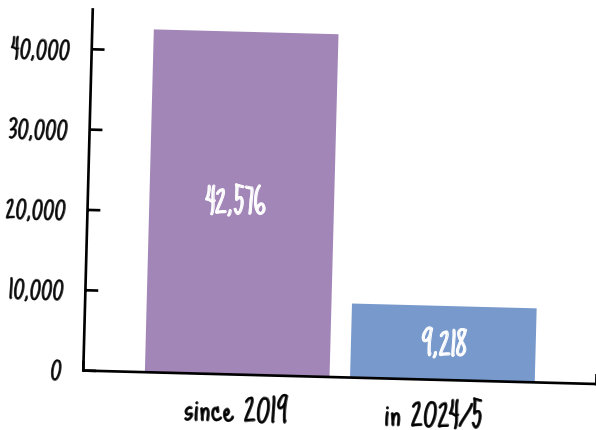


# The change we are creating

Together, we're changing lives - one parcel, one person, one act of kindness at a time.

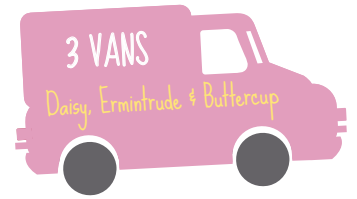
## 1. NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED

On average 631 individuals each month



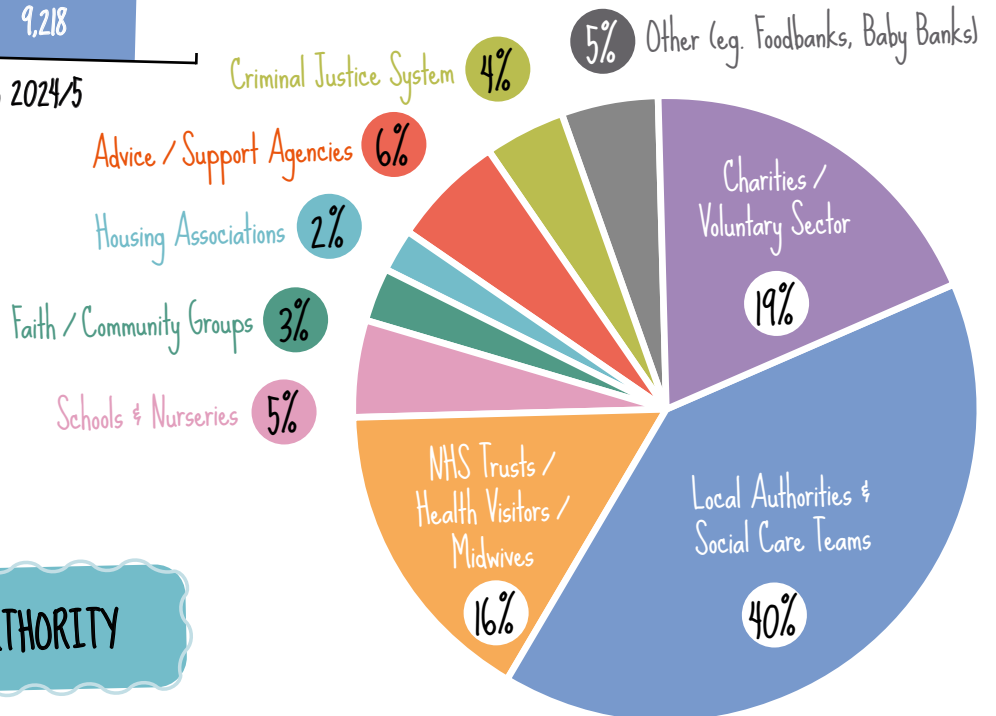
## 4. OUR DELIVERIES

With thanks to Carcomm Coachworks

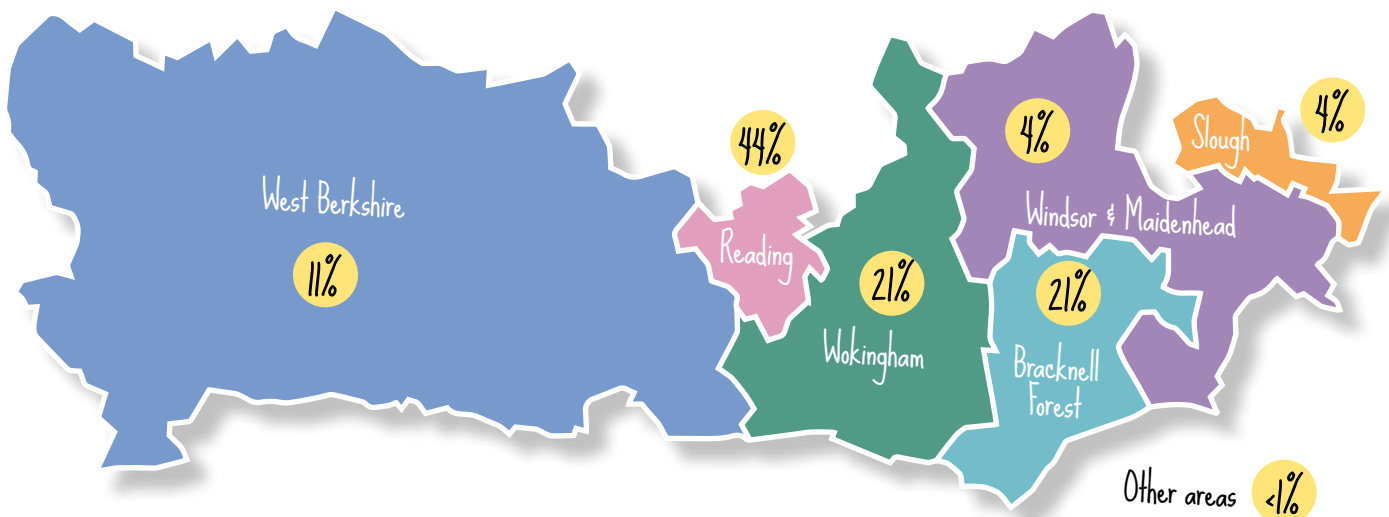


## 2. WHO REFERS TO THE COWSHED

1,637 professionals, 445 referring organisations

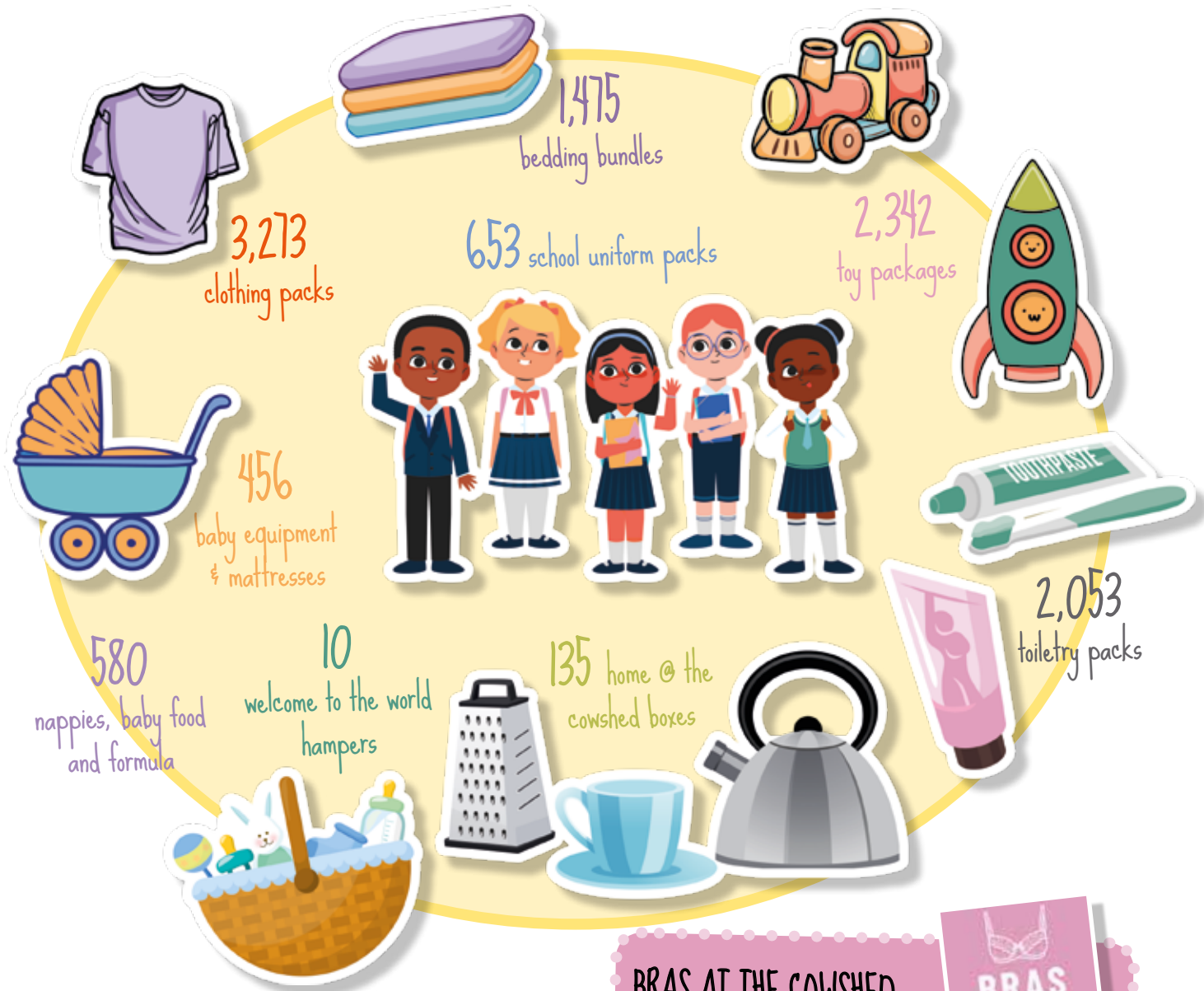


## 3. REFERRALS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY



# What we delivered together

Each of these items represents more than a donation, it's a moment of relief for a family or individual facing crisis, and a reminder that their community cares.



## WELCOME TO THE WORLD

Care leavers can be very much on their own with little family support and no-one to turn to other than the leaving care team. Growing up in care can be hard, as you miss out on many things, so when a care leaver becomes pregnant, it can be a very daunting time. The gift of a 'Welcome to the World Hamper' with beautiful and essential items which every new mum should have, will be a way of making them feel valued, and help prepare for and celebrate the birth of their child.

## BRAS AT THE COWSHED

This is a special initiative providing women in need with brand new, professionally fitted bras, thanks to the generous support of Wacoal Europe. Our trained volunteers offer personalised fittings for cup sizes A to HH at our Wokingham centre, where each client receives two beautiful new bras from Fantasie or Freya (subject to stock). At The Cowshed, we know that finding the right bra is about more than comfort. A well-fitted bra can transform how a woman looks and feels, giving her the support and confidence she needs to feel her best. Yet for many of our clients, a good bra is a luxury they simply can't afford.



# What our community needs and how we help

Across the UK, one in five people live in poverty – including 4.3 million children (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, UK Poverty 2025). Poverty is also rising across the UK, and Berkshire is not exempt. While our county is often seen as prosperous, pockets of deprivation remain, particularly in Reading and surrounding areas, where many families struggle to afford essentials like clothing, bedding and toiletries.

In Reading, around one in six children live in households below the poverty line, rising to over 30 percent in Whitley ward (Reading Borough Council Ward Profiles, 2020). Many of these families are in work but still struggle to afford the essentials.

Although areas like Wokingham and West Berkshire show above-average wages, high housing and living costs mean even small, unexpected expenses can trigger crisis (Berkshire Observatory, 2024). For those on lower incomes, access to basics such as clothing, bedding and toiletries can make a meaningful difference - offering relief, dignity, and one less worry when times are tough. Behind every parcel we deliver is a story of resilience, kindness, but also the growing pressure on families across Berkshire.

Here are just some ways in which we are making an impact:

## 1. REMOVING BARRIERS TO EDUCATION

The cost of school uniform is one of the biggest pressures facing low-income families.

According to The Children's Society (2023) ([www.childrenssociety.org.uk/the-cost-of-school-uniform-2023](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/the-cost-of-school-uniform-2023)), secondary school uniforms now cost an average of £422 per child each year, and primary uniforms £287. More than half of parents surveyed said they've had to cut back on essentials such as food or heating to pay for school clothes and one in eight reported their child being sent home for wearing the wrong uniform.

Through our School Uniform Project, The Cowshed provides high-quality uniform items to children across Berkshire, ensuring that no pupil misses out or feels excluded because of what they wear. In 2024/25 we distributed school uniform to 653 children.



## 2. SUPPORTING SAFE SLEEPING

A growing number of families referred to The Cowshed need help preparing a safe place for their baby to sleep. Many are living in temporary accommodation, overcrowded homes, or facing financial hardship without the means to provide a suitable sleep space.

Through our Safe Sleep initiative, we provide Moses baskets, cots, mattresses and bedding to over 400 children, all checked and prepared in line with The Lullaby Trust's Safer Sleep guidelines. Each pack ensures that a baby has a clear, flat and secure sleeping space, helping to reduce the risks associated with unsafe arrangements such as sofa-sleeping or bed-sharing.

Every safe sleeping bundle we provide gives new parents peace of mind and every baby a safer start in life.



## 3. VALUE OF ITEMS PROVIDED

£1,708,440 Overall Value

£1,304,750 PRELOVED AND INKIND DONATIONS

£403,690 NEW - INCLUDING CHRISTMAS PROJECT

0 £300,000 £600,000 £900,000 £1,200,000 £1,500,000

# Case Study – Toby’s Story

Toby’s journey is one of courage and resilience. As a teenager, he was placed into foster care when his father became seriously ill. In the years that followed, life became very hard. Toby experienced homelessness, battled with alcohol and drug use, and spent time sleeping rough.

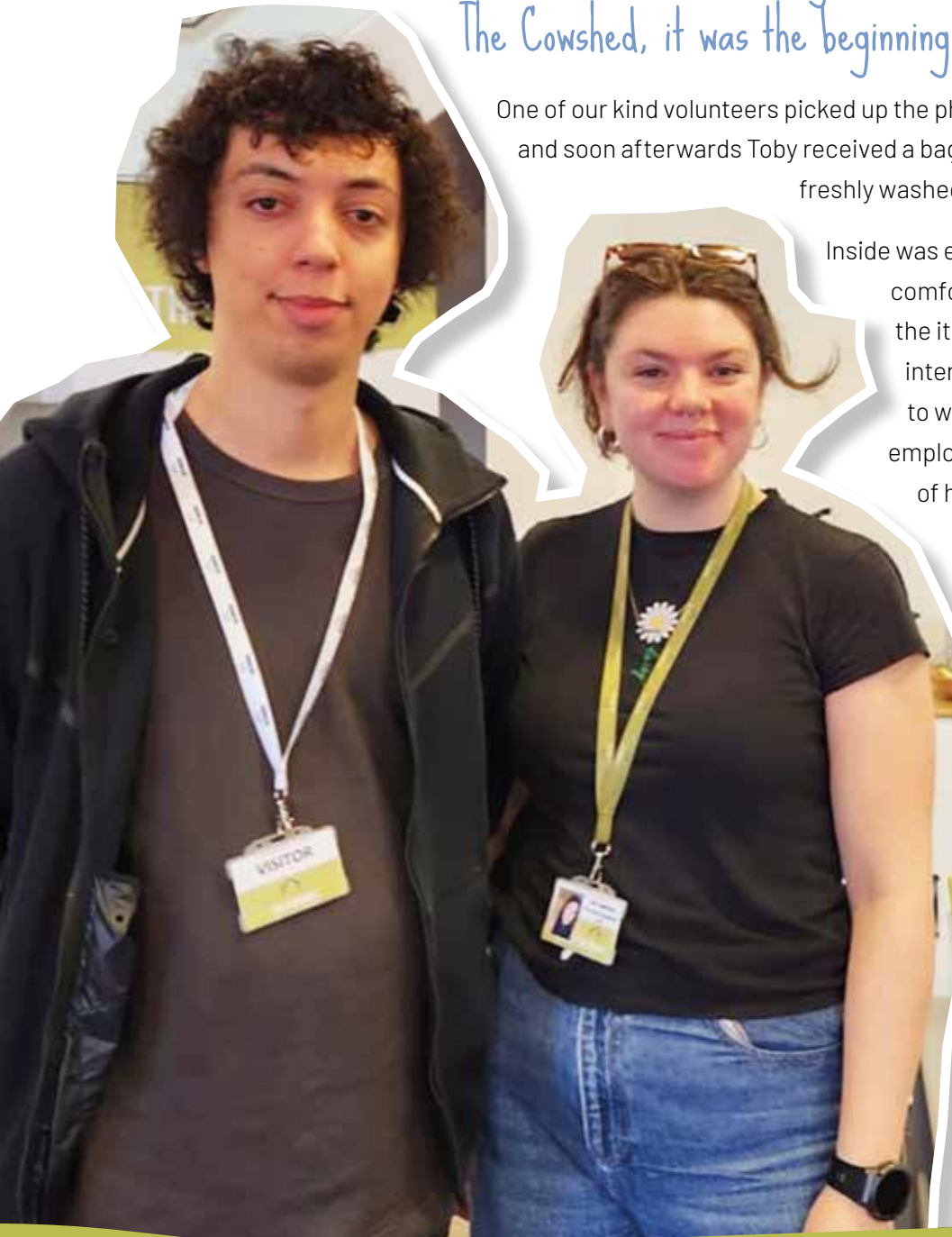
When Citizens Advice Wokingham referred Toby to The Cowshed, it was the beginning of a new chapter.

One of our kind volunteers picked up the phone to ask what he might need, and soon afterwards Toby received a bag of clothing, carefully chosen, freshly washed, and neatly folded with love.

Inside was everything he needed to feel comfortable and valued. Among the items was a smart outfit for job interviews. It gave Toby the confidence to walk through the door of an employer and present the best version of himself. That outfit became the key to his very first job.

A few years later we were reunited with Toby in the most wonderful way. The company he was working for had signed up for a corporate volunteering day at our donations centre, and there he was, smiling, giving back to the charity that had once helped him in his time of need.

Toby’s story is a reminder that when kindness is offered with dignity, it can change not just a day, but the whole direction of a life.



# Community kindness in action

The Cowshed is more than a place to receive help with essential items, it is a space where people find connection, kindness and community. Through a range of outreach projects, we support families and individuals across Berkshire with both practical help and opportunities to come together.

## BOOKS AT THE COWSHED

Through our work with Care4Calais, we discovered that many refugee children living in local hotels had limited access to books and activities. To help change this, we created free book libraries for each hotel, which we regularly restock with donated books. We also provided toys for hotels that were able to create dedicated playrooms, giving children safe and welcoming spaces to learn and play.

We also have free book libraries at Emmbrook Junior School and at The Cowshed in Wokingham, where children can choose up to five books to take home in a homemade tote bag. These small libraries help spark imagination and a love of reading, while making sure every child has access to stories of their own.



## HYGIENE POVERTY

Through our partnership with The Hygiene Bank, we are committed to reducing hygiene and period poverty across the local area.

Last year, we supported 2,053 individuals with toiletries, sanitary products and nappies, helping to restore comfort, dignity and confidence during difficult times. We also provided more than 200 toiletry and hygiene packs to local schools and all libraries in Wokingham Borough, ensuring essentials were available where they were most needed.

In addition, we share new toiletries with partner organisations including Elizabeth Fry and Bracknell Foodbank, extending the reach of our support even further. To promote good dental health, every hygiene pack includes a toothbrush and toothpaste, helping children build positive dental habits from an early age.

## MOTHERS' COFFEE MORNINGS

This year, we hosted three Mothers' Coffee Mornings, each welcoming around 25 new or expecting mothers from vulnerable or isolated backgrounds.

Held quarterly in partnership with the Royal Berkshire Maternity Team and Royal Berkshire Maternity and Neonatal Voices, these gatherings provide a welcoming and supportive space for mothers to meet others, share experiences and receive guidance from maternity and neonatal health professionals.

Mothers are encouraged to bring their babies and young children, creating an inclusive and relaxed environment that helps reduce isolation and promotes emotional wellbeing during the early stages of parenthood.



## HOSPITAL BAGS

In partnership with the Poppy Team at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, we provide hospital bags for refugee mothers to ensure they have everything they need when going into hospital to give birth.

Each bag includes toiletries, nightwear, towels, maternity pads and essential baby items, helping new mothers feel prepared, cared for and confident at such an important time. Since starting this initiative just a year ago, we have already provided more than 150 bags, offering comfort and reassurance to families beginning a new chapter of life in our community.



# Community kindness in action

## REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKER SUPPORT

We continue to work closely with local councils and community organisations to support refugee families living in Berkshire.

Beyond providing essential items, we also create opportunities for connection and inclusion. During the summer, we hosted two free barbecue and activity days for refugees living in local hotels, bringing families together for food, crafts, music and football. These events offered a chance to relax, connect and feel part of the community.

This year, we are especially proud of our refugee football team, a wonderful example of community in action. The team brings together players from many different countries, backgrounds and experiences, all united by their love of the game. Every week, they come together to support one another, share laughter and build confidence, showing what belonging truly means.

For many, access to activities can be limited, leaving people feeling isolated. The football sessions promote wellbeing, mental health and integration, offering a safe and supportive space to connect and thrive.



## COURSES AT THE COWSHED

Throughout the year, we run a variety of paid and free classes and events that bring people together, encourage creativity and help build new skills.

Our programme includes sewing courses for adults and children, Christmas wreath-making workshops, patchwork and jewellery-making sessions. Each class offers a welcoming space to learn something new, meet others and enjoy the satisfaction of creating something by hand.

# Seasonal campaigns

## EASTER

**Supporting families with a little Easter kindness.**

Every year we give our clients a small Easter gift to brighten the holiday season. Easter eggs and colouring activities bring so much joy to children during the school break, adding a little extra happiness and fun for families who may be facing difficult times.

This year's Easter Project was a wonderful success, thanks to the generosity of our community. Schools, businesses, and local organisations came together to donate hundreds of Easter eggs and treats that filled our hampers and brought smiles to so many children.

We were able to support over 300 families, ensuring that more children could enjoy a happy and memorable Easter.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who supported this project.



## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME

Throughout the summer, we hosted a series of creative activity days paired with delicious barbecue lunches, thanks to the support of our corporate partner EPSCM.

Over four weeks, we welcomed around 80 children who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to enjoy such special days out. The sessions were filled with arts and crafts, gardening, jewellery making, and much more, creating joyful experiences and lasting memories.

This initiative was delivered in partnership with Wokingham Borough Council and the Holiday Activities and Food programme, with generous sponsorship from Wokingham United Charities. The success of these sessions was down to the dedication of our volunteers and staff, and the excitement and creativity of the children who took part.

*"J and H both had a lovely day and proudly showed us everything they made. They were delighted with their bags full of goodies too."* - Parent

*"My daughter had the best time and has already asked to come back again."* - Parent



## PROM AT THE COWSHED

**Ensuring no young person misses out on their prom experience.**

Prom is a special milestone for many young people. It is a moment to celebrate achievement, friendship, and confidence. For some, the cost of dresses, suits, and accessories can be a real barrier.

This year, through our Free Borrowing Service and Prom Hire Service, we supported over 250 young people. Some were referred by schools, social workers, churches, and community organisations, while others reached out to us directly after hearing about the service.

We do more than lend outfits. We make sure every detail is taken care of. From shoes and jewellery to stylish bags and makeup to keep, our team helps each young person feel comfortable, confident, and ready to enjoy their big night.

By offering both free and affordable hire options, we remove financial barriers while promoting sustainability. Hiring a dress for £50 or a suit for £25, plus a £10 cleaning fee, helps fund our free borrowing scheme. Each hire helps another young person take part and make lasting memories.



# Christmas

## DELIVERING FESTIVE JOY AND HOPE TO FAMILIES ACROSS BERKSHIRE.

Months of preparation go into our Christmas project, beginning as early as June. This year, our talented craft group lovingly created nearly 3,000 handmade sacks, each one designed to make Christmas feel extra special. With our Winnersh Triangle premises transformed into a hub of festive activity, staff and volunteers spent countless hours planning, phoning families, and carefully matching gifts to each child's interests.

The 2024 Christmas Project was the largest fundraising and community initiative of the year. We were supported by The Saltshaker Community Group, who made over 1,000 beautiful food hampers to provide families with an extra special treat. Over 120 companies and organisations contributed gifts or donations, and 11 schools joined in with collections. Fifty-eight organisations booked one of our Christmas present post boxes, and we also took part in Giving Trees with Wokingham and Connect Reading, as well as the Reading Toy Run. These partnerships ensured that thousands of children received gifts and festive support. The appeal also created opportunities for volunteering, community engagement, and corporate team involvement, reflecting the generosity and collaboration that defines The Cowshed.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, we were able to make Christmas brighter for thousands of families. Support poured in from local people,

schools, churches, and more than 80 corporate partners who donated toys, gifts, and funds through our Amazon Wishlist, community bins, and JustGiving page.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all the organisations and individuals who contributed, including Kodak, who donated the batteries that made sure every toy could be enjoyed on Christmas morning.

The wrapping phase was an enormous effort. Together with corporate teams and volunteers, we wrapped 20,376 presents for 2,547 children and young people, dedicating 1,750 hours to ensure every gift was beautifully prepared. We also hosted 120 self-selection appointments, giving families the chance to choose and wrap presents themselves, creating a truly personal and empowering experience.

Our volunteer drivers then delivered 1,995 sacks of gifts across Berkshire, supported by vans from Carcomm Coachworks and additional help from Leighton Park School.

After the project, more than 150 families completed our survey, sharing heartfelt gratitude and feedback that will help us continue to grow and improve year after year. Families gave an average rating of 4.7 out of 5, showing how accessible and supportive the experience felt for those we helped.

SCAN ME TO READ  
LAST YEAR'S REPORT





"I HAVE NO WORDS TO EXPRESS HOW THANKFUL I AM FOR THE INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY OF THE COWSHED - YOU MADE IT SO I COULD GIVE MY BOY CHRISTMAS, WHICH I OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE STRUGGLED TO DO. YOU HAVE MADE MORE DIFFERENCE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW. THANK YOU ARE SMALL WORDS BUT HEARTFELT!" - Parent

"WE ARE INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL, YOU GAVE US THE GIFT OF NOT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT ENSURING OUR CHILDREN HAD A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS. THEIR SMILES AND EXCITEMENT THIS CHRISTMAS WAS EVERYTHING WE WANTED AND WE WANT TO THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS FOR THIS." - Parent



# Our Community

## THE HEART OF THE COWSHED

This year, over 400 volunteers gave their time, skills, and compassion to support The Cowshed's work. Volunteering with us means supporting local people in crisis and helping to build a kinder, more connected community. Our volunteers are the heart and soul of The Cowshed, and their incredible kindness and commitment make all the difference. We simply couldn't do it without them.

Our volunteers support every part of life at The Cowshed. Whether helping in the busy Donations Centre sorting and preparing items for families, welcoming clients and fulfilling requests in the Referrals Centre, or getting creative with our Craft @ The Cowshed group, their time and energy keep everything running smoothly. From washing and ironing to sewing, preparing items for families, driving, fundraising, and lending a listening ear, our volunteers make an incredible difference every day.

I started volunteering at The Cowshed after a long period away from paid employment due to illness. I was immediately impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of all who worked and volunteered at the charity, and, on a personal level, the way I was so warmly accepted and welcomed to 'the gang.' The sheer hard graft shown by every single person helping out was such a refreshing environment to be in, and the camaraderie and sheer joy of being part of a charity whose support and need was growing in front of our eyes was awe-inspiring.

My colleagues at The Cowshed took me from a very difficult period in my life back to believing in myself. The support and friendship were amazing, and I never want to lose my link with the charity, whether it be through helping out, donating, or just coming in to say hi and make tea for those working so hard for the benefit of others.

As much as I helped the charity by volunteering, they helped me to move on with my life, and I will always be grateful for that."

- A Cowshed Volunteer



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH STUDENTS

24 young people completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Award volunteered with us this year, bringing enthusiasm and commitment to every task. Their placements helped them build confidence, gain new skills, and make a real difference in their community.

# Our Community



## WOKINGHAM AND READING YOUTH JUSTICE TEAMS

We were pleased to welcome members of the Wokingham and Reading Youth Justice Teams, who supported donation sorting and project work as part of their community service. Their involvement provided valuable opportunities for giving back, developing teamwork skills, and building positive connections within the community.

## CLASP

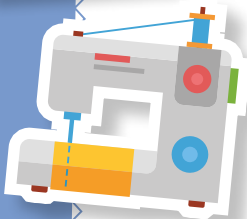
We have been delighted to continue our partnership with CLASP, whose members volunteer regularly at The Cowshed. The CLASP team brings positivity and dedication to everything they do, and we are so proud to work alongside them.



## CRAFT AT THE COWSHED

Craft @ The Cowshed is a creative and community led programme that brings people together through shared purpose. It helps reduce loneliness and isolation, particularly among older adults and people from all walks of life who may feel disconnected, while enabling volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to contribute meaningfully to our charity's mission.

With over 100 regular participants, the group has grown into a warm and welcoming community where creativity, connection, and care come together. Participants make beautiful tote bags used in our essential item distributions, as well as cushions, bunting, and gifts that raise funds to support our wider work. Beyond crafting, the group provides friendship, purpose, and a sense of belonging, a space filled with conversation, laughter, and kindness.



## SCHOOL GROUPS

We have welcomed a wide range of school groups who volunteered their time to help support local families. This included students from Addington SEN School, Heathermount School, and Luckley House School. Their energy, teamwork, and commitment have been incredible, and it has been wonderful to see so many young people engaging with the values of kindness and service.



# Collaboration

## WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE.

Corporate and community partnerships have been central to our work this year. Their generosity, time, and expertise have helped us reach more families and strengthen the support we offer across the region.

## CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Corporate and community partners have been at the heart of our work again this year. From financial donations to hands on volunteering, their involvement has made a real difference.

We were proud to work with so many incredible organisations, including Winnersh Triangle, Blandy and Blandy, EPSCM, Adobe, Boehringer Ingelheim, Dell, Oracle, Harrods, and EMCOR. Their teams rolled up their sleeves to help with projects ranging from creating Home at The Cowshed boxes and wrapping gifts, to supporting workshops, community events, and on-site repairs and maintenance.

Local organisations such as Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, Women's Institutes, and faith groups continued to champion our work through fundraising events, collections, and volunteering. Schools and nurseries across the region also played a vital role, raising funds through sponsored events and creative community activities.

Community led initiatives, including golf days, guitar recitals, bake sales, quiz nights, and sponsored challenges organised by schools, clubs, and faith groups, also provided significant support. We are especially grateful to Touring Sport and AJP Property Services for their ongoing commitment to hosting charity golf days, Sonning Golf Club for their extensive fundraising activities, and the Gurdwara, who collected donations at the Nagar Kirtan procession.

We are also grateful to organisations like Oracle, Progress Theatre, and Ascot, who donated free tickets to cultural and sporting events for the families we support. These opportunities, including theatre trips, race days, football matches and more, allowed families we support to relax, spend time together, and enjoy experiences they might not otherwise have had.



## CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

Over 400 people spent their corporate volunteering day with The Cowshed this year, an incredible contribution of time and energy. Whether cleaning prams, ironing clothes, wrapping gifts, making Home at The Cowshed boxes, or helping with seasonal campaigns, every volunteer played a part in supporting local families and building stronger community connections.



## CHARITY OF THE YEAR PARTNERSHIPS

Being chosen as a Charity of the Year partner means more than fundraising. It is about shared purpose, teamwork, and creativity. This year we were delighted to work with:

- **Blandy and Blandy** – fundraising champions supporting us for two years.
- **Sonning Golf Club** – chosen by both Captains, raising incredible amounts through varied events.
- **Reading Maiden Erlegh Inner Wheel** – fundraising and sharing their craft skills with our sewing team.
- **EPSCM** – volunteering at events and sponsoring our new gazebo.
- **Prospect Estate Agency** – a year long programme of staff led fundraising.
- **The Royal Berkshire Hotel** – offering their stunning venue and support for fundraising events.
- **Bespoke IFA** – donating through client referral linked giving.

These partnerships have brought energy, creativity, and generosity to everything we do. Together, they have helped us extend our reach, engage new supporters, and build lasting relationships that strengthen our community.



## LOOKING AHEAD

Our collaborations this year have shown just how powerful partnership can be. As we look ahead, we are excited to keep building on this momentum, working with businesses, schools, and community groups to create new opportunities, inspire more volunteers, and continue making a real difference for local families.

# Events spotlight



## LITTLE BLACK DRESS SALES

Making the most of what we have to support local families.

Our Little Black Dress sales raised an incredible £29,000 during the year, helping to fund our work supporting families in need. The events featured beautiful evening and occasion wear that our clients do not always have a need for, giving these outfits a new life while supporting others in the community.

The sales were a wonderful way to bring people together, promote sustainability, and raise vital funds. Shoppers left with something special, knowing their purchase would help another family through a difficult time.



## WOKINGHAM LIONS SWIMATHON



### Making a splash for The Cowshed.

A team of Cowshed staff and volunteers took part in the Wokingham Lions Swimathon, raising over £3,000 to support our work and help raise awareness across the community. The event was filled with teamwork, laughter, and a shared sense of purpose as everyone swam their lengths to make a difference.

The Swimathon also holds a special place in our hearts as we remember our dear friend and longstanding volunteer Dave, who sadly passed away not long after the event. His kindness, humour, and generosity of spirit made a lasting impression on everyone at The Cowshed, and we are proud to have shared this moment with him.



## SONNING GOLF CLUB

We were beyond grateful to Sonning Golf Club for their extraordinary support throughout 2024, raising an amazing £59,000 for The Cowshed. The funds directly supported individuals and families across the borough who

were facing times of crisis, helping to provide clothing, household essentials, and practical support.

The club's remarkable fundraising success was led by Clubhouse Captain Kevin James and Lady Captain Sue Hardyman, who both chose The Cowshed as their Charity of the Year. Thanks to the generosity of club members, friends, and the wider community, Kevin

raised an incredible £53,000 through a variety of events and challenges.

The year was filled with creative and inspiring fundraising activities. Kevin began the year with the annual drive-in event in January, followed by an evening of Night Golf in February. July's Captain's Charity Day brought together a full day of golf and a lively charity auction, while September's Away Day at Royal Winchester Golf Club proved another highlight.

In early 2024, Kevin also took on a personal weight loss challenge, losing 30 pounds with Slimming World between January and March. On the longest day of the year, he completed an incredible 72-hole golf marathon starting at 4.45am. His yearlong birdie challenge saw him achieve 61 birdies and one eagle over 96 rounds at Sonning Golf Club (165 in total), inspiring generous donations from members and supporters throughout the season.

This phenomenal fundraising total reflected not only Kevin and Sue's dedication but also the generosity, enthusiasm, and community spirit of everyone at Sonning Golf Club.



# Eco at the Cowshed



Every single week, our Donation Centre processes an incredible three tonnes of donated goods and it's all thanks to the dedication and hard work of our amazing staff and volunteers.

There's a real sense of community at The Cowshed. Volunteers work side-by-side, forging friendships while making a tangible difference. Their enthusiasm, compassion, and teamwork are the heartbeat of our charity.

Sustainability is also at the core of what we do. We work hard to dispose of items responsibly.

## 1. SUSTAINABLE CLOTHES RECYCLING

We accept donations of preloved clothing, bed linens, and other textiles, and sort through them to determine what is in good condition. These items are then laundered and given to our clients who are in need. Items that are not in excellent condition are repurposed by our community arts and crafts group, which creates tote bags for us to use when distributing referrals. This helps to minimise our use of plastic bags. Any remaining items are sold to recycling organisations to raise funds for the charity.

## 2. REDUCTION OF PLASTIC USAGE

We aim to minimise our use of plastic bags by repurposing items into tote bags, that all our referrals are provided in, as mentioned above. We also use biodegradable or compostable materials whenever possible and rehome or reuse plastic bags we receive donations in. Any plastics we cannot reuse or rehome are recycled.

## 3. RE-DISTRIBUTION OF SECOND-HAND ITEMS

We are proud to be a part of the Against Breast Cancer Bra Recycling Scheme. This program collects unwanted or unloved bras and raises vital funds for pioneering breast cancer research. The scheme also helps support small businesses in developing countries by providing affordable bras that are otherwise expensive to produce locally.

We are also committed to supporting other local charities and organisations as well. We stock free book libraries at Emmbrook School and in local refugee hotels and pass on any household goods we receive but cannot use to Jac in a Box Wokingham. In addition, we provide older age clothing to Dress for Dignity at The Royal Berkshire Hospital and Tena pads to WADE.

Please see below for some other ways in which we are recycling.

## RECYCLING INITIATIVES

Clothing	Bags2School, Dress for Dignity (clothes for the elderly), Little Black Dress Shop (Occasion wear).
Soft Plastics	Local Supermarkets
Unsuitable Toys and Homeware	Anglo Collections
Textiles	Craft at The Cowshed
Used Tights	Elastic Bands
Used Bras	Against Breast Cancer
Carrier Bags/Bags for Life	Local food banks, SHARE
Tumble Dryer Sheets	Ali's Recycling for the Local Community
Books	Sue Ryder, Free book libraries (Emmbrook School, Refugee hotels)
Unsuitable blankets, towels, and flannels	Various animal centres
Costume Jewellery	Vintage Cash Cow, sold online or at auction, jewellery making workshops
Suitcases	Care4Calais
Batteries	Valpac Recycling
Spectacles	Wokingham Lions
Broken items	Reading Re3 recycling centre
Cardboard	Recycled weekly



# Case Study – Holly's Story

Holly was born with a rare medical condition, which meant she had to spend her first few months in hospital and relied on a feeding tube. It was a difficult start for her and for her parents, who spent as much time as possible by her side. Holly's mum was on maternity leave, and her dad had taken time off work to support them both, but the long hospital stays, and the uncertainty took their toll. The family were doing their best, but they were exhausted, worried, and finding it hard to manage financially.

When Holly began pulling out her feeding tube, the hospital team suggested that she wear vests and babygrows with built-in mittens to help stop her from catching hold of it. Her health visitor could see how much the family were struggling and referred them to The Cowshed for some extra support.

We were able to put together a care package including babygrows with mittens, some extra clothing, and a few comforting items for their time in hospital. It was a small way to make things a little easier for Holly's parents during a really challenging time.

About a month later, as Christmas approached, we were delighted to bring some festive cheer to the hospital with a special Santa sack for Holly, complete with a hand-sewn holly leaf made by our wonderful craft group. It was lovely to be able to share a little joy and show the family that they were being thought of and supported by their community.

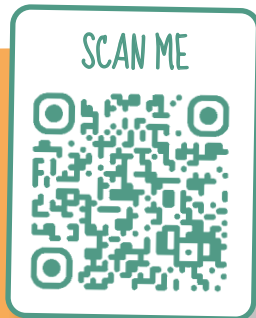


# How you can help

## DONATE FUNDS

Make a one off or regular contribution to support our work.

👉 [justgiving.com/charity/thecowshed](https://justgiving.com/charity/thecowshed)



## DONATE ITEMS

Find out what we need and how to donate at

👉 [thecowshed.org/how-and-what-to-donate](https://thecowshed.org/how-and-what-to-donate)



## VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Join our amazing team of volunteers and help make a difference.

👉 [thecowshed.org/volunteering](https://thecowshed.org/volunteering)

✉️ [volunteers@thecowshed.org](mailto:volunteers@thecowshed.org)



## PARTNER OR FUNDRAISE WITH US

Are you a business, school or community group that would like to get involved?

✉️ [fundraising@thecowshed.org](mailto:fundraising@thecowshed.org)

## MAKE A REFERRAL

If you are a professional wanting to refer someone for support, please email

✉️ [referrals@thecowshed.org](mailto:referrals@thecowshed.org)



## VOLUNTEER WITH US

If you can spare a few hours every week, we would love to have you join our dynamic and energetic team of amazing volunteers. Whether you are looking to help on your own, with friends, or as part of a work or community group, there is a place for you at The Cowshed.

Our volunteers support us in so many ways, sorting donations, helping at community events, crafting, driving, or assisting in our referral centre. Whatever your skills, you will be part of a welcoming team that makes a real difference to local families every day.

Register your interest at [thecowshed.org/volunteering](https://thecowshed.org/volunteering) or email [volunteers@thecowshed.org](mailto:volunteers@thecowshed.org) to find out more.

## WORKING TOGETHER TO SHARE MORE

This year, we were incredibly grateful to receive generous stock donations from our corporate and retail partners, including Harrods, InKind Direct, Tesco, and Pigeon Organics. These contributions of surplus and end of line items provided essential clothing, toiletries, homeware, toys, and baby products for local families in need.

By donating unsold or excess stock, our partners help ensure that high quality items are reused rather than wasted, bringing dignity and comfort to those we support.

If your organisation would like to donate stock, collaborate on a product partnership, or explore how we can work together, please contact [info@thecowshed.org](mailto:info@thecowshed.org).

## THANK YOU!

This year has shown the power of community in action. To everyone who has given their time, skills, donations and encouragement, thank you.

Your kindness has helped us support thousands of families and individuals across Berkshire, providing comfort, dignity and hope when it was needed most. Every parcel packed, every item sorted, every hour volunteered has made a real difference to both people and the planet.

Through your generosity we have not only supported those facing hardship but also reduced waste, reused resources and promoted sustainable ways of caring for one another and our environment.

To our volunteers, staff, trustees, referral partners, donors, funders, schools, community groups and corporate partners, we are truly grateful for your continued support and belief in what we do.

**Together we are helping to build a Berkshire rooted in care, compassion and community.**



# Financial Review – Independent Examiner’s Report

I report on the accounts of The Cowshed for the period from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025, which are set out on pages 26 to 42

## RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity’s trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity’s trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

## BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a ‘true and fair view’ and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S STATEMENT


In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met;

or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed:



Name: Mrs Balvinder Kaur Dhillon

Date: 16th December 2025

Relevant professional qualification or body:

FCCA (Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants)

Address: 1 Harris Close, Woodley, Reading, RG5 4XH

# Accounts – Statement of Financial Activity 2024/25

Categories by Activity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
<b>Incoming resources (Note 3)</b>	F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	258,862	256,713	-	515,575	577,494
Charitable activities	51,364	-	-	51,364	56,925
Other trading activities	89,441	-	-	89,441	58,001
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of income	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>399,667</b>	<b>256,713</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>656,380</b>	<b>692,420</b>
<b>Resources expended (Note 6)</b>					
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	30,953	-	-	30,953	30,656
Charitable activities	396,428	252,104	-	648,532	617,476
Separate material item of expense	-	-	-	-	850
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>427,381</b>	<b>252,104</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>679,485</b>	<b>648,982</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)</b>	-27,714	4,609	-	-23,105	43,438
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	-27,714	4,609	-	-23,105	43,438
<b>Extraordinary items</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>					
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	-27,714	4,609	-	-23,105	43,438
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward	91,861	-	-	91,861	48,423
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>64,147</b>	<b>4,609</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>68,756</b>	<b>91,861</b>

# Accounts – Balance Sheet Financial Year 2024/25

Categories by Activity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
<b>Fixed assets</b>	F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets	39,292	-	-	39,292	47,482
Heritage assets	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>39,292</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,292</b>	<b>47,482</b>
Current assets					
Stocks (Note 18)	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	23,980	-	-	23,980	255
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	15,128	-	-	15,128	60,138
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>39,109</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,109</b>	<b>60,393</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9,376	-	-	9,376	15,752
Net current assets/(liabilities)	29,733	-	-	29,733	44,641
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>69,025</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>69,025</b>	<b>92,123</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>	<b>69,025</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>69,025</b>	<b>92,123</b>
Funds of the Charity					
Endowment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds	69,025	-	-	69,025	92,193
Revaluation reserve	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>69,025</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>69,025</b>	<b>92,193</b>

## 1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

### 1.1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014
- and with the Charities Act 2011

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.\*

### 1.2 GOING CONCERN

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis.

### 1.3 CHANGE OF ACCOUNTING POLICY

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note {2}.

### 1.4 CHANGES TO ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period (3.46 FRS 102 SORP).

### 1.5 MATERIAL PRIOR YEAR ERRORS

No material prior year error have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS 102 SORP).



## 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### 2.1 RECONCILIATION TO GAAP -

NOT APPLICABLE

### 2.2 INCOME

*This standard list of accounting policies has been applied by the charity except for those ticked "No" or "N/A". Where a different or additional policy has been adopted then this is detailed in the box below.*

#### Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Yes	No	N/A
x		

#### Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Yes	No	N/A
x		

#### Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP).

Yes	No	N/A
x		

#### Government grants

The charity has received government grants in the reporting period

Yes	No	N/A
x		

#### Donated goods

Donated goods are measured at fair value (the amount for which the asset could be exchanged) unless impractical to do so.

Goods donated for on-going use by the charity are recognised as tangible fixed assets and included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.

Yes	No	N/A
x		

#### Support costs

The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.

Yes	No	N/A
x		

#### Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Yes	No	N/A
x		

## 2.3 EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

#### Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Yes	No	N/A
x		

#### Deferred income

No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.

Yes	No	N/A
x		

## 2.4 ASSETS

#### Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least

£100
------

They are valued at cost.

Yes	No	N/A
x		

The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 10.2.

#### Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity.

Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

Yes	No	N/A
x		

## 3. INCOME ANALYSIS

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Donations and legacies:</b>					
Donations and gifts	104,800	27,739	-	132,539	106,862
Gift Aid	10,201	-	-	10,201	13,158
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
<b>General grants provided by government/ other charities</b>					
- General Activity	99,292			99,292	81,800
- Referrals Bedding		2,954		2,954	11,130
- Referrals Clothing (including Uniform)		75,730		75,730	46,770
- Rent / Rates		-		-	40,697
- Salaries		50,605		50,605	102,167
- Utilities		-		-	22,833
- Christmas		2,000		2,000	3,000
- Other (including Ukraine/Minibus/ Toiletries)		26,950		26,950	55,366
Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations		15,428	-	15,428	7,400
Donated goods, facilities and services		-	-	-	-
Fundraising Activities	44,569	55,307	-	99,876	86,311
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>258,862</b>	<b>256,713</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>515,575</b>	<b>577,494</b>

<b>Charitable activities:</b>					
Recycling	51,364	-	-	51,364	56,925
WUC Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,364</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51,364</b>	<b>56,925</b>

## 3. INCOME ANALYSIS CONT.

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Other trading activities:</b>					
Shop sales of donated items	61,350	-	-	61,350	37,314
Prom Sales	7,253	-	-	7,253	2,960
Courses	20,838	-	-	20,838	15,671
Help Us Grow Project	-	-	-	-	-
Other Revenue	-	-	-	-	2,055
Warm Winter Project	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>89,441</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>89,441</b>	<b>58,000</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>399,667</b>	<b>256,713</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>656,380</b>	<b>692,419</b>



## 4. ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Description		This year £	Last year £
Government grant 1	Wokingham Borough Council Essential Clothing -Asylum Seekers	19,000	
Government grant 2	Wokingham Borough Council Health and Activity Programme	750	
Government grant 3	Wokingham Borough Council Winter Hardship Funding		3,000
Government grant 4	Bracknell Forest Council Hardship Funding	10,000	20,000
Government grant 5	Bracknell Forest Council - Ukraine Refugees		5,000
Government grant 6	Reading Council - Household Support Fund	42,000	
Government grant 7	Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund - The National Lottery		70,000
Government grant 8	West Berkshire Council Hardship Funding		8,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>71,750</b>	<b>106,000</b>

**Please provide details of the accounting policy for the recognition and valuation of donated goods, facilities and services.**

None

**Please provide details of any unfulfilled conditions and other contingencies attaching to resources from donated goods and services not recognised in income.**

Not applicable

## 5. DONATED GOODS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

**Please give details of other forms of other donated goods and services not recognised in the accounts, eg. contribution of unpaid volunteers.**

Unpaid volunteers contribute to the charity in a wide variety of roles which cannot be quantified.

The charity receives a significant amount of donations of goods which are donated free of charge as part of the core service. Due to the volume and variety of goods received and distributed, it is impractical to assess the value of these goods and therefore they are not included in these accounts.

## 6. EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment Funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Expenditure on raising funds:</b>					
Incurring seeking donations	-	-	-	-	1,150
Incurring seeking legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Incurring seeking grants	-	-	-	-	-
Operating membership schemes and social lotteries	-	-	-	-	-
Staging fundraising events	22,623	-	-	22,623	21,166
Fundraising agents	-	-	-	-	-
Operating charity shops	-	-	-	-	-
Operating a trading company undertaking non-charitable trading activity	-	-	-	-	-
Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity	8,330	-	-	8,330	8,340
Start up costs incurred in generating new source of future income	-	-	-	-	-
Database development costs	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	-	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs:	-	-	-	-	-
Portfolio management costs	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of obtaining investment advice	-	-	-	-	-
Investment administration costs	-	-	-	-	-
Intellectual property licencing costs	-	-	-	-	-
Rent collection, property repairs and maintenance charges	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure on raising funds</b>	<b>30,953</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,953</b>	<b>30,656</b>

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2024/25

## 6. EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS CONT.

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endow-ment Funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities:</b>					
Salaries	244,723	64,605	-	309,328	194,731
Rent, Rates, Utilities	55,332	-	-	55,332	137,191
Purchases for referrals	6,285	101,335	-	107,620	92,962
Ukrainian refugees	-	-	-	-	13,387
Other refugee events	3,574	1,500	-	5,074	4,307
Set Up Costs	-	-	-	-	19,000
General Expenses	16,820	2,018	-	18,838	1,646
Other Costs	-	-	-	-	4,231
Arts and Craft Supplies	6,846	-	-	6,846	3,627
Children's Craft Project/classes	335	1,950	-	2,285	2,843
Christmas Sacks Project	13,384	65,876	-	79,260	68,020
Easter Hamper Project	2,869	-	-	2,869	3,876
Accountancy	1,356	-	-	1,356	3,994
Noah's Box Project (now called Home at the Cowshed)	-	14,701	-	14,701	7,960
Building Materials and Maintenance	5,020	-	-	5,020	14,108
Vehicle Costs	7,135	-	-	7,135	4,631
Insurance Costs	6,624	-	-	6,624	5,450
IT Software, Subscriptions and Consumables	8,132	-	-	8,132	12,391
Staff Training	2,013	-	-	2,013	3,430
Depreciation Expense	15,979	120	-	16,099	19,690
Hygiene Bank	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>396,428</b>	<b>252,104</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>648,532</b>	<b>617,475</b>

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endow-ment Funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Separate material item of expense</b>					
Staff Welfare	-	-	-	-	850
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>850</b>

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2024/25

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment Funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Other</b>					
-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>427,381</b>	<b>252,104</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>679,485</b>	<b>648,981</b>

## 10. FEES FOR EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS

	This year £	Last year £
<b>Independent examiner's fees</b>	0	0
<b>Assurance services other than audit or independent examination</b>	0	0
<b>Tax advisory fees</b>	0	0
<b>Other fees (for example: financial advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner</b>	0	0

## 11. PAID EMPLOYEES

### 11.1 Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
<b>Salaries and wages</b>	324,567	212,353
<b>Social security costs</b>	-	-
<b>Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)</b>	4,760	2,378
<b>Other employee benefits</b>	-	-
<b>Total staff costs</b>	<b>329,328</b>	<b>214,731</b>

Please provide details of expenditure on staff working for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid by a related party

Not applicable

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

True

**Please provide the total amount paid to key management personnel (includes trustees and senior management) for their services to the charity**

52,362

11.2. Average head count in the year

	This year number	Last year number
<b>Fundraising</b>	1	1
<b>Charitable Activities</b>	9	6
<b>Governance</b>	1	1
<b>Other</b>	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>

## 12. DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PENSION SCHEME OR DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME ACCOUNTED FOR AS A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

**Amount of contributions recognised in the SOFA as an expense**

4,760

**Please explain the basis for allocating the liability and expense of defined contribution pension scheme between activities and between restricted and unrestricted funds.**

The liability and expense of the defined contribution pension scheme is allocated to expenditure on charitable activities. Unrestricted funds are used except where a restricted fund was received for salary costs for a specific role.



## 14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

### 14.1. Cost or valuation

	Freehold land & buildings £	Other land & buildings	Plant, machinery and motor vehicles £	Computer Equipment £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
At the beginning of the year	-	-	10,611	11,467	52,594	74,672
Additions	-	-	2,160	3,903	1,883	7,946
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-1,730	-38	-	-1,768
Transfers *	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>At end of the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,041</b>	<b>15,332</b>	<b>54,478</b>	<b>80,850</b>

### 14.2 Depreciation and Impairments

<b>**Basis</b>	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL 5 Years	SL 3 Years	SL 10 Years & 3 Years	SL or RB
<b>** Rate</b>			5 Years	3 Years	10/3 Years	

*Straight Line ("SL") or Reducing Balance ("RB")*

At beginning of the year	-	-	4,323	6,877	15,989	27,189
Disposals	-	-	-1,730	-	-	-1,730
Depreciation	-	-	3,678	3,300	9,121	16,099
Impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers*	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>At end of the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,271</b>	<b>10,177</b>	<b>25,110</b>	<b>41,558</b>

### 14.3. Net Book Value

Net book value at the beginning of the year	-	-	6,288	4,590	36,605	47,483
Net book value at the end of the year	-	-	4,770	5,154	29,368	39,292

## 19. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

19.1. Analysis of debtors	This year £	Last year £
<b>Trade debtors</b>	-	-
<b>Prepayments and accrued income</b>	23,066.00	-
<b>Other debtors</b>	914.30	255.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,980.30</b>	<b>255.00</b>

## 20. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

20.1. Analysis of creditors	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accruals for grants payable	-	-	-	-
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	994	2,658	-	-
Payments received on account for contracts or performance-related grants	-	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	-	5,000	-	-
Taxation and social security	5,906	4,273	-	-
Other creditors	2,475	3,821	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,376</b>	<b>15,752</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### 20.2 Deferred income

**Please explain the reasons why income is deferred.**

Income is deferred when we receive a grant in advance for expenditure over a specified period of time. The income is released when the expenditure has occurred.

Movement in deferred income account	This year £	Last year £
<b>Balance at the start of the reporting period</b>	5,000	38,114
<b>Amounts added in current period</b>	-	5,000
<b>Amounts released to income from previous periods</b>	-5,000	-38,114
<b>Balance at the end of the reporting period</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,000</b>

## 24. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	This year £	Last year £
<b>Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)</b>	-	-
<b>Short term deposits</b>	-	-
<b>Cash at bank and on hand</b>	15,128	60,138
<b>Other</b>	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,128</b>	<b>60,138</b>

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2024/25

## 27. CHARITY FUNDS

27.1. Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

**Key:** PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendable endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds

Fund names	Type PE, EER or UR*	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Fund balances carried forward £
The Englefield Charity	R	Minibus		2,500		2,500
Reading Borough Council Household Fund	R	Prams/Mattresses etc		5,000	-5,000	-
52 Lives	R	Clothing for Referrals	-	4,500	-4,500	-
52 Lives	R	Refugees Events	-	1,500	-1,500	-
Berkshire Community	R	Baby Equipment	-	3,000	-3,000	-
Wokingham United Charities	R	Health and Activity Programme	-	1,200	-1,200	-
Reading Borough Council Household Fund	R	Family Packs	-	5,000	-5,000	-
Berkshire Masons	R	Welcome to the World Pack	-	3,500	-3,500	-
Wokingham Borough Council	R	Health and Activity Programme	-	750	-750	-
Wokingham Lions	R	Event and Marketing Banners	-	500	-500	-
Hall Hunter	R	Laundry Equipment	-	1,500	-120	1,380
Berkshire Community	R	Bedding for Referrals	-	2,000	-2,000	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	Bedding for Referrals	-	865	-865	-
Russell Players	R	Bedding for Referrals	-	89	-89	-
Berkshire Community	R	Clothing for Referrals	-	4,000	-4,000	-
Reading Borough Council Household Fund	R	Clothing for Referrals	-	11,000	-11,000	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	Clothing for Referrals	-	3,480	-3,480	-
Souter Charitable Trust	R	Clothing for Referrals	-	3,000	-3,000	-
Thames Valley Police	R	Clothing for Referrals	-	4,000	-4,000	-
Wokingham Borough Council	R	Clothing for Referrals - Asylum Seekers	-	19,000	-19,000	-
Berkshire Community	R	Toiletries for Referrals	-	1,000	-1,000	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	Toiletries for Referrals	-	1,500	-1,500	-
CAF	R	Salary	-	50,000	-50,000	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	Salary	-	605	-605	-
Wokingham United Charities	R	Xmas	-	2,000	-2,000	-
Reading Borough Council Household Fund	R	School Uniform	-	21,000	-21,000	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	School Uniform	-	2,950	-2,950	-
Toyota	R	School Uniform	-	1,800	-1,800	-

## 27. CHARITY FUNDS - CONTINUED

Warfield Parish	R	School Uniform	-	1,000	-1,000	-
Cotswold Fayre	R	Home Boxes	-	1,800	-1,800	-
Boehringer Ingelheim Ltd	R	Home Boxes	-	4,898	-4,171	727
Wokingham Town Council	R	Home Boxes	-	880	-880	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	Home Boxes	-	600	-600	-
Thames Valley Police	R	Home Boxes	-	3,000	-3,000	-
Berkshire Community	R	Home Boxes	-	3,000	-3,000	-
Rotary Club - Crowthorne	R	Home Boxes	-	1,250	-1,250	-
Sonning Golf Club -Fundraising	R	Salaries	-	14,000	-14,000	-
Sonning Golf Club -Fundraising	R	Xmas	-	41,307	-41,307	-
Restricted Donations	R	Toiletries	-	351	-351	-
Restricted Donations	R	Clothing	-	864	-864	-
Restricted Donations	R	Bedding	-	2,437	-2,437	-
Restricted Donations	R	Xmas	-	22,270	-22,270	-
Restricted Donations	R	Gift Cards	-	300	-300	-
Restricted Donations	R	Other	-	1,518	-1,518	-
<b>Other funds</b>	<b>UR</b>	<b>All other income and expenditure</b>	<b>102,583</b>	<b>399,668</b>	<b>-427,380</b>	<b>74,871</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>102,583</b>	<b>656,380</b>	<b>-679,485</b>	<b>79,478</b>

## CHARITY FUNDS PREVIOUS YEAR

27.2. Details of material funds held and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

**Key:** PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendable endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds

Fund names	Type PE, EER or UR*	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Fund balances carried forward £
National Lottery Community Fund (carry over)	R	Rent and Rates		11,572	-11,572	-
National Lottery Community Fund (carry over)	R	Salary		25,667	-25,667	-
National Lottery Community Fund (carry over)	R	Utilities		1,833	-1,833	-
Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund - The National Lottery	R	Clothing for Referrals		6,000	-6,000	-
Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund - The National Lottery	R	Salary		31,000	-31,000	-
Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund - The National Lottery	R	Premises - Rent / Rates etc		16,500	-16,500	-
Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund - The National Lottery	R	Utilities		16,500	-16,500	-

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2024/25

## CHARITY FUNDS PREVIOUS YEAR - CONTINUED

Bracknell Forest Council	R	Ukraine Families		5,000	-5,000	-
Berkshire Community	R	Bedding for Referrals		3,000	-3,000	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	Bedding for Referrals		6,630	-6,630	-
Cash for Kids	R	Bedding for Referrals		1,500	-1,500	-
Greeham Trust	R	Clothing for Referrals		2,000	-2,000	-
Berkshire Community	R	Clothing for Referrals		7,000	-7,000	-
Hedley Foundation	R	Refugees		3,500	-3,500	-
Postcode lottery	R	Clothing for Referrals		10,000	-10,000	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	Clothing for Referrals		6,630	-6,630	-
National Lottery Main Grant	R	Rent and Rates		12,625	-12,625	-
National Lottery Main Grant	R	Salary		28,000	-28,000	-
National Lottery Main Grant	R	Utilities		2,000	-2,000	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	Toiletries for Referrals		3,000	-3,000	-
Anton Jurgen	R	Salary		2,500	-2,500	-
Postcode lottery	R	Salary		15,000	-15,000	-
Migrant Help	R	Utilities		2,500	-2,500	-
52 Lives Life	R	Xmas		1,000	-1,000	-
Wokingham United Charities	R	Xmas		2,000	-2,000	-
Cotswold Fayre	R	Home Boxes		1,800	-1,800	-
Abbvie	R	Home Boxes		5,000	-5,000	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	Home Boxes		600	-600	-
Cash for kids	R	School Uniform		3,250	-3,250	-
Bupa	R	School Uniform		5,000	-5,000	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	School Uniform		2,950	-2,950	-
52 Lives Life	R	School Uniform		1,500	-1,500	-
St.James Place	R	CRM System		2,615	-2,615	-
Berkshire Masons	R	Maternity (Welcome to World) Packs		3,500	-3,500	-
Mobbs memorial trust	R	Irons		1,000	-1,000	-
Migrant Help	R	Bra Fitting Training		500	-500	-
Migrant Help	R	Maternity Bags		2,000	-2,000	-
The Clothworkers	R	Set Up Costs New Building		19,000	-19,000	-
West Berkshire Council	R	Prams / Car Seats		8,000	-8,000	-
Englefield Trust	R			1,000	-1,000	-
Restricted Donations	R	Xmas		31,689	-31,689	-
Restricted Donations	R	Other		13,365	-13,365	-
Wokingham Town Council	R			1,000	-1,000	-
<b>Other funds</b>	<b>UR</b>	<b>All other income and expenditure</b>	<b>59,145</b>	<b>365,694</b>	<b>-322,256</b>	<b>102,583</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>59,145</b>	<b>692,420</b>	<b>-648,982</b>	<b>102,583</b>

## 28. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES AND RELATED PARTIES

28.1 Trustee remuneration and benefits

**None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity (True or False)**

True

28.2 Trustees' expenses

**No trustee expenses have been incurred (True or False)**

True

28.3 Transaction(s) with related parties

**There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period (True or False)**

True

## STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Cowshed is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and as such is governed in line with the Foundation Constitution. All trustees are voluntary and are appointed via a selection process and approval by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the constitution.

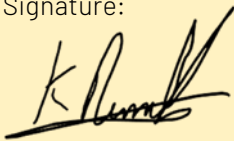
### DECLARATIONS

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Date: 15th January 2026

Signature:



Name: Kester John Russell

Position: Chair of Trustees







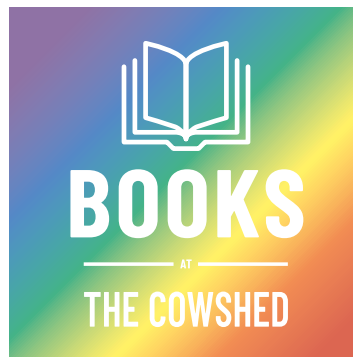
# THE COWSHED

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Visit our website and social media for more info on our other initiatives

  @CowshedCharity



**THE COWSHED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181550

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# Accounts

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**THE COWSHED**

# Annual Report and Accounts

For the period 2023 - 2024





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# Organisation Details

## STAFF

Sally Russell	Co- Founder/CEO
Rebecca Russell	Operations Manager
Rebecca Mole	Fundraising Manager
Audrey Knox	PT Craft Co-ordinator
Ruth Warms	PT Donations Supervisor
Liz Meadows	PT Donations Supervisor
Yvonne John	PT Donations Supervisor
Nikki Pond	Referrals Supervisor
Yulia Aydar	Referrals Supervisor
Hannah Blay/ Rachel Litchfield	Referrals Administrator
Isabel Noone	PT referrals Co-ordinator
Claire Hewitt	PT referrals Co-ordinator
Katy Reay	PT referrals Co-ordinator

## TRUSTEES

Kester Russell	Co-Founder /Chair
Abbie Walker	Treasurer
Sharon Ketley	Secretary
Mervyn Simmonds	
Emma Wilkinson	
Susie Templeton	
Chelsea Hayes	
Nimisha Overton	
Sheila Mooney	

## CHARITY MENTOR

Steve Hedley

## DUTIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by The Charities Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

### Address -

**Rubra 2, Mulberry Business Park, Fishponds Road, Wokingham, RG41 2GY**

The Cowshed is a registered charity (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) In England and Wales (1181550) with the following objectives;



The relief of poverty of persons in need in particular but not exclusively by providing such persons with good quality free clothing.



# Who we are and what we do

The Cowshed charity started in September 2018 and officially launched in February 2019 to give practical support to people of all backgrounds in a time of personal crisis. Since we started we have supported over 30,000 people in need in Berkshire. The aim of The Cowshed is to lovingly provide excellent quality, cleaned and ironed clothes, underwear, bedding, curtains, toiletries, and other essential items free to anyone in need. The clothes are donated from the public as well as retailers and manufacturers. They are then sorted, washed, and ironed ready to be delivered by our drivers or collected by social services, other professionals or our clients. The idea is that our clients feel they are receiving a gift to assist them in a time of crisis rather than some old clothes that are over worn, marked or damaged.

The people in need are referred to us through social services, churches, schools, charities, doctors, and other professionals. We then provide the items that are requested free of charge. The Cowshed is staffed mostly by our amazing volunteers.

The Cowshed has a threefold impact: recycling used clothing, helping those most in need in our communities and creating a community craft group to support the main charity.

All the clothes that are donated to us are repurposed. The excellent quality clothes are washed and ironed ready for our clients, the slightly damaged clothing / bedding is repurposed by our arts and crafts group to make items for us to sell and tote bags for us to put our referrals in. Pre-loved Bras are sent to Against Breast Cancer and the plastic bags we receive donations in are given to the food banks locally or recycled. We also work with many other groups to recycle as much as we can. Anything left after this is sold to a recycling organisation to raise further funds to help sustain the charity.

We are extremely excited about having established a movement which directly impacts those most in need in the local community in a positive, loving, non-judgemental way, as well as helping the environment by reusing clothes and other items which would otherwise have ended up in landfill sites.



# Chair of Trustee's Report

## INTRODUCTION

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude and admiration for the resilience and dedication of everyone involved with The Cowshed. This year has demanded significant adaptation and consolidation, coupled with continued growth and meaningful community impact, as we navigated the ongoing challenges of a rapidly evolving environment.

## Operational Overview

2023/4 brought its own set of hurdles, including the continued pressures of the cost-of-living crisis. These challenges underscored the vital role The Cowshed plays in supporting our community. Despite these obstacles, our team's determination has shone through, enabling us to support over 7,500 individuals and families across Berkshire.

One of our notable achievements was the successful expansion of our services, including the launch of Home@TheCowshed. This initiative, generously supported by corporate partners, has already provided over 300 families and individuals with the essential items for starting a new home, ensuring comfort and dignity during difficult times.

## A Community Effort

The heart of The Cowshed lies in its community. Our volunteers—now nearly 300 strong—continue to inspire with their unwavering commitment in processing donations, delivering essentials, and helping at events. The success

of our Christmas project, which brightened the lives of over 2,000 children with thoughtfully curated gifts, is a testament to the generosity and hard work of our supporters.

## Looking Ahead

This year also marked significant developments in our infrastructure. Relocating to a unified premises has enhanced our operational efficiency, allowing our team to work collaboratively and better serve our clients. This milestone reflects our commitment to growth and sustainability as we strive to meet the increasing demand for our services.

## Thank You

None of this would be possible without the support of our donors, corporate partners, and grant-makers, who have believed in our mission and invested in our work. To our volunteers, staff, and trustees: your dedication is the cornerstone of our success. Together, we have created a safe space where the needs of those in crisis are met with compassion and dignity.

As we look to the future, The Cowshed remains steadfast in its mission to provide practical, heartfelt support to those in need. Thank you for being an integral part of this journey.



**Chair of Trustees,  
The Cowshed Charity**



# Chief Executive's Message

If I'm honest, I don't know where to begin. If someone had asked me five years ago where we would be today, I could never have imagined the incredible growth we've experienced since starting in 2018. While it's deeply saddening that there is such a significant need for our services, I am profoundly grateful that we are here to help and make a difference in people's lives.

This year has been another challenging one for the charity sector. Despite the obstacles, we've celebrated many successes while continuing to support local families in need.

Securing funding and finding a permanent home were significant struggles, but the love and support from the community were truly inspiring. People of all ages rallied behind us: children raised funds through cycling, baking, and unique initiatives like requesting underwear instead of birthday presents; schools put on performances; adults ran, swam, walked, and organized workplace collections; and many companies chose us as their charity of the year.

We have also built strong relationships with many other charities and the 270 organizations that refer into us, strengthening our shared commitment to making a difference. Additionally, the resilience and dedication of our staff amid significant team changes have been remarkable, ensuring we continued to help our community effectively.

One of the year's highlights was a community-led Eurovision party at the Madejski for 350 Ukrainian refugees. Funded by The National Lottery, this event showcased the compassion and generosity of the people of Berkshire toward displaced families from Ukraine.

As with many charities, finding affordable premises remains a major challenge. This year, we made the difficult decision to consolidate into one building. Thanks to the support of Wokingham Borough Council, we found our new home at Rubra Two in Wokingham. This move has saved significant costs, streamlined operations, and brought our team together under one roof. While this marks a major milestone, securing long-term stability remains a top priority.

Our Cowshed family continues to grow, with over 350 volunteers supporting our work. Walking through our organization and hearing stories from volunteers is often



deeply moving. One volunteer shared, "The Cowshed doesn't just support the people we help; it supports those of us who are helping, too."

We've built a community that radiates kindness and generosity, and I'm immensely proud to be part of this incredible organization. Thank you to every individual, volunteer, and donor who has contributed to our mission. Your support enables us to continue spreading love and hope across Berkshire, and we are forever grateful.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Arnold'.

**Chief Executive,  
The Cowshed Charity**

# Referrals

In the previous fiscal year, The Cowshed had provided crucial support to over 8000 individuals across Berkshire. This included nearly 1200 Ukrainian refugees which have not been a significant factor this year. Despite this the charity has supported over 7500 individuals in 2023/2024.

This year posed unique challenges with staffing changes, the move to a new premises, and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. These factors led to a slight drop in standard referrals compared to the previous year. Closures during the restructuring period, combined with fewer referrals for Ukrainian refugees than in 2022, contributed to this decrease.

Despite these challenges, we launched and expanded several impactful projects. Home@TheCowshed provided vital kitchen essentials for those moving into new homes, while Books@TheCowshed expanded free book libraries and provided books to local schools. We continued distributing toiletry and sanitary packs, as well as hospital bags, delivering vital items to those in need.

Our refugee and asylum seeker outreach program has supported over 500 individuals and hosted three large community events for over 450 asylum seekers. This initiative has been pivotal in offering tailored support, including school uniforms, which relieved financial strain on families during the back-to-school period.

Additionally, the Prom@TheCowshed service helped over 80 young people find prom outfits, and our sewing classes empowered nearly 300 individuals with practical skills.

Overall, we saw growth in partnerships, like our collaboration with Wokingham Borough Council and The Hygiene Bank Reading, to provide essential packs across the borough, addressing hygiene poverty. Our efforts, fuelled by community support, have reached over 7,547 individuals this year, helping them through difficult times.

In July 2023, The Cowshed successfully relocated to a new premises, facilitating a significant staffing restructure as part of the move. This transition has allowed all departments to operate within a single building, leading to substantial improvements in cohesion and efficiency across our operations. With everyone now working under



one roof, we have established a fully functioning staff team that can collaborate more effectively, share resources seamlessly, and enhance overall service delivery. This unified approach not only boosts morale among our staff and volunteers but also enhances our capacity to better serve the community, streamlining our efforts to address the needs of those we support.

## Home@TheCowshed

The Home@TheCowshed initiative (previously known as Noah) launched in January 2024 and represents an expansion of our support services. It has received generous financial support from Cotswold Fayre, AbbVie, Bentley, and Miles & Daughters Funeral Directors. This program provides wonderful starter boxes that contain all the kitchen essentials needed for a new home, ensuring families have access to basic items crucial for daily living. In this year alone, Home@TheCowshed has successfully supported over 300 individuals by delivering these essential kitchen items. By addressing the immediate needs of families, this initiative empowers them to create a comfortable and functional home environment, fostering a sense of dignity and belonging. The program exemplifies our commitment to supporting the community, particularly in the face of ongoing economic challenges.



# Volunteering and Community Engagement

At The Cowshed, we believe in the power of collaboration to enhance our community impact. In addition to partnering with over 250 local organisations and 1,500 professionals, we actively participate in the Reading University internship scheme, having taken on four interns over the past year. We are proud to support volunteers with additional needs from CLASP and Addingtons School, providing them with opportunities to develop their skills in a nurturing environment. Additionally, we engage volunteers from the Wokingham Youth Justice Team to offer support and guidance, fostering their personal development. Finally, we accommodate two Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) students at any given time, ensuring they gain valuable experience while contributing to our mission. Through these collaborative efforts, we not only strengthen our community ties but also empower individuals to grow and thrive.

This year, we experienced a remarkable increase in our volunteer base, now reaching nearly 300 dedicated individuals, including some of our service users who have stepped up to give back to the community. To ensure a smooth and welcoming experience for our new volunteers, we introduced Volunteer Induction Mornings, where participants are oriented with our mission, values, and the various roles available. These sessions not only foster a sense of belonging but also equip our volunteers with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively contribute to our initiatives. The commitment and enthusiasm of our volunteers has greatly enhanced our ability to serve those in need, making a significant difference in our community.



# Books@TheCowshed

In addition to the books we provide with all Children's referrals at The Cowshed, our commitment to literacy and learning has led to the expansion of our free book libraries, which are now located in all refugee hotels in Reading and Maidenhead, as well as outside Emmbrook Junior School. This initiative ensures that families and children have easy access to books, promoting literacy and education within the community. In addition, we actively reach out to local schools to offer support, providing books and toys that are surplus to our requirements. By sharing these resources, we aim to enrich the educational experience of local children and foster a love for reading, making a meaningful difference in their lives and promoting a sense of belonging in the community.



## Christmas Project

Our Christmas project was another resounding success this year, with 2,007 children who might not have otherwise received gifts benefiting from our initiative. We proudly distributed a total of 14,000 Christmas gifts, including 50 scooters, ensuring that each child felt special and valued during the festive season. In our commitment to personalisation, we considered every child's interest and request, allowing us to create a tailored experience for each recipient. To add a special touch, every child received a beautiful handmade sack filled with their gifts, embodying the spirit of giving and joy. This project not only brought smiles to countless faces but also reinforced our dedication to supporting families in need during the holiday season.

We also provided 300 Easter packs including seasonal crafts and chocolate eggs to local families.



# Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support

At the end of the year, we took a significant step in expanding our support for vulnerable communities by recruiting a Refugee and Asylum Seeker Outreach Worker for one year. Recognising the immense challenges faced by asylum seekers - many of whom have fled war, violence, and persecution - we felt it was crucial to have a dedicated staff member to provide focused assistance. Living in temporary accommodations with limited access to essential items such as clothing, toiletries, and books, these individuals and families often struggle to meet their basic needs. Our new outreach worker will start working in the next Financial Year to support asylum seekers across Berkshire, helping them navigate the complexities of resettlement and providing much-needed relief in their time of transition.

This year, we also provided 37 hospital bags to the Poppy team at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, ensuring asylum-seeking mothers have essential items during their hospital stay and for their babies in the first few weeks. The Poppy team, a small group of midwives, offers maternity care to women facing complex social factors, aiming to deliver women-centred, specialised care tailored to individual needs. Our bags help the midwives build trusting relationships with these women and families while alleviating their anxieties about having the correct items for labour. Each lovingly packed hold-all included a new nightdress, dressing gown, slippers, toiletries, towels, maternity pads, nappies, baby toiletries, and an outfit for the baby to wear home.

Together with Care4Calais Thames Valley, in August 2023 we also hosted two heart-warming BBQ events for 200 asylum-seeking families currently residing in local hotels. Many of these families, surviving on just £9 a week, rarely have the chance to leave their hotels or engage in community activities, making these events a much-needed escape. Our dedicated volunteers were joined by asylum seekers from another local hotel, who helped run the BBQ. Volunteers served a delicious meal, while



children enjoyed arts and crafts and free yoga sessions. These gatherings provided a moment of relaxation and well-being for the families amidst their challenging circumstances. The excitement continued with cricket matches organised by Emmbrook & Bearwood Cricket Club, and in the afternoon, ice creams and our sweet cart brought smiles to all. Before leaving, each family received a rucksack filled with goody bags, giving them a special memento of the day.

Additionally, over 250 Ukrainian families attended our Eurovision celebration in May 2023, offering a brief respite from the hardships caused by the ongoing war. The Reading FC Conference and Events Centre provided a stunning setting for this remarkable night of solidarity, with an amazing screen and AV setup that brought the Eurovision spirit to life.



## Welcome to the World



This year, we continued our "Welcome to the World" project, providing essential support to care leavers as they prepare for motherhood. Care leavers often face significant challenges, with little family support and few people to rely on beyond the leaving care team. The transition to becoming a parent can be an especially daunting time. To help ease this, we provided nine "Welcome to the World" hampers, each filled with beautiful and essential items that every new mum should have. These hampers offer care leavers a sense of being valued while helping them prepare for and celebrate the arrival of their child, with funding kindly provided by Cotswold Fayre and Berkshire Freemasons.

# Sewing Classes

Throughout the year, we have offered both adult and child sewing classes, successfully teaching 294 people the art of sewing. These classes not only provide valuable skills but also foster creativity and a sense of community among participants. By engaging individuals of all ages, we aim to empower them through the joy of crafting while promoting self-expression and collaboration in a welcoming environment. During the summer, we also provided free spots in our craft classes to ensure the activity was accessible to the clients we support.



# Hygiene Poverty

This year, we continued our efforts to combat hygiene poverty by providing essential toiletry packs through our partnership with The Hygiene Bank. These packs have been distributed to families in need across the community, particularly in local schools and libraries. We offer free period and hygiene products in all libraries across the Wokingham borough, ensuring that everyone has access to vital hygiene supplies. Additionally, we have delivered over 180 care packs to various schools and organisations across Berkshire, tailored to support those who may struggle to afford these basics. The positive impact of these packs has been evident, with numerous recipients expressing their gratitude for the support. We are proud to contribute to the well-being of our community and help uplift those facing challenging circumstances.



# Prom@TheCowshed

This year, Prom at The Cowshed supported 87 young people with low-cost outfit hire, including 37 who were referred to us for a free outfit. Our mission was to ensure that no student missed out on their prom due to financial constraints. We provided a range of stunning dresses, suits, shoes, and accessories, with our volunteers



assisting each student in finding the perfect outfit. This initiative allowed us to help young people across Berkshire feel confident and valued for their special event, ensuring they could celebrate this important milestone in style.



# Deliveries

In April 2023, we were thrilled to receive a stunning new van, affectionately named Ermintrude, from CarComm Coachworks. This generous contribution arrived at a crucial moment for The Cowshed as we implemented a new referrals process aimed at enhancing our connections with clients. Ermintrude has significantly improved our capacity to provide tailored support, facilitating our outreach efforts and ensuring that we can efficiently support our clients. Every day, we now have two or three volunteer drivers delivering essential items across Berkshire to those in need.



# Donation Centre

The volunteers in the Donation Centre regularly process a staggering 3 tonnes of donations a week.

We are lucky to have an incredible team of 90 regular volunteers who with great dedication and enthusiasm spend their time sorting donations, laundering, ironing, shoe cleaning or checking and cleaning toys and baby equipment, to get them ready for the referrals department.

We also have regular volunteers from CLASP, Heathermount School, Luckley School, Youth Justice Service as well as local young people completing their

Duke of Edinburgh awards.

There is a sense of community amongst the volunteers, as they work together as a team and get to know one another at the same time.

Our volunteers are the backbone of our charity, and it's a testament to their dedication and work ethic that they consistently rise to the challenge.

Whether it's tackling a complex project, such as our move from Bennet Court to our lovely new home at Rubra2 in Wokingham; addressing a pressing issue or need for a client or providing support to those around them, our volunteers never falter. They are problem-solvers, thinkers and doers, who approach each challenge with a sense of determination.

We are dedicated to disposing of items responsibly - cardboard is recycled, fabric is used by our Cowshed Craft Group to make bags and other items, soft plastic is taken by volunteers to local recycling points, bras to the charity "Against Breast Cancer", unsuitable blankets to local dog rescue charities, and unusable items are carefully sorted and taken to the recycling centre. We even compost our tea bags!

In addition to our regular volunteers, we have a constant stream of Corporate Groups, who come to volunteer for a day, and many go on to support The Cowshed in other ways by running donation drives or supporting particular events where we need extra hands!

We have been pleased to share our abundant supply of donated toys and books with local schools and nurseries, and we also have a "help yourself" library outside Emmbrook Infant and Junior School which is regularly restocked and loved by local children.

At The Cowshed we also have a Book Tree, where any local child can come along with an adult and choose 5 books and take them away in one of our lovely, handcrafted tote bags to enjoy the pleasure of reading, and return to refill their bag.



# The Hygiene Bank

The reality of low income is that it restricts people's options, leaving them caught between being able to heat their homes, pay the rent, eat or be clean.

We are now entering our 3rd year since setting up the Reading Branch of The Hygiene Bank.

We have 6 donation points, (both public and private offices), and also receive some Brand Donations as well as support by donation drives by local companies or organisations.

The donations are distributed to The Cowshed as well as the Bracknell Food Bank and The Elizabeth Fry Charity.

## Craft Group

Let's begin by acknowledging our dedicated knitters and crocheters, who have been working tirelessly to raise funds by crafting a variety of unique and delightful items, including the ever-popular "Pigs in Blankets." These charming creations were such a hit that we soon followed them with the quirky Brussels Sprouts. Whether you love them or hate them, they flew off the shelves, and we could hardly keep up with demand! The group also made Reindeer Christmas decorations and, more recently, they produced metres and metres of bunting for the Ukraine Eurovision party.

Our wonderful crafting community continues to grow, producing referral bags by the hundreds. This group is truly special, fostering not only creativity but also friendship and support. As they sew, cut, iron, make tea, and share their lives, it's heartwarming to see the blossoming friendships and increasing confidence over the past year. New members are always warmly welcomed and quickly become part of the community, returning week after week.

In addition to creating referral and toiletry bags for our



# Craft Group (cont.)

clients, the group has crafted an array of high-quality items to sell at various fairs throughout the year. These include beautifully made sewing kits, double glasses cases, gift bag sets, bunting, bucket hats, cushions, bespoke handbags, Union Jack aprons, book bags for our free library, and drawstring bags for new mothers. The crowning achievement this year has been the creation of Santa sacks for our clients, crafted from festive material. Our talented crafters thrive on new projects and learning new skills, and it is a true privilege to witness their passion and dedication.

We are also fortunate to welcome corporate groups from time to time, offering them personalised sewing lessons. It's a joy to see complete beginners proudly display their large bags after just an hour or so of sewing. Their enthusiasm and sense of accomplishment are always evident in the smiles and photos that follow.

When the sewing group is not in session, we host adult and children's sewing classes. These are made possible thanks to the generosity of a few teachers who volunteer their time for the children's classes, and the support of Activate Learning, which provides teachers for the adult classes on a six-week rotation. Many participants from these classes go on to join our regular sewing group. The children's classes are always fully booked, with many of the same children returning each time.

Sustainability is at the heart of our charity's mission, and the sewing group is no exception. We work closely with another charity, Scrapstore, donating any fabric we cannot use. Additionally, we collect empty cotton reels, milk carton tops, cardboard inners, and other materials that Scrapstore's children's groups can repurpose into creative projects.

The fairs and markets play a vital role in our efforts, from producing the items for sale to volunteering weekends to run the stalls. Our "Pin the Tail on the Cow" game remains a favourite among children—and some adults—at these events, with every participant winning a prize. This beloved activity brings in a significant amount of money, and we are grateful for the community's continued support.

Our sewing group is a happy, welcoming, and positive community that many of our volunteers affectionately refer to as "Their Happy Place." We couldn't agree more.



# Fundraising Overview

The financial year from April 2023 to March 2024 has been truly remarkable for The Cowshed. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity, community spirit, and partnerships that have enabled us to continue supporting vulnerable individuals and families. Our heartfelt thanks go out to every donor, volunteer, and supporter for their unwavering commitment to our cause.

## Community and Corporate Support

This year, we've witnessed incredible support from businesses, schools, and individuals. Many hosted their own fundraising events, made donations, or contributed their time. The kindness shown by these groups has been inspiring, helping us to raise vital funds and increase awareness. Whether it was schools filling donation bins or companies like John Lewis and HPE hosting events, every contribution has made a real difference.

## The Cowshed's Own Fundraising and Community Events

In addition to the incredible external support, we organised a variety of fundraising and community-building events throughout the year. These activities not only raised vital funds but also strengthened our connections with the local community. Some of the highlights include:

- Jazz Event – Match-funded by Benevity
- Children's Sewing Workshops and Summer Craft Workshops
- Christmas Market and Wreath Making Events
- Little Black Dress (LBD) Sales
- Refugee Family Fun Days



# Fundraising Overview (cont.)

- Twilight Runway Challenge
- Various Craft Markets
- Extended Adult Sewing Classes, including evening sessions
- Ukraine Eurovision Event – Funded by lottery and local businesses
- Paid Corporate Days – Raising funds while engaging corporate groups in our work

These events not only generated essential funds but fostered a sense of belonging and community, drawing people together through shared creativity and purpose.

## Charity of the Year Partnerships

We were honoured to be selected as Charity of the Year by several organisations, which led to substantial donations that have been critical to our work:

- East Berkshire Golf Club (January 2023 – January 2024)
- Blandy & Blandy (June 2023 – June 2025)
- Caversham Bowling Club
- Syngenta (January 2023 – January 2024)
- Inner Wheel Club of Reading Maiden Erleigh (Summer 2023 – Summer 2024)

These partnerships have not only provided crucial funding but have also deepened the connections between our charity and the wider community.

## Grants and Pledges

In addition to these partnerships, we received several important grants and pledges that helped fund key projects, such as our “Welcome to the World” packs for new parents, and other initiatives that bring comfort and care to those in need.

## A Growing Network of Support

The relationships we’ve built with corporate partners have continued to blossom. These partnerships, such as those with HPE, Virgin Media, and Oracle, go beyond financial



support. They include invaluable contributions like volunteering and providing unique experiences for our clients.

## Christmas 2023

This year’s Christmas project saw unprecedented support, with over 80 companies, schools, and organisations participating in various ways, from donating gifts and monetary contributions to hosting Giving Trees and volunteering. The community’s enthusiasm and generosity were truly humbling.

## A Grateful Heart

At The Cowshed, we are endlessly grateful for the love, support, and dedication from everyone involved in our journey. Together, we have made a tangible difference in the lives of so many, and we look forward to continuing this important work in the year ahead. Thank you for being part of this incredible community.

# Feedback



I would like to thank the whole team for extending a helping hand to me and my children. I have recently separated from my husband and life as a single mum has become financially challenging. I work in the NHS and hold quite a high position in the hospital. No one would probably suspect that I am just making ends meet every payday. I am so embarrassed to ask for help as I feel that there are more people who are in a worse situation than me that are more entitled to the help. Panic started to set in when I realised that my son's going to secondary school in a couple of weeks' time, and I had not bought him anything yet as I am barely coping with the expenses. This is when I approached a local charity for help, and I was so grateful for them to direct me to Cowshed. Cowshed took my son's school needs. We were just shocked that a week after there was a knock on our door with all his brand-new school uniform and shoes. Tears were rolling down my cheeks as my son trialled his uniform and shoes — and seeing his face lit up with so much enthusiasm.

I could not thank Cowshed enough.  
Thank you for helping us.  
Thank you for not judging us.  
Thank you so much.”

*Client*



I wanted to email and say I am very thankful for the delivery you had given today was more than I had needed I was embarrassed to ask for help initially but with my undergarments being in pieces and one bra I couldn't bring myself to get these things for myself as I always needed to use the money for house utilities. And with my current issue of being in emergency accommodation in one box room my daughter was so happy to see puzzles and games and a teddy as all her things are in storage and has nothing to play with here. And she was so so happy with the wash set and lotions you have provided her, and she was over the moon about the books she loves to be read bedtime book but again because of circumstances I wasn't able. To be able to see joy on her face when she got these things plus the knickers and leggings it made me happy first time since we have been evicted, she had a genuine happiness and made me feel a less of a bad mum not being able to provide these basic things for her currently. So, I am very very thankful to you and cowshed it made me feel more of humane and with my health mentally and physically getting worse and slipping into a deep depression. This did make me feel better seeing happiness on my daughter's face.”

*Client*

# Feedback



Yesterday when I got home, my feet were wet from the broken soles of my old Chelsea boots. Then I found 3 massive bags of clothes and toiletries and new Chelsea boots! I very nearly cried. It was like Christmas. I am completely blown away by the amount of clothing and toiletries you've given to my son and I. Really the most amazing thing that's happened for us in ages. All the toys and extras that weren't on the list, I cannot express my gratitude enough! Thank you all again, you've made a real difference for us.

*Client*



# Feedback



Happy New Year to you all, I just wanted to say a massive thank you on behalf of Wheatfield School and our families. So many of our families were able to have a wonderful Christmas with the beautiful gifts that you provided some of our very vulnerable children. With the cost of living constantly rising and families struggling to make ends meet, the prospect of Christmas can be extremely daunting, especially when you have the added worry of providing gifts for children. Yet again you have all gone above and beyond in providing gifts that are age appropriate, wrapped and in beautiful handmade sacks. Our families were completely overwhelmed and so very grateful with your generosity. Many were very tearful at the wonderful gift of hope that you provided them with. So, on behalf of us all, a massive thank you for all of your generous and hardworking support. You really did make a huge difference to our families, and I am so thankful.

*Wheatfield School*



I just wanted to contact you to thank you SO much for your help and support and kindness that you've shown me and my family at this very difficult time.

My husband is in and out of hospital, and it's been a very difficult time for us all.

The Christmas hampers that you made for the children just amazed me, and they were ALL so happy with their gifts from Santa, I was so stressed out worrying about what I was going to do, I didn't want them to think they'd been naughty, and what you did for us was incredible. One day I hope I can repay you and help others the way you have helped us. Thank you so much for the bags you dropped off us, with much needed clothes and the toiletries that we desperately needed.

My husband has been in hospital, and came home yesterday, so I've had an evening of self-care for myself with all the wonderful haircare and skincare that you included for me, and I can't tell you how much I better I feel for it. Am trying not to cry again writing this email to you. God bless you all and the wonderful work that you do.

*Client*



Thank you for all your help with clothing and household items! This has been a great help for me as I have been struggling to make ends meet.

*Client*



I hope you are all doing well. This email is to give a feedback and to express my heart filled gratitude for the things (winter, beddings & Normal clothes, toiletries etc) sent to me and my children. They served us well and we so much appreciate this humanitarian gestures. We don't know how we could have coped. God bless you all that made this possible. Thank you and remain blessed.

*Client*



I want to thank you for the huge and valuable stuff you delivered last week to me and my kids. My kids and me are very happy, they are enjoying playing with the toys and reading the books you gifted to them. All the clothes and the shoes fitted very well, we all loved them, they come in the right time. I want to thank you again and Steve who was very kind and patient. Thank you for the time you took to find for us the right stuff for the right people.

*Client*



I just wanted to say thank you so much for the delivery we received today. It was far more than I expected and the thought that had been put into each bag was really touching. Even the extras like toys, books etc! I can't even explain the relief I feel knowing my boys will have warm enough clothes for winter.

*Client*

## Thank You

The Cowshed would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those individuals, families, businesses and grant making bodies that have supported us this year. A special thank you to the Horseman Trust who have supported us since the beginning. Without the support they provide we would be unable to deliver the service we do.

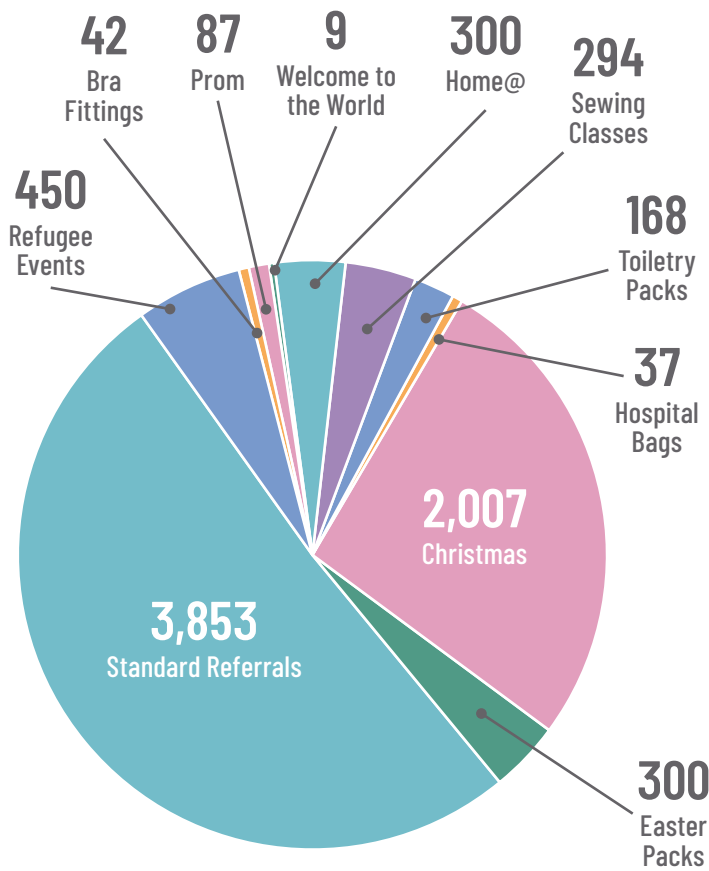
We would also like to say a special thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who week after week support us sorting, washing and ironing donations as well as supporting our referral teams, driving our delivery vans and producing referral bags and many other items in our craft groups.





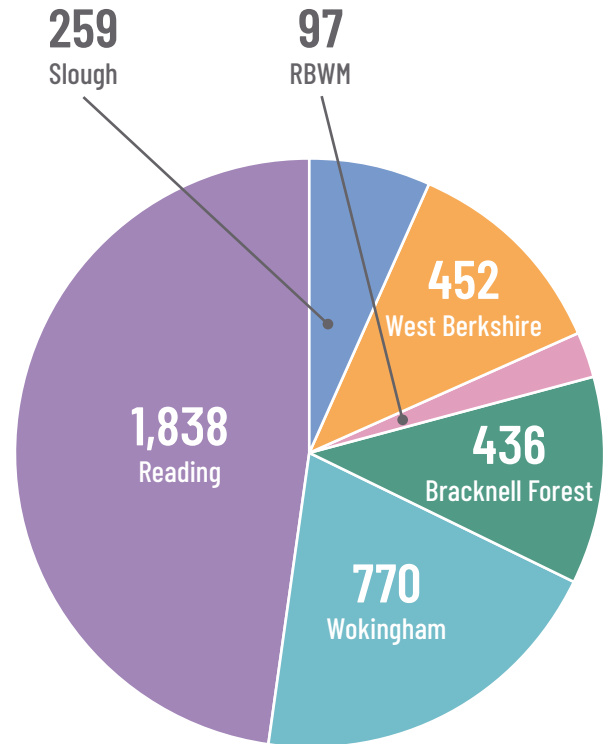
# Achievements and Performance

## PEOPLE HELPED BY PROJECT

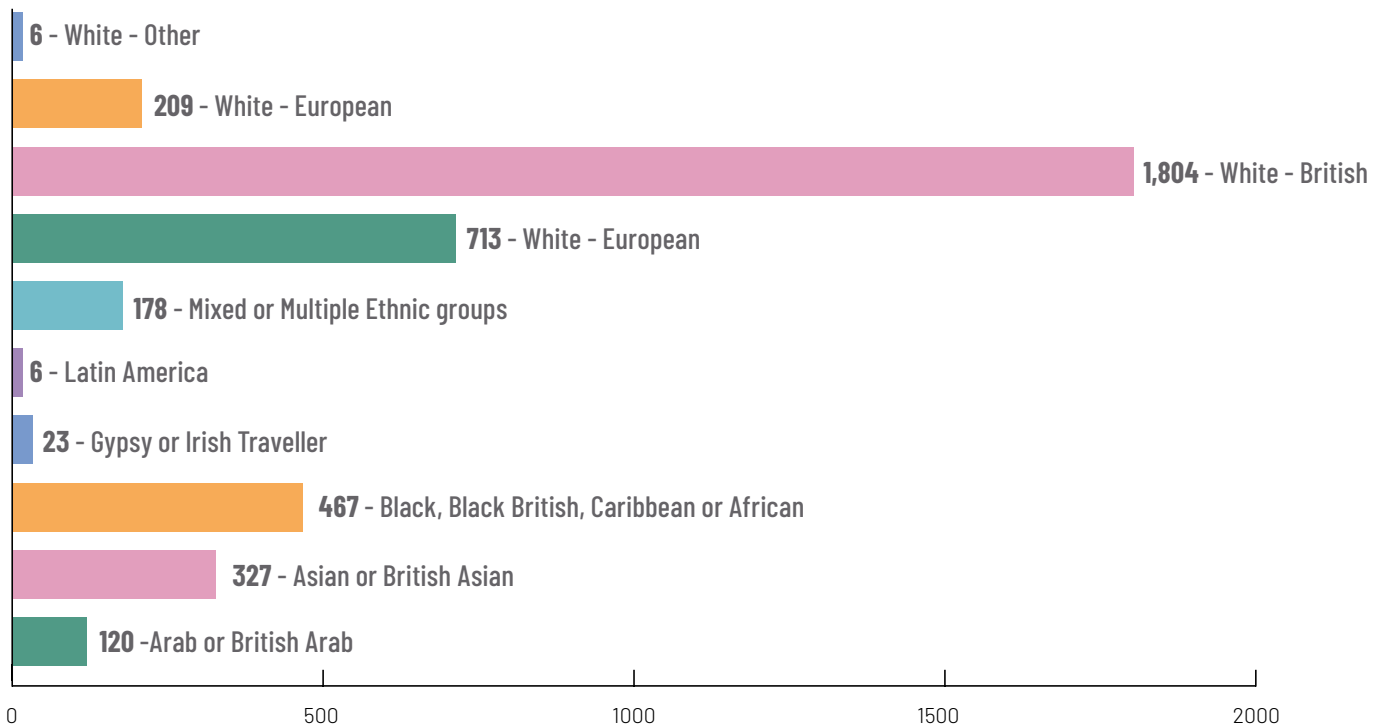


## REFERRALS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

Number of Individuals by Unitary Authority



## MAIN REFERRALS BY ETHNICITY - NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS



# Financial Review – Independent Examiner’s Report

I report on the accounts of The Cowshed for the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, which are set out on pages 23 to 38.

## RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity’s trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity’s trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

## BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a ‘true and fair view’ and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met;

or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed:



Name: Mrs Balvinder Kaur Dhillon

Date: 20th January 2025

Relevant professional qualification or body:

FCCA (Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants)

Address: 1 Harris Close, Woodley, Reading, RG5 4XH

# Accounts – Statement of Financial Activity 2023/24

Categories by Activity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Incoming resources (Note 3)	F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	250,768	326,726	-	577,494	418,838
Charitable activities	56,925	-	-	56,925	45,406
Other trading activities	58,001	-	-	58,001	61,182
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of income	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>365,694</b>	<b>326,726</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>692,420</b>	<b>525,426</b>

<b>Resources expended (Note 6)</b>					
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	30,656	-	-	30,656	25,761
Charitable activities	290,750	326,726	-	617,476	493,485
Separate material item of expense	850	-	-	850	1,775
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>322,256</b>	<b>326,726</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>648,982</b>	<b>521,021</b>

<b>Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)</b>	43,438	0	-	43,438	4,405
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	43,438	0	-	43,438	4,405
<b>Extraordinary items</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>					
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	43,438	0	-	43,438	4,405
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward	52,828	-	-	52,828	48,423
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>96,266</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>96,266</b>	<b>52,828</b>

# Accounts – Balance Sheet Financial Year 2023/24

Categories by Activity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
<b>Fixed assets</b>	F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets	47,482	-	-	47,482	51,415
Heritage assets	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>47,482</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>47,482</b>	<b>51,415</b>

Current assets					
Stocks (Note 18)	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	255	-	-	255	1,091
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	60,138	-	-	60,138	54,202
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>60,393</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>60,393</b>	<b>55,293</b>

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15,752	-	-	15,752	48,008
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Net current assets/(liabilities)	44,641	-	-	44,641	7,285
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<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>92,123</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>92,123</b>	<b>58,700</b>
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Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities	-	-	-	-	-

<b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>	<b>92,123</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>92,123</b>	<b>58,700</b>
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Funds of the Charity					
Endowment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds	92,123	-	-	92,123	59,145
Revaluation reserve	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>92,123</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>92,123</b>	<b>59,145</b>

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2023/24

## 1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

### 1.1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014
- and with the Charities Act 2011

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.\*

### 1.2 GOING CONCERN

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis.

### 1.3 CHANGE OF ACCOUNTING POLICY

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note {2}.

### 1.4 CHANGES TO ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period (3.46 FRS 102 SORP).

### 1.5 MATERIAL PRIOR YEAR ERRORS

No material prior year error have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS 102 SORP).



# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2023/24

## 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### 2.1 RECONCILIATION TO GAAP – Not Applicable

### 2.2 INCOME

This standard list of accounting policies has been applied by the charity except for those ticked "No" or "N/A". Where a different or additional policy has been adopted then this is detailed in the box below.

#### Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Yes	No	N/A
X		

#### Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Yes	No	N/A
X		

#### Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP).

Yes	No	N/A
X		

#### Government grants

The charity has received government grants in the reporting period

Yes	No	N/A
X		

#### Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Yes	No	N/A
		X

#### Donated goods

Donated goods are measured at fair value (the amount for which the asset could be exchanged) unless impractical to do so.

Goods donated for on-going use by the charity are recognised as tangible fixed assets and included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.

Yes	No	N/A
		X

#### Support costs

The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.

Yes	No	N/A
X		

#### Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

## 2.3 EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

#### Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Yes	No	N/A
X		

#### Deferred income

No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.

Yes	No	N/A
X		

## 2.4 ASSETS

#### Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least

£100
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They are valued at cost.

The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 10.2.

Yes	No	N/A
X		

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2023/24

## 3. INCOME ANALYSIS

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Donations and legacies:</b>					
Donations and gifts	66,499	37,363	-	103,862	44,828
Gift Aid	13,158	-	-	13,158	10,321
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
<b>General grants provided by government/ other charities</b>					
- General Activity	81,800			81,800	47,750
- Referrals Bedding		11,130		11,130	7,500
- Referrals Clothing		46,770		46,770	6,000
- Rent / Rates		40,697		40,697	18,727
- Salaries		102,167		102,167	84,534
- Utilities		22,833		22,833	5,467
- Xmas		3,000		3,000	19,244
- Other (including Ukraine)		55,366		55,366	91,260
Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	-	7,400	-	7,400	3,481
Donated goods, facilities and services		-	-	-	-
Fundraising Activities	86,311	-	-	86,311	79,725
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>250,678</b>	<b>326,726</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>577,494</b>	<b>418,838</b>

<b>Charitable activities:</b>					
Recycling	56,925	-	-	56,925	45,406
WUC Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,925</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>56,925</b>	<b>45,406</b>

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2023/24

## 3. INCOME ANALYSIS CONT.

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Other trading activities:</b>					
Craft Item Sales	37,315	-	-	37,315	35,037
Prom Sales	2,960	-	-	2,960	2,328
Courses	15,671	-	-	15,671	7,969
Help Us Grow Project	-	-	-	-	-
Other Revenue	2,055	-	-	2,055	15,748
Warm Winter Project	-	-	-	-	100
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,001</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>58,001</b>	<b>61,182</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>365,694</b>	<b>326,726</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>692,420</b>	<b>525,426</b>



# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2023/24

## 4. ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Description		This year £	Last year £
Government grant 1	Wokingham Borough Council Health and Activity Programme		1,000
Government grant 2	Wokingham Borough Council Winter Hardship Funding	3,000	-
Government grant 3	Bracknell Forest Council Hardship Funding	20,000	-
Government grant 4	Wokingham Borough Council - Ukraine Refugees		31,380
Government grant 5	Bracknell Forest Council - Ukraine Refugees	5,000	7,000
Government grant 6	Reading Council - Ukraine Refugees		10,000
Government grant 7	Reading Council - Cost of living support		10,000
Government grant 8	Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund - The National Lottery	70,000	
Government grant 9	West Berkshire Council Hardship Funding	8,000	-
Other		-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>106,000</b>	<b>59,380</b>

**Please provide details of any unfulfilled conditions and other contingencies attaching to resources from donated goods and services not recognised in income.**

None

## 5. DONATED GOODS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

**Please give details of other forms of other donated goods and services not recognised in the accounts, eg. contribution of unpaid volunteers.**

Unpaid volunteers contribute to the charity in a wide variety of roles which cannot be quantified.

The charity receives a significant amount of donations of goods which are donated free of charge as part of the core service. Due to the volume and variety of goods received and distributed, it is impractical to assess the value of these goods and therefore they are not included in these accounts.

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2023/24

## 6. EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment Funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Expenditure on raising funds:</b>					
Incurring seeking donations	1,150	-	-	1,150	1,033
Incurring seeking legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Incurring seeking grants	-	-	-	-	-
Operating membership schemes and social lotteries	-	-	-	-	-
Staging fundraising events	21,166	-	-	21,166	16,725
Fundraising agents	-	-	-	-	-
Operating charity shops	-	-	-	-	-
Operating a trading company undertaking non-charitable trading activity	-	-	-	-	-
Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity	8,340	-	-	8,340	8,003
Start up costs incurred in generating new source of future income	-	-	-	-	-
Database development costs	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	-	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs:	-	-	-	-	-
Portfolio management costs	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of obtaining investment advice	-	-	-	-	-
Investment administration costs	-	-	-	-	-
Intellectual property licencing costs	-	-	-	-	-
Rent collection, property repairs and maintenance charges	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure on raising funds</b>	<b>30,656</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,656</b>	<b>25,761</b>

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2023/24

## 6. EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS CONT.

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endow-ment Funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities:</b>					
Salaries	92,564	102,167	-	194,731	156,871
Rent, Rates, Utilities	73,661	63,530	-	137,191	129,866
Purchases for referrals	8,367	84,325	-	92,962	24,106
Ukrainian refugees	5,387	8,000	-	13,387	49,000
Other refugee events	807	3,500	-	4,307	-
Set Up Costs	0	19,000	-	19,000	242
General Expenses	1,646	-	-	1,646	13,797
Other Costs	3,231	1,000	-	4,231	-
Arts and Craft Supplies	3,627	-	-	3,627	5,517
Children's Craft Project/classes	2,843	-	-	2,843	6,776
Christmas Sacks Project	33,331	34,689	-	68,020	67,749
Easter Hamper Project	3,876	-	-	3,876	-
Accountancy	3,994	-	-	3,994	5,801
Noah's Box Project (now called Home at the cowshed)	560	7,400	-	7,960	3,944
Building Materials and Maintenance	14,108	-	-	14,108	5,972
Vehicle Costs	4,631	-	-	4,631	3,855
Insurance Costs	5,450	-	-	5,450	6,554
IT Software, Subscriptions and Consumables	9,776	2,615	-	12,391	3,192
Staff Training	2,930	500	-	3,430	2,220
Depreciation Expense	19,690	-	-	19,690	7,840
Hygiene Bank	-	-	-	-	184
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>290,750</b>	<b>326,726</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>617,476</b>	<b>493,485</b>

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endow-ment Funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
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<b>Separate material item of expense</b>					
Staff Welfare	850	-	-	850	1,775
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>1,775</b>

<b>Other</b>					
-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>322,256</b>	<b>326,726</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>648,982</b>	<b>521,021</b>
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# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2023/24

## 10. FEES FOR EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS

	This year £	Last year £
Independent examiner's fees	0	0
Assurance services other than audit or independent examination	0	0
Tax advisory fees	0	0
Other fees (for example: financial advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner	0	0

## 11. PAID EMPLOYEES

### 11.1 Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	212,353	170,969
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	2,378	1,902
Other employee benefits	-	-
<b>Total staff costs</b>	<b>214,731</b>	<b>172,871</b>

Please provide details of expenditure on staff working for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid by a related party

Not applicable

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

True

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2023/24

Please provide the total amount paid to key management personnel (includes trustees and senior management) for their services to the charity

40278

11.2. Average head count in the year

	This year number	Last year number
Fundraising	1	1
Charitable Activities	7	6
Governance	1	1
Other	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>

## 12. DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PENSION SCHEME OR DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME ACCOUNTED FOR AS A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Amount of contributions recognised in the SOFA as an expense

2377.80

Please explain the basis for allocating the liability and expense of defined contribution pension scheme between activities and between restricted and unrestricted funds.

The liability and expense of the defined contribution pension scheme is allocated to expenditure on charitable activities. Unrestricted funds are used except where a restricted fund was received for salary costs for a specific role.



# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2023/24

## 14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

### 14.1. Cost or valuation

	Freehold land & buildings £	Other land & buildings	Plant, machinery and motor vehicles £	Computer Equipment £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
At the beginning of the year	-	-	4,768	8,883	45,308	58,959
Additions	-	-	6,682	3,097	15,923	25,702
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-840	-513	-8,636	-9,989
Transfers *	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>At end of the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,610</b>	<b>11,467</b>	<b>52,594</b>	<b>74,671</b>

### 14.2 Depreciation and Impairments

<b>**Basis</b>	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL 5 Years	SL 3 Years	SL 10 Years	SL or RB
<b>** Rate</b>			5 Years	3 Years	10 Years	

*Straight Line ("SL") or Reducing Balance ("RB")*

At beginning of the year	-	-	2,216	3,840	7,993	14,048
Disposals	-	-	-504	-513	-5,532	-6,549
Depreciation	-	-	2,611	3,550	13,529	19,690
Impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers*	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>At end of the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,323</b>	<b>6,877</b>	<b>15,989</b>	<b>27,189</b>

### 14.3. Net Book Value

Net book value at the beginning of the year	-	-	2,553	5,043	37,315	44,910
Net book value at the end of the year	-	-	6,287	4,590	36,605	47,482

## 19. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

19.1. Analysis of debtors	<b>This year £</b>	<b>Last year £</b>
<b>Trade debtors</b>	255.00	-
<b>Prepayments and accrued income</b>	-	1,090.90
<b>Other debtors</b>	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>255.00</b>	<b>1,090.90</b>

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2023/24

## 20. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

20.1. Analysis of creditors	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accruals for grants payable	-	-	-	-
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	2,658	1,861	-	-
Payments received on account for contracts or performance-related grants	-	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	5,000	38,114	-	-
Taxation and social security	4,273	3,504	-	-
Other creditors	3,821	4,528	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,752</b>	<b>48,008</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### 20.2 Deferred income

**Please explain the reasons why income is deferred.**

Income is deferred when we receive a grant in advance for expenditure over a specified period of time. The income is released when the expenditure has occurred.

Movement in deferred income account	This year £	Last year £
Balance at the start of the reporting period	38,114	-
Amounts added in current period	5,000	-
Amounts released to income from previous periods	-38,114	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>

## 24. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	This year £	Last year £
Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)	-	-
Short term deposits	-	-
Cash at bank and on hand	54,647	23,794
Other	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,647</b>	<b>23,794</b>

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2023/24

## 27. CHARITY FUNDS

27.1. Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

**Key:** PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendable endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds

Fund names	Type PE, EER or UR*	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Fund balances carried forward £
National Lottery Community Fund (carry over)	R	Rent and Rates		11,572	-11,572	-
	R	Salary		25,667	-25,667	-
	R	Utilities	-	1,833	-1,833	-
Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund - The National Lottery	R	Clothing for Referrals	-	6,000	-6,000	-
	R	Salary	-	31,000	-31,000	-
	R	Premises - rent/rates etc	-	16,500	-16,500	-
	R	Utilities	-	16,500	-16,500	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	Ukraine Families	-	5,000	-5,000	-
Berkshire Community	R	Bedding for referrals	-	3,000	-3,000	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	Bedding for referrals	-	6,630	-6,630	-
Cash for kids	R	Bedding for referrals	-	1,500	-1,500	-
Greenham Trust	R	Clothing for Referrals	-	2,000	-2,000	-
Berkshire Community	R	Clothing for Referrals	-	7,000	-7,000	-
Hedley Foundation	R	Refugees	-	3,500	-3,500	-
Postcode lottery	R	Clothing for Referrals	-	10,000	-10,000	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	Clothing for Referrals	-	6,630	-6,630	-
National Lottery Main Grant	R	Rent and Rates	-	12,625	-12,625	-
	R	Salary	-	28,000	-28,000	-
	R	Utilities	-	2,000	-2,000	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	Toiletries for referrals	-	3,000	-3,000	-
Anton Jurgen	R	Salary	-	2,500	-2,500	-
Postcode lottery	R	Salary	-	15,000	-15,000	-
Migrant Help	R	Utilities	-	2,500	-2,500	-
52 Lives Life	R	Xmas	-	1,000	-1,000	-
Wokingham United Charities	R	Xmas	-	2,000	-2,000	-
Cotswold Fayre	R	Home Boxes	-	1,800	-1,800	-
Abbie	R	Home Boxes	-	5,000	-5,000	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	Home Boxes	-	600	-600	-
Cash for kids	R	School Uniform	-	3,250	-3,250	-
Bupa	R	School Uniform	-	5,000	-5,000	-
Bracknell Forest Council	R	School Uniform	-	2,950	-2,950	-
52 Lives Life	R	School Uniform	-	1,500	-1,500	-
St.James Place	R	CRM System	-	2,615	-2,615	-
Berkshire Masons	R	Maternity (welcome to world) packs	-	3,500	-3,500	-
Mobbs memorial trust	R	Irons	-	1,000	-1,000	-
Migrant Help	R	Bra Fitting training	-	500	-500	-
Migrant Help	R	Maternity bags	-	2,000	-2,000	-
The Clothwokers	R	Set up costs new building	-	19,000	-19,000	-

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2023/24

West Berkshire Council	R	Prams/car seats	-	8,000	-8,000	
Englefield Trust	R	Referrals	-	1,000	-1,000	
Restricted Donations	R	Xmas	-	31,689	-31,689	
Restricted Donations	R	Other	-	5,674	-5,674	
Wokingham Town Council	R		-	1,000	-1,000	
<b>Other funds</b>	<b>UR</b>	<b>All other income and expenditure</b>	<b>59,145</b>	<b>365,694</b>	<b>-322,256</b>	<b>102,583</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>59,145</b>	<b>692,420</b>	<b>-648,982</b>	<b>102,583</b>

## CHARITY FUNDS PREVIOUS YEAR

27.2. Details of material funds held and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

**Key:** PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendable endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds

Fund names	Type PE, EER or UR*	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Fund balances carried forward £
National Lottery Community Fund	R	Referrals Costs		49,730	-49,730	-
Ashley Family Foundation	R	Craft Coordinator		10,000	-10,000	-
BCF	R	Salary		10,000	-10,000	-
Wokingham Town Council	R	Salary		3,000	-3,000	-
52 Lives	R	Refugee Day		750	-750	-
Trinity Homeless Projects	R	Refugees		5,000	-5,000	-
St James Place	R			2,500	-2,500	-
WBC	R	Clothing for Ukraine		15,880	-15,880	-
Greenham Trust	R	Ukraine Packs		17,828	-17,828	-
Bracknell Forest	R	Ukraine Packs		7,000	-7,000	-
Reading	R	Ukraine Refugees		10,000	-10,000	-
Wokingham	R	HAF		1,000	-1,000	-
Reading	R	Rent and Rates		10,000	-10,000	-
Wokingham	R	Ukraine Families		15,500	-15,500	-
National Lottery	R	Eurovision Event		9,000	-9,000	-
52 Lives	R	Eurovision Event		1,000	-1,000	-
Winnersh PC	R	Clothing		500	-500	-
WUC	R	Bedding		5,000	-5,000	-
Greenham Trust	R	Bedding		2,500	-2,500	-
7 Stars Foundation	R	Clothing		1,000	-1,000	-
WUC	R	Clothing		5,000	-5,000	-
National Lottery Community Fund	R	Utilities		17,050	-17,050	-
Berkshire Community Foundation	R	Salary		10,000	-10,000	-
Berkshire Community Foundation	R	Utilities		2,500	-2,500	-
NFU	R	Xmas		2,244	-2,244	-
Prince Phillip Trust	R	Xmas		2,000	-2,000	-
WUC	R	Xmas		2,000	-2,000	-
Wokingham	R	Xmas		10,000	-10,000	-
Skipton Building Society	R	Xmas		3,000	-3,000	-
<b>Other funds</b>	<b>UR</b>	<b>All other income and expenditure</b>	<b>54,740</b>	<b>294,444</b>	<b>-290,039</b>	<b>59,145</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>54,740</b>	<b>525,426</b>	<b>-521,021</b>	<b>59,145</b>

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2023/24

## 28. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES AND RELATED PARTIES

28.1 Trustee remuneration and benefits

**None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity (True or False)**

True

28.2 Trustees' expenses

**No trustee expenses have been incurred (True or False)**

True

28.3 Transaction(s) with related parties

**There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period (True or False)**

True

## Structure Governance and Management

The Cowshed is a Charitable Incorporated organisation and as such is governed in line with the Foundation Constitution. All trustees are voluntary and are appointed via a selection process and approval by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the constitution.

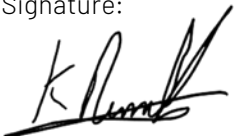
### DECLARATIONS

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Date: 15th January 2025

Signature:



Name: Kester John Russell

Position: Chair of Trustees

Signature:



Name: Sharon Ketley

Position: Trustee





# THE COWSHED

Rubra 2, Mulberry Business Park, Fishponds Road, Wokingham, RG41 2GY | Tel: 0118 934 5120

Email: [info@thecowshed.org](mailto:info@thecowshed.org) | [www.thecowshed.org](http://www.thecowshed.org)

Visit our website and social media for more info on our other initiatives

  **@CowshedCharity**

Registered Charity No. 1181550

**THE COWSHED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181550

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# Accounts

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**THE COWSHED**

# Annual Report and Accounts

For the period 2022 - 2023



Registered Charity No. 1181550 | [info@thecowshed.org](mailto:info@thecowshed.org)  
[www.thecowshed.org](http://www.thecowshed.org) | [#showingloveandsupport](https://twitter.com/CowshedCharity) | [@CowshedCharity](https://www.facebook.com/CowshedCharity)



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# Organisation Details

## STAFF

Sally Russell	Co- Founder/CEO
Yuliia Aydar	Referrals Supervisor (Reading)
Vicky Newman	PT Craft Co-ordinator (Reading)
Audrey Knox	PT Craft Co-Ordinators (Hurst)
Ruth Warms	PT Donation Centre Supervisor
Liz Meadows	PT Donation Centre Supervisor/ Hygiene Bank Co-ordinator
Becky Russell	Referrals Manager
Chloe Newman	Referrals Co-Ordinator (Reading)
Katy Reay	PT Referrals Co-ordinator (Reading)
Isabel Noone	PT Referral Co-Ordinator (Reading)
Claire Hewitt	PT Referrals Co-Ordinator (Hurst)
Nikki Pond	Referrals Supervisor (Hurst)
Rebecca Mole	P/T Fundraising Manager

## TRUSTEES

Kester Russell	Co-Founder /Chair
Abbie Walker	Treasurer
Sharon Ketley	Secretary
Mervyn Simmonds	
Emma Wilkinson	
Susie Templeton	
Chelsea Hayes	
Nimisha Overton	
Sheila Mooney	

## CHARITY MENTORS

Chris Barrett
Steve Hedley

## DUTIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by The Charities Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

### Address -

**Hurst Grove, Sandford Lane, Hurst, Berkshire, RG10 0SQ.**

The Cowshed is a registered charity (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) In England and Wales (1181550) with the following objectives;



The relief of poverty of persons in need in particular but not exclusively by providing such persons with good quality free clothing.

The Annual Accounts were signed on behalf of all the trustees on 10th November 2023.

Kester Russell

Abbie Walker



# Who we are and what we do

The Cowshed charity started in September 2018 and officially launched in February 2019 to give practical support to people of all backgrounds in a time of personal crisis. Since we started we have supported over 20,000 people in need in Berkshire. The aim of The Cowshed is to lovingly provide excellent quality cleaned and ironed clothes, underwear, bedding, curtains, toiletries, and other essential items free to anyone in need. The clothes are donated from the public as well as retailers and manufacturers. They are then sorted, washed, and ironed ready to be delivered by our drivers or collected by social services, other health professionals or our clients. The idea is that our clients feel they are receiving a gift to assist them in a time of crisis rather than some old clothes that are over worn, marked or damaged.

The people in need are referred to us through social services, churches, schools, charities, doctors, and other health professionals. We then provide the items that are requested free of charge. The Cowshed is staffed mostly by our amazing volunteers.

The Cowshed has a threefold impact: recycling used clothing, helping those most in need in our communities and creating a community craft group to support the main charity.

All the clothes that are donated to us are repurposed. The excellent quality clothes are washed and ironed ready for our clients, the slightly damaged clothing / bedding is repurposed by our arts and crafts group to make items for us to sell and tote bags for us to put our referrals in. Pre-loved Bras are sent to Against Breast Cancer and the plastic bags we receive donations in are given to the food banks locally or recycled. We also work with many other groups to recycle as much as we can. Anything left after this is sold to a recycling organisation to raise further funds to help sustain the charity.

We are extremely excited about having established a movement which directly impacts those most in need in the local community in a positive, loving, non-judgemental way, as well as helping the environment by reusing clothes and other items which would otherwise have ended up in landfill sites.



# Chair of Trustee's Report

## INTRODUCTION

This year the Cowshed has faced enormous challenges and extraordinary growth, reflecting both the resilience and the dedication of our team, volunteers, and supporters.

## Operational Overview

The charity has been under additional pressure due to the global impact of the Ukrainian war and the ensuing energy crisis, significantly affecting the cost of living. These external factors have strained our resources, yet our commitment to helping those in crisis has never wavered. Our response to these challenges was met with determination and adaptability.

Notably, our referral numbers grew by over 62% this year, a testament to the increasing need for our services in the community. Managing this surge, while ensuring the quality and dignity of service, has been a significant challenge.

Amidst this growth, we also experienced changes within our governing board. The departure of another founding trustee was a poignant moment for us, marking the end of an era. However, it also opened an opportunity to bring fresh perspectives to our board. We embarked on a rigorous recruitment process, expanding our governing board from 3 to 9 members. This expansion has not only increased the spectrum of skills within the board but also enhanced its diversity, reflecting the community we serve.

## Financial Health and Sustainability

The key challenge for our board continues to be ensuring the financial health of the charity. The rapid rate of growth, coupled with significant demand from our clients, places considerable pressure on our financial resources. We have focused on developing sustainable funding streams and enhancing our operational efficiency to meet this challenge.

## Future Challenges

As we move forward, our focus remains steadfast on providing essential services to those in need while ensuring the sustainability and resilience of The Cowshed. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support from our donors, volunteers, and the community, which enables us to continue our vital work.

In conclusion, despite the challenges, this year has been a period of significant growth and learning. We are committed to building on these experiences to strengthen our impact in the community.

## Thanks

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters. Your dedication and generosity are the pillars of our success.



**Chair of Trustees,  
The Cowshed Charity**

10th December 2023



# Chief Executive's Message

I am pleased to present the annual report for The Cowshed Charity, covering the period from April 2022 to March 2023. This year has been marked by significant challenges, including the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and increased demand for our services. Despite these challenges, The Cowshed Charity remains committed to its mission of providing support to those in need.

## Key Highlights

In response to the crisis in Ukraine, The Cowshed Charity took swift action to support those affected. We provided welcome packs, clothing, bedding, and other essentials to 1100 Ukrainian refugees. Our organization stands in solidarity with those facing displacement, and our dedicated team worked tirelessly to ensure a warm and supportive welcome for the refugees.

The past year has been particularly tough due to the lingering effects of the pandemic. The increased demand for our services stretched our resources, but our dedicated volunteers and staff rose to the occasion. Their commitment and hard work have been instrumental in sustaining our operations and ensuring that we continue to make a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.

The economic fallout from the pandemic has resulted in reduced funds available from various organizations, and we have

experienced a decline in donations from the general public. Despite these funding challenges, we remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting our community and finding innovative ways to secure the resources needed to fulfil our mission.

The Cowshed Charity faced additional challenges, including increased fuel bills and the necessity to relocate our premises at short notice. Despite these disruptions, our team adapted quickly, ensuring minimal impact on our services. We appreciate the understanding and support of our stakeholders during this period of transition.

## Financial Overview

The financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 2023 are attached. Despite the challenges faced, we have maintained transparency and accountability in our financial management. We will continue to explore sustainable funding sources and cost-saving measures to ensure the long-term stability of The Cowshed Charity.

## New Developments

Our Christmas project, a vital initiative, increased in size by fifty percent and continues to play a crucial role in our community outreach efforts. This expansion underscores the growing need for our services during the holiday season.

We are pleased to announce the recruitment of five new fantastic trustees. Their expertise and



dedication have already had a positive impact on our organization, and we look forward to their continued contributions to The Cowshed Charity.

## Acknowledgments

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our volunteers, staff, donors, and the community for their unwavering support. Together, we have weathered the storm and continued to make a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.

## Looking Ahead

As we reflect on the past fiscal year, we are mindful of the work that lies ahead. The Cowshed Charity remains dedicated to its mission, and we are confident that, with the continued support of our stakeholders, we will overcome future challenges and continue to make a meaningful difference in our community.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

# Referrals

In the 2022/2023 fiscal year, the Cowshed Charity provided crucial support to 8,895 individuals across Berkshire, marking a significant increase from the previous year and highlighting our expanding impact in the community. A dedicated effort was made to assist 1,152 Ukrainians fleeing from the war, underscoring our commitment to offering aid during times of crisis. Our network of referral partners continued to grow, with over 250 organisations now collaborating with us, including unitary authorities, homeless organisations, domestic violence services, probation, mental health services, schools, and more. This year, we extended our collaboration to involve over 1,200 professionals in supporting local families and individuals.

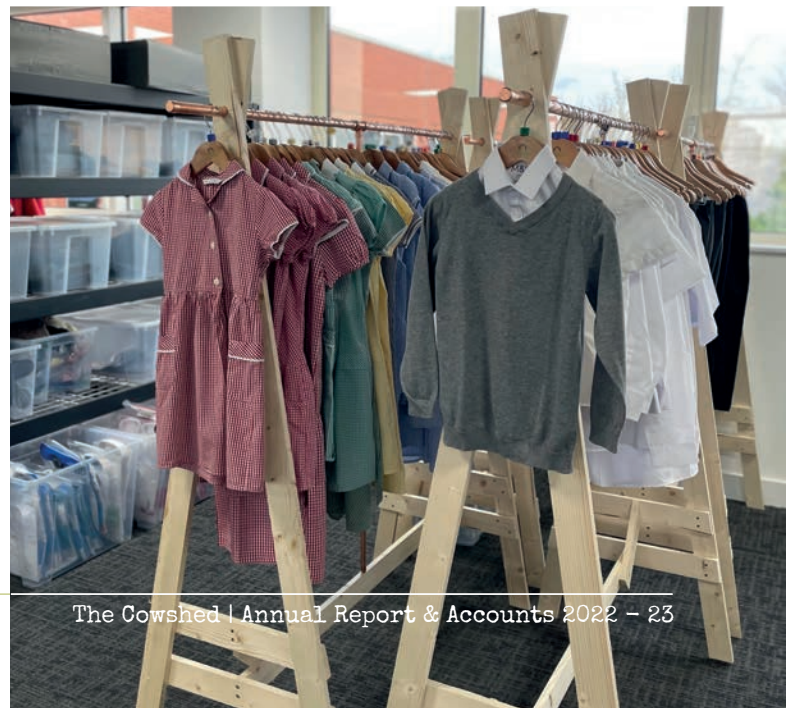
Out of the total individuals supported, 5,109 received what we term a “standard” referral, comprising a week’s worth of clothing designed to last a minimum of 6 months, new toiletries, new socks, and underwear, as well as toys and books for children. Even after excluding Ukrainian referrals, the total main referrals increased from 3,153 in FY21 to 3,957 in FY22. The increase in total referrals, even after excluding Ukrainian refugees is 25%, demonstrating a persistent and growing demand for the Cowshed Charity’s services. By alleviating concerns for individuals and families, this assistance allows them to concentrate on addressing other challenges they may be facing.

Furthermore, during the festive season, we brought joy to 3,171 local children and adults by providing them with gifts at Christmas—a total of 16,340 gifts thoughtfully wrapped and placed into handmade fabric sacks.

Additionally, we took pride in providing school uniforms for more than 580 children and young people, of which over 100 were asylum seekers. A message we received reflects the profound impact of this assistance: “Hello everyone, you have just gifted the best collection of clothes. Now Daria\* has school clothes of the highest quality and style to attend the 6th form in September. You just can’t know how helpful this is. The last few months have been harrowing for them. Their home is now Russian. So here in the UK, they have to make their home. Your help is a Godsend. The smiles I’m seeing now are so long-awaited!!”

\* = name changed

In FY22, our impact was widespread across Berkshire, with Reading contributing 39.2% (2,003 referrals), Wokingham at 27.1% (1,387 referrals), West Berks at 12.5% (640 referrals), Bracknell at 9.4% (475 referrals), RBWM at 5.9% (302 referrals), and Slough at 5.9% (302 referrals) of the total 5,109 main referrals. Notably, Wokingham borough experienced the highest increase in referrals, with a remarkable rise from 904 to 1,387 (see page 20, figure 2).

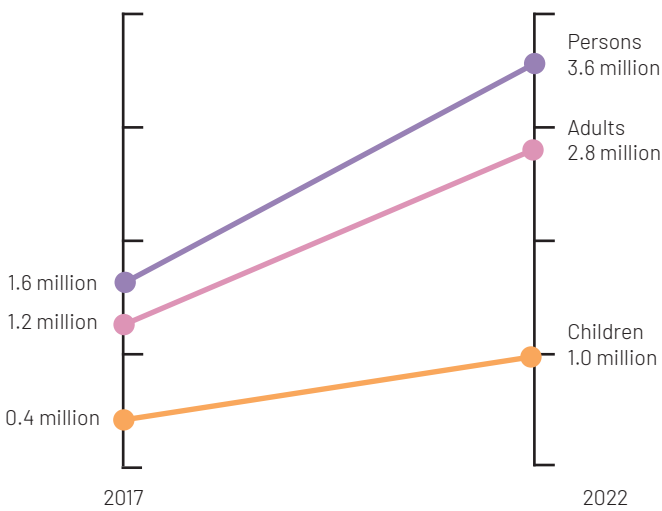


# Referrals

A recent study published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on the levels of destitution in the UK from 2017 to 2022 found that Severe material hardship was “no longer a rare occurrence”, with rates of destitution more than doubling in the last five years as a result of benefit cuts and cost of living pressures, leaving struggling households increasingly reliant on regular charity handouts.

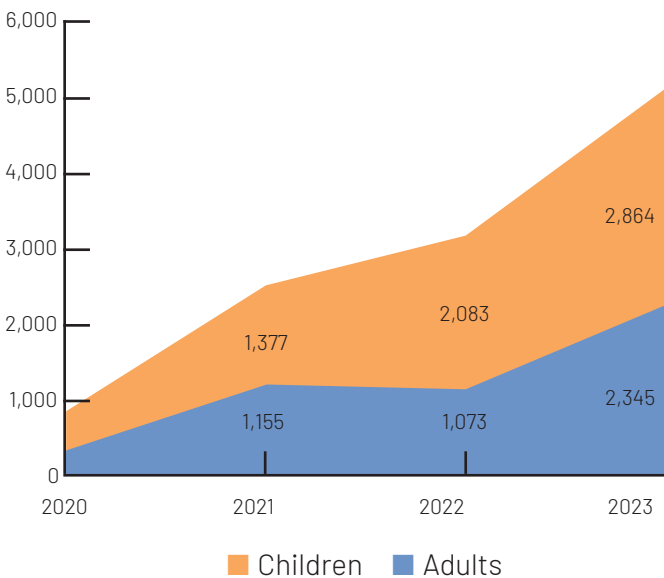


## THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING DESTITUTION IN THE UK INCREASED BY 148% FROM 2017 TO 2022



Guardian graphic. Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Note: People are considered destitute if they have not been able to meet the barest physical needs to stay warm, dry, clean and fed.

## THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED A STANDARD REFERRAL



More than half of destitute adults (51%) regularly went without toiletries such as shampoo and toothpaste, as well as hygiene and cleaning products, often relying on food banks for these items. One respondent had to borrow money to buy incontinence pads for her disabled daughter.

New clothing and footwear “were essential items that people simply did not buy at all”, the study concluded, with many adult respondents wearing worn-out clothes, and only buying new clothes – such as school uniforms and trainers – for their children.

Destitution – once largely limited to immigrants ineligible for social security support – was now predominantly experienced by UK nationals in receipt of welfare benefits, and increasingly by families, the study revealed. One in 10 destitute households included working adults. The erosion of state support for people in severe hardship, and their growing reliance on informal help from charities and parents, was one of the most striking aspects of the research, the study said. More than 574,000 destitute people were supported by food banks in 2022, up from 214,000 in 2019.

The challenges revealed in this study align with the experiences observed by the Cowshed Charity, where an increasing number of individuals sought support for basic necessities such as clothing, bedding, and toiletries. The striking aspect of the study, emphasising the erosion of state support and the growing reliance on charities, mirrors the evolving landscape that the Cowshed Charity navigates, responding to a surge in demand. These insights underscore the continued importance of the Cowshed Charity’s mission and the need for ongoing efforts to meet the evolving needs of the community.

# Referrals

## New initiatives for 2022-23

In October 2022, we broadened our commitment to community service by establishing a collaboration with the Poppy Team, a dedicated group of midwives at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. This innovative partnership aimed to provide hospital bags to women seeking sanctuary, particularly those facing complex social factors during maternity care. Each meticulously packed hold-all included a new nightdress, dressing gown, slippers, toiletries, towels, maternity pads, nappies, baby toiletries, and a baby-grow, vest, and hat for the baby to go home in.

Since the inception of this initiative, we have distributed over 40 bags and will continue this endeavour. Our goal is not only to address the practical needs of these women but also to foster a supportive and nurturing environment. The hospital bags represent a gesture of care and solidarity, intended to build trust between midwives and the women they serve, while also alleviating anxieties related to the uncertainty of having the correct items for labour.

This is some lovely feedback we received:



I just wanted to email and thank you all again for the hospital bags we were able to give to our families seeking sanctuary event on Thursday. Happy tears were had by all! Seeing the happiness these items brought to these women was wonderful. You are amazing, and our families are so lucky to be supported by such an incredible charity!

Additionally, we are excited to collaborate with Wokingham Borough Council, Wokingham Borough

Libraries, and All Yours to offer free period and hygiene packs in all libraries across the Wokingham borough.

In a dedicated effort to enhance the lives of asylum-seeking children living in local hotels across Berkshire, we introduced community bookshelves. With the partnership of Care4Calais, we are working to make local hotels more compassionate and have also set up playrooms with toys.

During the summer, we organized two BBQs for over 350 asylum seekers, who, without recourse to benefits and unable to work, spend most of their time in hotels. It was a joyous occasion witnessing them enjoy a day out, engaging in craft activities, playing sports organized by the wonderful Reading Football Club, with support from students at Reading School, and savouring ice cream in the sunshine.

Finally, CarComm Coachworks generously donated a second delivery van to us this year, affectionately named "Ermintrude." Thanks to this addition, our remarkable team of volunteer drivers has successfully completed over 3,000 deliveries to local individuals in crisis throughout the year!



# Donation Centre

We now have a regular weekly volunteer base of over 90 amazingly hardworking individuals.

This includes young adults completing their Duke of Edinburgh award as well as several school and college groups of students seeking work experience and life skills.

There is a real community feel amongst the volunteers, retirees, young parents, and part time workers. It is a joy also to have several Ukrainian refugees whom we have supported upon their arrival to the UK who now regularly join us as well.

We also have a steady stream of Corporate Groups visiting for a day of volunteering and, as well as helping on the day with practical jobs, many return or stay in touch and support in several other ways including arranging donation collections.

All these wonderful volunteers process the donations received, ready to supply stock for the referral centre.

We are committed to recycling and moving on items in a responsible manner. In the last year we are proud to have recycled 140 tonnes of donations

Volunteers take away soft plastics to be recycled at local recycling points, unsuitable blankets find their way to a dog rescue centre, and flannels are given for hedgehog rescues.

We continue to pass on pre-loved bras to Against Breast Cancer and household items to Jac in the Box charity in Wokingham.

In addition, we supply children's books to our mini-Cowshed Libraries which we have one located at Emmbrook school and others in local Asylum Seeker Hotels.



# The Hygiene Bank

It is now over a year since we set up the Reading branch of The Hygiene Bank and in that time we have received and distributed over 6 tonnes of donations from both local donation points as well as brand donations.

Our local public donation points have increased from 3 to 9 and additionally 2 in private offices.

Products are distributed to The Cowshed as well as Care4Calais Reading and to Wokingham Foodbank.

Several offices have held donation drives for us which as well as gaining products for immediate supply, is a great way to spread awareness about Hygiene Poverty which is sadly often overlooked.



# Arts and Crafts Group

The Hurst and Reading sewing groups went from strength to strength in 2022/23 with lots of new ladies joining both groups. We started making our yearly supply of Santa Sacks in June 2022 as we had been told that the predicted number had grown to 3,000, so our overlockers were in constant use every day for months. Many thanks to the ladies who serviced them and kept them running as well as the sewers themselves.

Because of our increased numbers, this meant that we could not only keep up with the demand of the referral and toiletry bags but we had time to make lots of lovely items to sell at the markets throughout the year. All proceeds from the sale of these items help buy essential goods like socks, pants and toiletries. A big thank you to everyone involved in the markets. It's great fun, she said, especially battling with the gazebo at 7.30am in a wet field on a Sunday morning. I'll say no more.

The markets are also good for spreading the word of what The Cowshed is all about. We often recruit new volunteers in all aspects of the charity from drivers to sorters and ironers, there are jobs for all different skills, but most of all we are a community and everyone is welcome.



# Projects Report

As we saw our numbers continue to rise it has been a huge challenge to maintain our core service as well as all the other projects we currently run. Below is a list of some of the amazing projects our staff and volunteers have achieved.

We provided 3,171 Christmas sacks and gifts to vulnerable adults and children who would not otherwise have received gifts

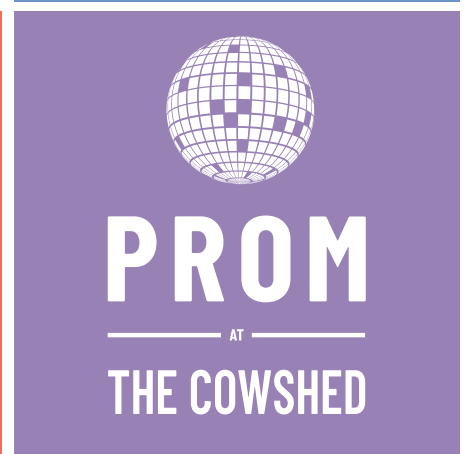
We supported 64 school children with Prom outfits saving hundreds of pounds for families.

We helped 581 children in Berkshire with school uniform.

We provided a bra fitting service for 15 ladies providing new bras. Over and above the 1500 referrals that received underwear as part of our standard service.

We provided 58 Noah packs to individuals and families moving into new accommodation.

We provided 8 “Welcome to The World” packs to care leavers who were expecting their first babies providing everything they needed to care for their child.



# Projects Report

We put on three refugee events supporting over 300 asylum seekers living in hotels.

We taught 120 children and adults how to sew through our partnership with activate learning and our children's holiday courses.

We supported over 1100 Ukrainian refugees with welcome packs and referrals.

We put book libraries in four asylum seeker hotels which we restock on a regular basis.

None of this would have been possible without the support of hundreds of amazing volunteers, our wonderful staff team, our supporters, funders and all the organisation who we partner with.



# Feedback



Amanda has asked me to say a very big thank you to the Cowshed and everyone there. You all made her feel very welcome and she loves her dresses.

In February 2023, we also hosted a coffee morning in partnership with the Royal Berkshire Maternity Voices Partnership (MVP), an NHS working group dedicated to improving local maternity services. In addition, in March 2023 we ran craft classes for women from Cranstoun who have fled abusive relationships. It was a great opportunity for them to relax, socialise and unleash their creativity.



I just wanted to find a way to thank the Cowshed for what they have done for my children and I. Our social worker gave us three bags that I can see were handpicked for us, brand new duvets and pillows, and bedding, and I just can't describe the joy and relief it has brought to me as a mother struggling to provide for my children. I wish I could hug the person or people that so lovingly put together our parcel, I appreciate it more than I can possibly describe. Being able to dress my children in some clothes that fit them and make them a warm bed to sleep in has made me sob with relief. I just want to say thank you.



This is going to make the biggest difference to our lives we cannot thank you enough. Being ill with possible MS and an autistic toddler, this buggy will make the world of difference thank you soo soo much.

Just before Christmas we were asked by a local council to provide a suit for an older gentleman to attend his wife's funeral. He wanted to have a smart outfit in order to pay his respects. This week we received a lovely message from the gentleman's sister to pass on the families thanks for providing a suit. She told us that he is in bed most of the time and a wheelchair user on the rare occasions that he is able to go out and has limited access to funds so she said having a suit to wear for the funeral would not have been possible otherwise.



Hi I just wanted to say thank you so much for the kids clothes it's helped out beyond belief. I literally could of cried filling up their drawers with it all, to know they have clothes for all of winter now thank you - so appreciated.



Beyond life changing. He can now leave the hotel after 3 weeks. Just amazing!!!! You have no idea how special this is. From the very bottom, top and middle of my heart, thank you!

# Feedback



I am stunned and greatly appreciative of everything you donated to me. I was lost for words and cried when I saw what was kindly donated. Your charity has helped me beyond what I can tell you and will forever be grateful for the help you have given me. Thank you and the team for your help and time. All stay well and safe.

Yesterday we had the pleasure of meeting Maddy\* who is in the process of transitioning to female. Maddy has anxiety, and her support worker told us that she lacked confidence in understanding what clothing style will work for her figure. She had previously been homeless and had very limited money to find suitable clothing. We had a lovely afternoon helping her find items she liked in a low pressure environment where she could feel comfortable.

As she was leaving Maddy explained that she found shopping very stressful and only had one dress and some men's skinny jeans which she didn't really like. She was thrilled to be going away with some lovely dresses, ladies jeans, boots and a small new capsule wardrobe.

We love having this safe space available so that anyone in need can feel welcomed and included.



Hi there! I just had to get in touch I received your donations today and I am honestly overwhelmed with the kindness and generosity of you all! I cried with absolute joy and appreciation. I'm so so grateful for all the lovely clothes! They are amazing! And the toiletries! I'm so shocked by the amount. Honestly, thank you from the bottom of my heart.



Thank you for all of your help today. Our guests were so pleased with the clothes and other items and were quite emotional at your generosity.



# Feedback



Thank you all so much for your warm, friendly welcome when I came to collect the items today. I was feeling so alone and low because I cannot return to my home because of years of manipulative behaviours which culminated in physical violence. This meant that I had only the clothes I was wearing at the time plus a few items which I managed to acquire from charity shops. I would have been grateful for anything you gave me. However, I was humbled by your generosity. You went above and beyond my expectations and every item is of good quality. Thank you once again for being so kind to me.



Dear Cowshed ladies, thank you so much for all the help you gave our little Ukrainian family yesterday. They chose lovely outfits, and they are thrilled with all you gave them. I wish you could see them out in our garden today playing badminton in their new shorts and T shirts, so happy!



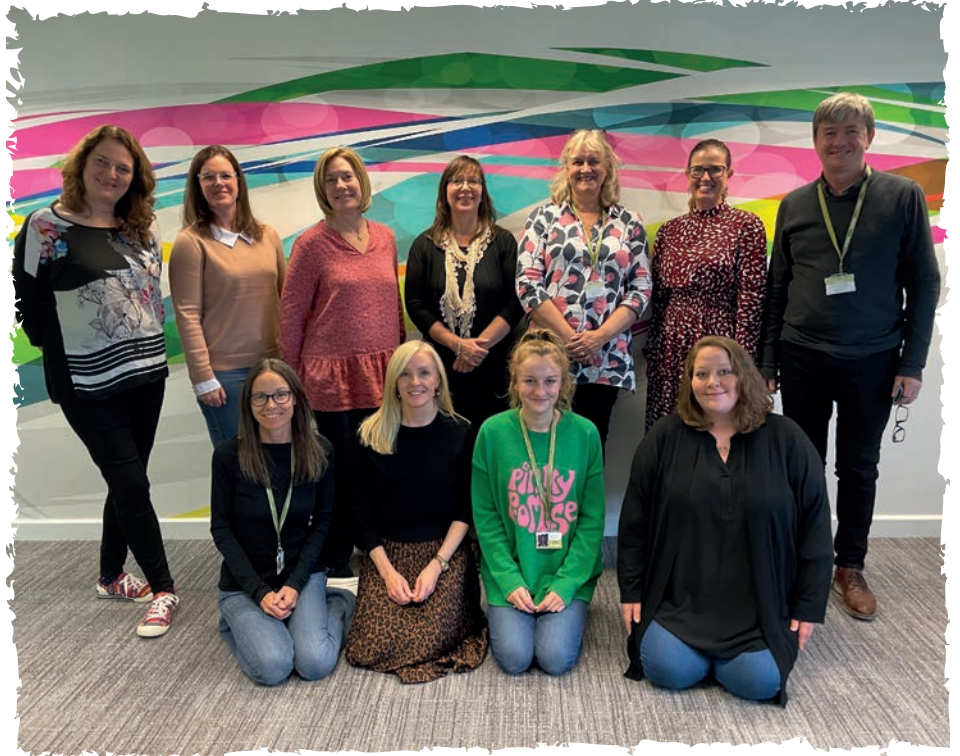
My children received 2 massive bags yesterday from cowshed of school uniform and all these lovely extras I've never seen my children so happy thank you so so much! Honestly, it's so appreciated!



# Thank You

The Cowshed would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those individuals, families, businesses and grant making bodies that have supported us this year. Without the support they provide we would be unable to deliver the service we do.

We would also like to say a special thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who week after week support us sorting, washing and ironing donations as well as supporting our referral teams, driving our delivery vans and producing referral bags and many other items in our craft groups.



# Achievements and Performance

FIG 1. TOTAL HELPED

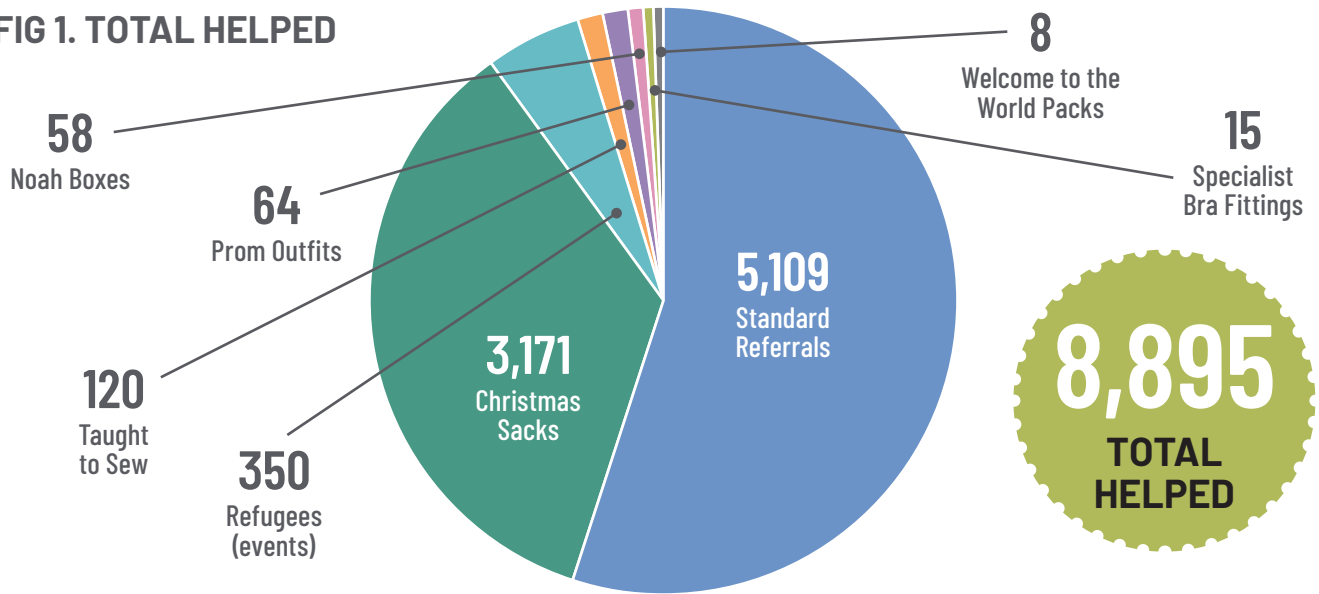


FIG 2. MAIN REFERRALS DELIVERED

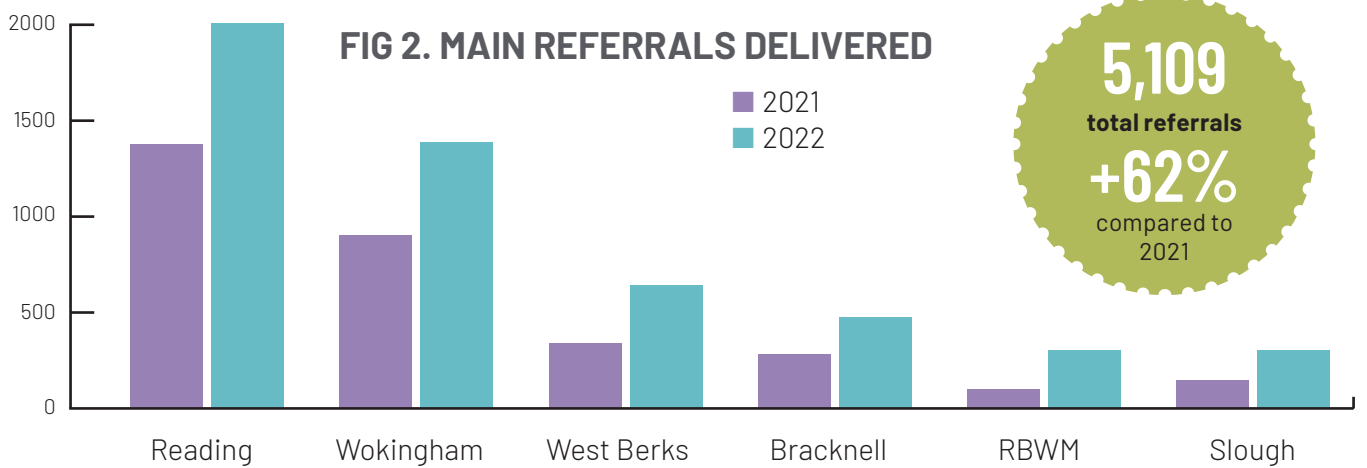
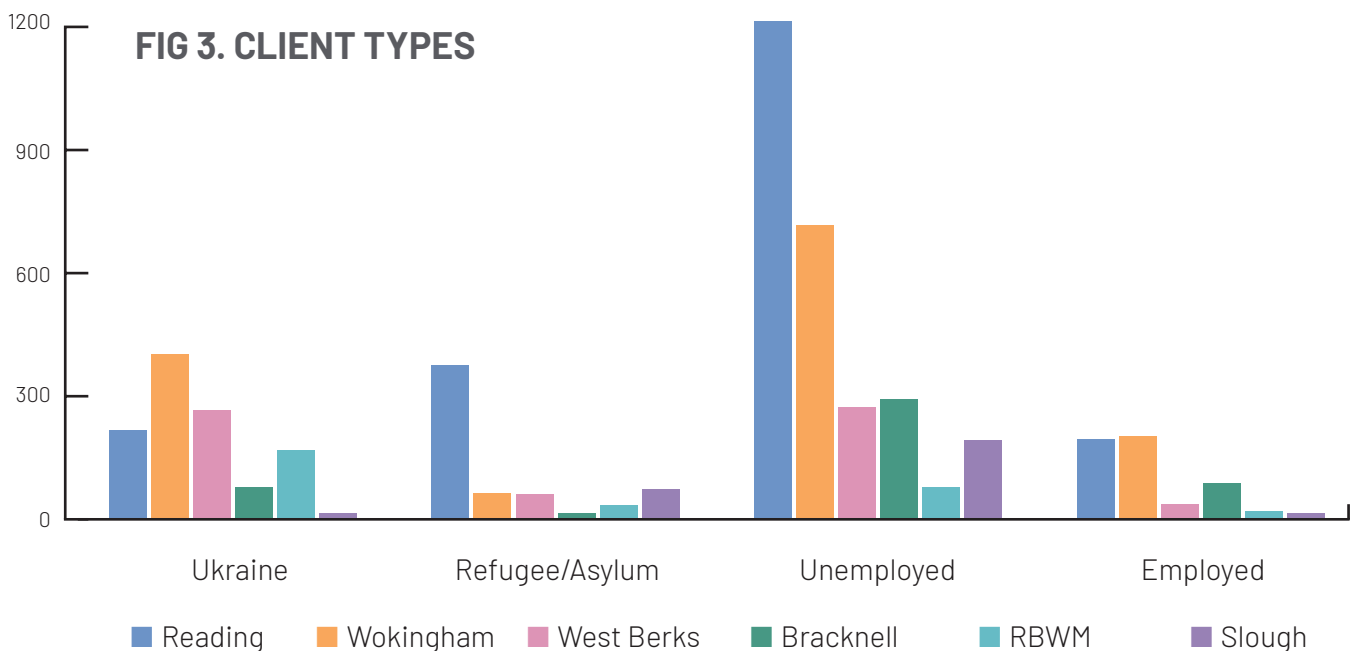
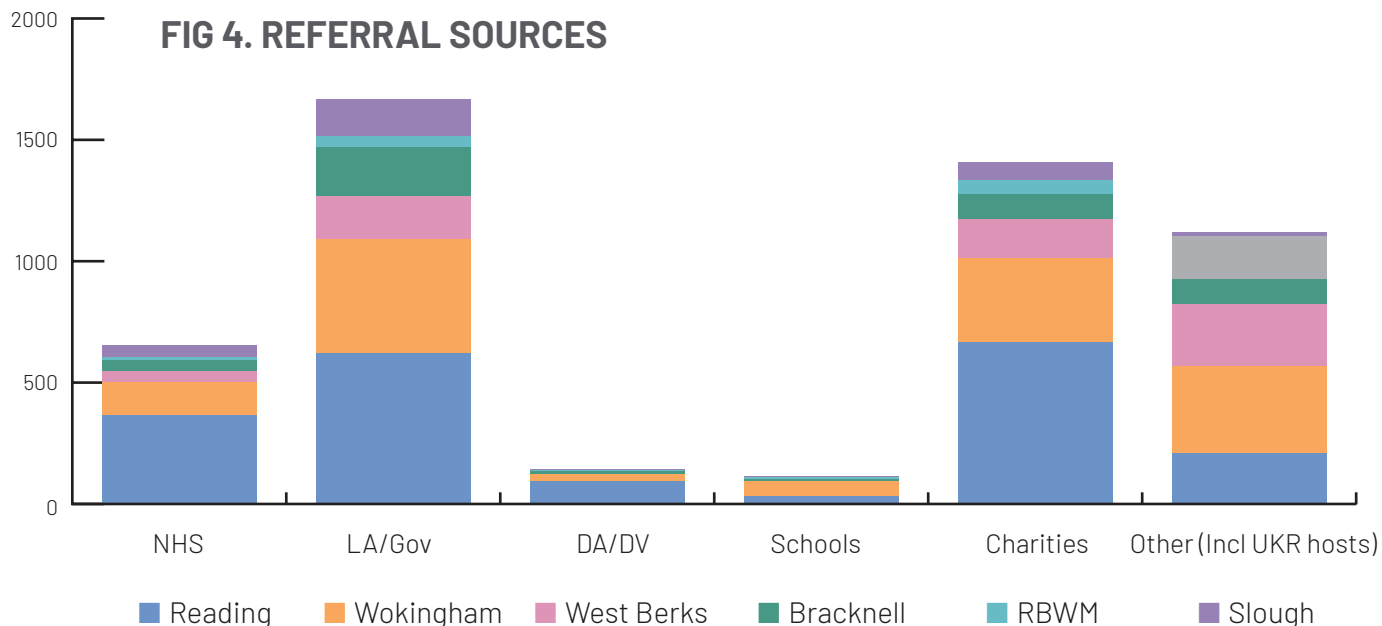


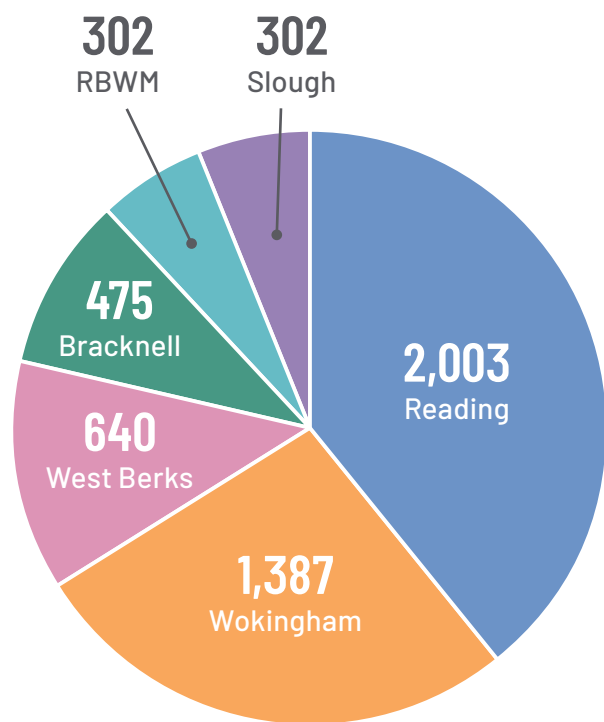
FIG 3. CLIENT TYPES



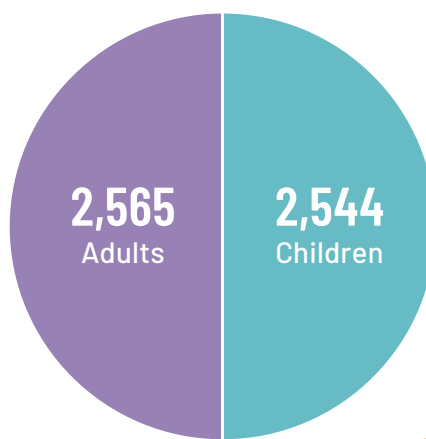
# Achievements and Performance



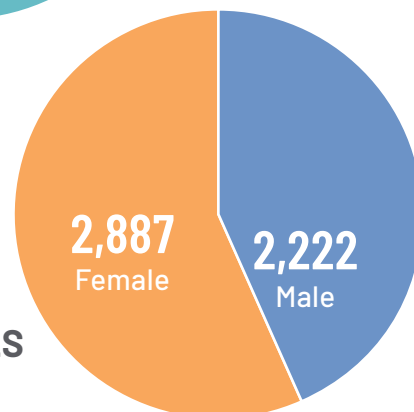
**FIG 5. REFERRALS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY**



**FIG 6. REFERRALS ADULT VS CHILD**



**FIG 7. REFERRALS BY GENDER**



# Financial Review – Independent Examiner’s Report

I report on the accounts of The Cowshed for the period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, which are set out on pages 23 to 38.

## RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity’s trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity’s trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

## BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a ‘true and fair view’ and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met;

or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed:



Name: Christopher Fairweather

Date: 8th November 2023

Relevant professional qualification or body:

FCCA (Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants)

Address: 10 Swallows Croft, Reading RG1 6EH

# Accounts – Statement of Financial Activity 2022/23

Categories by Activity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
<b>Incoming resources (Note 3)</b>	F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	159,081	259,757	-	418,838	301,474
Charitable activities	45,406	-	-	45,406	47,466
Other trading activities	61,182	-	-	61,182	20,011
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of income	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>265,669</b>	<b>259,757</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>525,426</b>	<b>368,951</b>

<b>Resources expended (Note 6)</b>					
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	25,761	-	-	25,761	5,533
Charitable activities	239,055	254,430	-	493,485	352,045
Separate material item of expense	1,775	-	-	1,775	1,090
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>266,591</b>	<b>254,430</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>521,021</b>	<b>358,668</b>

<b>Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)</b>	922	5,327	-	4,405	10,283
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	922	5,327	-	4,405	10,283
<b>Extraordinary items</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>					
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	922	5,327	-	4,405	10,283
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward	48,423	-	-	48,423	38,140
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>47,501</b>	<b>5,327</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52,829</b>	<b>48,423</b>

# Accounts – Balance Sheet Financial Year 2022/23

Categories by Activity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
<b>Fixed assets</b>	F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets	51,415	-	-	51,415	42,367
Heritage assets	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>51,415</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51,415</b>	<b>42,367</b>

Current assets					
Stocks (Note 18)	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	1,091	-	-	1,091	352
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	54,647	-	-	54,647	23,794
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>55,738</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55,738</b>	<b>24,146</b>

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	48,008	-	-	48,008	11,771
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Net current assets/(liabilities)	7,285	-	-	7,285	12,375
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<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>59,145</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>59,145</b>	<b>54,742</b>
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Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities	-	-	-	-	-

<b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>	<b>59,145</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>59,145</b>	<b>54,742</b>
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Funds of the Charity					
Endowment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds	59,145	-	-	59,145	54,740
Revaluation reserve	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>59,145</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>59,145</b>	<b>54,740</b>

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

## 1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

### 1.1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014
- and with the Charities Act 2011

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.\*

### 1.2 GOING CONCERN

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis.

### 1.3 CHANGE OF ACCOUNTING POLICY

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note {2}.

### 1.4 CHANGES TO ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period (3.46 FRS 102 SORP).

### 1.5 MATERIAL PRIOR YEAR ERRORS

No material prior year error have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS 102 SORP).



# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

## 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### 2.1 RECONCILIATION TO GAAP – Not Applicable

### 2.2 INCOME

This standard list of accounting policies has been applied by the charity except for those ticked "No" or "N/A". Where a different or additional policy has been adopted then this is detailed in the box below.

#### Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Yes No N/A

X		
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#### Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Yes No N/A

X		
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#### Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP).

Yes No N/A

X		
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#### Government grants

The charity has received government grants in the reporting period

Yes No N/A

X		
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#### Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Yes No N/A

X		
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#### Donated goods

Donated goods are measured at fair value (the amount for which the asset could be exchanged) unless impractical to do so.

Yes No N/A

		X
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Goods donated for on-going use by the charity are recognised as tangible fixed assets and included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.

#### Support costs

The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.

Yes No N/A

X		
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#### Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

## 2.3 EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

#### Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Yes No N/A

X		
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#### Deferred income

No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.

Yes No N/A

X		
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## 2.4 ASSETS

#### Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least

They are valued at cost.

£100
------

The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 10.2.

Yes No N/A

X		
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# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

## 3. INCOME ANALYSIS

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Donations and legacies:</b>					
Donations and gifts	21,285	23,544	-	44,828	81,541
Gift Aid	10,321	-	-	10,321	3,240
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
<b>General grants provided by government/ other charities</b>					182,846
- General Activity	47,750			47,750	
- Referrals Bedding		7,500		7,500	
- Referrals Clothing		6,000		6,000	
- Rent / Rates		18,727		18,727	
- Salaries		84,534		84,534	
- Utilities		5,467		5,467	
- Xmas		19,244		19,244	
- Other (including Ukraine)		91,260		91,260	
Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	-	3,481	-	3,481	5,325
Donated goods, facilities and services		-	-	-	-
Fundraising Activities	79,725	-	-	79,725	28,522
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>159,081</b>	<b>259,757</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>418,838</b>	<b>301,474</b>

<b>Charitable activities:</b>					
Recycling	45,406	-	-	45,406	47,466
WUC Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,406</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,406</b>	<b>47,466</b>

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

## 3. INCOME ANALYSIS CONT.

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Other trading activities:</b>					
Craft Item Sales	35,037	-	-	35,037	12,055
Prom Sales	2,328	-	-	2,328	2,556
Courses	7,969	-	-	7,969	1,140
Help Us Grow Project	-	-	-	-	2,730
Other Revenue	13,748	-	-	13,748	1,530
Warm Winter Project	2,100	-	-	2,100	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,182</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>61,182</b>	<b>20,011</b>

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>265,669</b>	<b>259,757</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>525,426</b>	<b>368,951</b>
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### Other information

All income in the prior year was unrestricted except for:

Prior year: 167,047 - Salary 71,958, Rent 39,416, Referral Items 34,900, Xmas Project 7,000, HAF 8,448, NOAH Boxes 5,325



# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

## 4. ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Description		This year £	Last year £
Government grant 1	Wokingham Borough Council Health and Activity Programme	1,000	4,447
Government grant 2	Wokingham Borough Council Winter Hardship Funding	-	25,000
Government grant 3	Bracknell Forest Council Winter Hardship Funding	-	10,000
Government grant 4	Wokingham Borough Council - Ukraine Refugees	31,380	
Government grant 5	Bracknell Forest Council - Ukraine Refugees	7,000	
Government grant 6	Reading Council - Ukraine Refugees	10,000	-
Government grant 7	Reading Council - Cost of living support	10,000	-
Other		-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>59,380</b>	<b>39,447</b>

**Please provide details of any unfulfilled conditions and other contingencies attaching to resources from donated goods and services not recognised in income.**

None

## 5. DONATED GOODS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

**Please give details of other forms of other donated goods and services not recognised in the accounts, eg. contribution of unpaid volunteers.**

Unpaid volunteers contribute to the charity in a wide variety of roles which cannot be quantified.

The charity receives a significant amount of donations of goods which are donated free of charge as part of the core service. Due to the volume and variety of goods received and distributed, it is impractical to assess the value of these goods and therefore they are not included in these accounts.

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

## 6. EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment Funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Expenditure on raising funds:</b>					
Incurring seeking donations	1,033	-	-	1,033	-
Incurring seeking legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Incurring seeking grants	-	-	-	-	-
Staging fundraising events	6,725	-	-	16,725	834
Fundraising agents	-	-	-	-	-
Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity	8,003	-	-	8,003	2,330
Start up costs incurred in generating new source of future income	-	-	-	-	2,356
Other trading activities	-	-	-	-	13
<b>Total expenditure on raising funds</b>	<b>25,761</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,761</b>	<b>5,533</b>

<b>Expenditure on charitable activities:</b>					
Salaries	72,337	84,534	-	156,871	112,779
Rent, Rates, Utilities	90,672	39,194	-	129,866	111,830
Purchases for referrals	8,053	16,053	-	24,106	48,048
Ukrainian Refugees	620	48,380	-	49,000	-
Set Up Costs	242	-	-	242	5,369
General Expenses	3,797	10,000	-	13,797	5,788
Other Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Arts and Craft Supplies	5,517	-	-	5,517	3,257
Children's Craft Project	1,776	5,000	-	6,776	10,436
Christmas Sacks Project	19,961	47,788	-	67,749	21,711
Easter Hamper Project	-	-	-	-	165
Accountancy	5,801	-	-	5,801	3,365
Noah's Box Project	463	3,481	-	3,944	5,553
Building Materials and Maintenance	5,972	-	-	5,972	9,468
Vehicle Costs	3,855	-	-	3,855	2,272
Insurance Costs	6,554	-	-	6,554	3,090
IT Software, Subscriptions and Consumables	3,192	-	-	3,192	2,666
Staff Training	2,220	-	-	2,220	276
Depreciation Expense	-	7,840	-	7,840	5,776
Hygiene Bank	-	184	-	184	195
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>239,055</b>	<b>254,430</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>493,485</b>	<b>352,044</b>

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

## 6. EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS CONT.

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment Funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Separate material item of expense</b>					
Staff Welfare	-	1,775	-	1,775	1,090
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,775</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,775</b>	<b>1,090</b>
<b>Other</b>					
-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>264,816</b>	<b>256,205</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>521,021</b>	<b>358,667</b>



# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

## 7. FEES FOR EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS

	This year £	Last year £
Independent examiner's fees	0	0
Assurance services other than audit or independent examination	0	0
Tax advisory fees	0	0
Other fees (for example: financial advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner	0	0

## 8. PAID EMPLOYEES

### 8.1 Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	170,969	111,201
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	1,902	1,578
Other employee benefits	-	-
<b>Total staff costs</b>	<b>172,871</b>	<b>112,779</b>

Please provide details of expenditure on staff working for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid by a related party

Not applicable

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

True

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

Please provide the total amount paid to key management personnel (includes trustees and senior management) for their services to the charity

39000

8.2. Average head count in the year

	This year number	Last year number
Fundraising	1	1
Charitable Activities	10	6
Governance	1	1
Other	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>

## 9. DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PENSION SCHEME OR DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME ACCOUNTED FOR AS A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Amount of contributions recognised in the SOFA as an expense

1902

Please explain the basis for allocating the liability and expense of defined contribution pension scheme between activities and between restricted and unrestricted funds.

The liability and expense of the defined contribution pension scheme is allocated to expenditure on charitable activities. Unrestricted funds are used except where a restricted fund was received for salary costs for a specific role.



# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

## 10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

### 10.1. Cost or valuation

	Freehold land & buildings £	Other land & buildings	Plant, machinery and motor vehicles £	Computer Equipment £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
At the beginning of the year	-	-	10,202	4,418	33,524	48,143
Additions	-	-	567	887	15,434	16,888
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers *	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>At end of the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,768</b>	<b>5,305</b>	<b>48,958</b>	<b>65,031</b>

### 10.2 Depreciation and Impairments

<b>**Basis</b>	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL 5 Years	SL 3 Years	SL 10 Years	SL or RB
<b>** Rate</b>			5 Years	3 Years	10 Years	

*Straight Line ("SL") or Reducing Balance ("RB")*

At beginning of the year	-	-	2,040	1,473	2,263	5,776
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	2,097	1,619	4,124	7,840
Impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers*	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>At end of the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,137</b>	<b>3,091</b>	<b>6,388</b>	<b>13,616</b>

### 10.3. Net Book Value

Net book value at the beginning of the year	-	-	8,161	2,945	31,260	42,367
Net book value at the end of the year	-	-	6,631	2,213	42,570	51,415

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

## 11. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

11.1. Analysis of debtors	This year £	Last year £
<b>Trade debtors</b>	-	-
<b>Prepayments and accrued income</b>	-	-
<b>Other debtors</b>	1091	352
<b>Total</b>	<b>1091</b>	<b>352</b>

## 12. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

12.1. Analysis of creditors	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accruals for grants payable	-	-	-	-
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	1,861	5,886	-	-
Payments received on account for contracts or performance-related grants	-	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	38,114	2,593	-	-
Taxation and social security	3,504	2,155	-	-
Other creditors	4,528	1,136	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,008</b>	<b>11,770</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## 13. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	This year £	Last year £
<b>Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)</b>	-	-
<b>Short term deposits</b>	-	-
<b>Cash at bank and on hand</b>	54,647	23,794
<b>Other</b>	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,647</b>	<b>23,794</b>

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

## 14. CHARITY FUNDS

14.1. Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

**Key:** R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds

Fund names	Type PE, EER or UR*	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Fund balances carried forward £
National Lottery Community Fund	R	Referrals Costs		49,730	-49,730	-
Ashley Family Foundation	R	Craft Coordinator		10,000	-10,000	-
BCF	R	Salary		10,000	-10,000	-
Wokingham Town Council	R	Salary		3,000	-3,000	-
52 Lives	R	Refugee Day		750	-750	-
Trinity Homeless Projects	R	Refugees		5,000	-5,000	-
St James Place	R			2,500	-2,500	-
WBC	R	Clothing for Ukraine		15,880	-15,880	-
Greenham Trust	R	Ukraine Packs		17,828	-17,828	-
Bracknell Forest	R	Ukraine Packs		7,000	-7,000	-
Reading	R	Ukraine Refugees		10,000	-10,000	-
Wokingham	R	HAF		1,000	-1,000	-
Reading	R	Rent and Rates		10,000	-10,000	-
Wokingham	R	Ukraine Families		15,500	-15,500	-
National Lottery	R	Eurovision Event		9,000	-9,000	-
52 Lives	R	Eurovision Event		1,000	-1,000	-
Winnersh PC	R	Clothing		500	-500	-
WUC	R	Bedding		5,000	-5,000	-
Greenham Trust	R	Bedding		2,500	-2,500	-
7 Stars Foundation	R	Clothing		1,000	-1,000	-
WUC	R	Clothing		5,000	-5,000	-
National Lottery Community Fund	R	Utilities		17,050	-17,050	-
Berkshire Community Foundation	R	Salary		10,000	-10,000	-
Berkshire Community Foundation	R	Utilities		2,500	-2,500	-
NFU	R	Xmas		2,244	-2,244	-
Prince Phillip Trust	R	Xmas		2,000	-2,000	-
WUC	R	Xmas		2,000	-2,000	-
Wokingham	R	Xmas		10,000	-10,000	-
Skipton Building Society	R	Xmas		3,000	-3,000	-
<b>Other funds</b>	<b>UR</b>	<b>All other income and expenditure</b>	<b>54,740</b>	<b>294,444</b>	<b>-290,039</b>	<b>59,145</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>54,740</b>	<b>525,426</b>	<b>-521,021</b>	<b>59,145</b>

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

## 15. CHARITY FUNDS PREVIOUS YEAR

15.1. Details of material funds held and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

**Key:** PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendable endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds

Fund names	Type PE, EER or UR*	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Fund balances carried forward £
Earley Trust	R	Referral Consumables		3,000	-3,000	-
Garfield Weston	R	Salary		18,333	-18,333	-
Wokingham Town Council	R	Salary	-	3,000	-3,000	-
Arnold Clark	R	Referral Consumables	-	1,000	-1,000	-
Hedley Charitable Trust	R	Referral Consumables	-	2,000	-2,000	-
National Lottery	R	Referral Consumables	-	10,000	-10,000	-
Wokingham Masonic Lodge	R	Fixtures and Fittings	-	900	-900	-
BCF	R	Referral Consumables	-	5,000	-5,000	-
BCF	R	Salary	-	5,000	-5,000	-
PF Charitable Trust	R	Referral Consumables	-	2,000	-2,000	-
Hilden Charitable Trust	R	Referral Consumables	-	5,000	-5,000	-
Didymus	R	Referral Consumables	-	5,000	-5,000	-
Terracycle	R	Referral Consumables	-	400	-400	-
FSP Foundation	R	Referral Consumables	-	2,500	-2,500	-
Toy Trust	R	Christmas Present Project	-	2,000	-2,000	-
Wokingham United Charity	R	Health, Activity and Food (HAF) Project	-	4,000	-4,000	-
Wokingham Borough Council	R	Health, Activity and Food (HAF) Project	-	2,447	-2,447	-
Shanly Foundation	R	Arts and Crafts Eqpt	-	2,500	-2,500	-
52 Lives	R	School Uniform	-	500	-500	-
The Englefield Trust	R	Salary	-	3,000	-3,000	-
Tesco	R	Referrals Consumables	-	1,500	-1,500	-
Grocers	R	Salary	-	5,000	-5,000	-
City and Metropolitan	R	Salary	-	3,000	-3,000	-
Wokingham United Charities	R	Christmas Present Project	-	5,000	-5,000	-
Cash for Kids	R	Christmas Present Project	-	3,000	-3,000	-
Wokingham Borough Council	R	Health, Activity and Food (HAF) Project	-	2,000	-2,000	-
Brighter Futures	R	Household Support Grant	-	1,000	-1,000	-
Warburtons	R	Referral Consumables	-	400	-400	-
Reading Family Church	R	Winter Coats	-	2,000	-2,000	-
National Lottery	R	Referral Team Costs	-	42,625	-42,625	-
Public Donation	R	Noah Boxes	-	5,325	-5,325	-
Restricted Donations	R	Rent	-	39,416	-39,416	-
<b>Other funds</b>	<b>UR</b>	<b>All other income and expenditure</b>	<b>44,457</b>	<b>181,105</b>	<b>-170,822</b>	<b>54,740</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>44,457</b>	<b>368,951</b>	<b>-358,668</b>	<b>54,740</b>

# Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

## 16. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES AND RELATED PARTIES

16.1 Trustee remuneration and benefits

**None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity (True or False)**

True

16.2 Trustees' expenses

**No trustee expenses have been incurred (True or False)**

True

16.3 Transaction(s) with related parties

**There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period (True or False)**

True

## Structure Governance and Management

The Cowshed is a Charitable Incorporated organisation and as such is governed in line with the Foundation Constitution. All trustees are voluntary and are appointed via a selection process and approval by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the constitution.

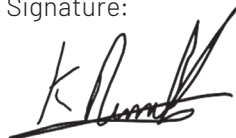
### DECLARATIONS

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Date: 10th December 2023

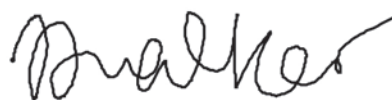
Signature:



Name: Kester John Russell

Position: Chair of Trustees

Signature:



Name: Abbie Walker

Position: Finance Trustee





# THE COWSHED

Rubra2, Mulberry Business Park, Fishponds Road, Wokingham, RG41 2GY | Tel: 0118 934 5120

Email: [info@thecowshed.org](mailto:info@thecowshed.org) | [www.thecowshed.org](http://www.thecowshed.org)

Visit our website and social media for more info on our other initiatives [@CowshedCharity](#)

Registered Charity No. 1181550

**THE COWSHED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181550

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# Accounts

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**THE COWSHED**

# Annual Report and Accounts

For the period 2021 - 2022





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# Organisation Details

## STAFF

Sally Russell	Founder/CEO
Vicky Newman	P/T Donation Centre Supervisor
Ruth Warms	P/T Donation Centre Supervisor
Liz Meadows	Donation Centre/ Hygiene Bank Co-ordinator
Becky Russell	Referrals Manager
Chloe Newman	Referrals Co-ordinator
Nikki Pond	Referrals Co-ordinator
Rebecca Mole	P/T Fundraising Manager

## TRUSTEES

Kester Russell	Co-Founder /Chair
Abbie Walker	Treasurer
Susie Templeton	
Suzanne Miles	
Sharon Ketley	Secretary

## CHARITY MENTORS

Chris Barrett  
Steve Hedley

# Duties of the Trustees

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by The Charities Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Address- Hurst Grove, Sandford Lane, Hurst, Berkshire, RG10 0SQ.

The Cowshed is a registered charity (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) In England and Wales (1181550) with the following objectives;

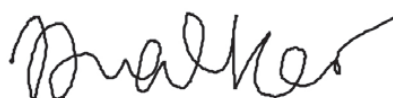
*The relief of poverty of persons in need in particular but not exclusively by providing such persons with good quality free clothing.*

The above object is carried out in accordance with a Christian ethos.

The Annual Accounts were signed on behalf of all the trustees on 16th November 2022.



Kester Russell



Abbie Walker



# Who we are and what we do

The Cowshed charity was started in September 2018 and officially launched in February 2019 to give practical support to people of all backgrounds in a time of personal crisis. The aim of The Cowshed is to lovingly provide excellent quality cleaned and ironed clothes, underwear, bedding, curtains, toiletries, and other essential items free to anyone in need. The clothes are donated from the public as well as retailers and manufacturers. They are then sorted, washed, and ironed at our donation centre in Reading sent to our Referral centres in Reading and at our HQ in Hurst ready to be delivered by our drivers or collected by social services, other health professionals or our clients. The idea is that our clients feel they are receiving a gift to assist them in a time of crisis rather than some old clothes that are over worn, marked or damaged.

People in need are referred to us through social services, churches, schools, charities, doctors, and other health professionals. We then provide the items that are requested free of charge. The clients can also come to our warehouses to select and try on items should they wish. The Cowshed is staffed mostly by volunteers. In November 2019 we employed our first part time member of staff at our Head Office to manage our growing number of referral requests, since then we have rapidly expanded and now employ 8 staff (5 FTE).

There is currently no other national charity providing this service in the UK. We have established our first two centres in Reading and Wokingham which cover all Berkshire and hope to expand further as soon as the funds are available.

The Cowshed has a threefold impact: recycling used clothing, helping those most in need in our communities, whilst creating community craft groups to support the main charity.

All the clothes that are donated to us are re purposed, the excellent quality clothes are washed and ironed ready for our clients, the slightly damaged clothing /bedding is repurposed by our arts and crafts group to make items for us to sell and tote bags for us to put our referrals in. Bras are sent to Against Breast Cancer and the plastic bags we receive donations in are given to the food banks locally or recycled. Anything left after this is sold to a recycling organisation to raise further funds to help sustain the charity.

We are extremely excited about having established a movement which directly impacts those most in need in the local community in a positive, loving, non-judgmental way, as well as helping the environment by reusing clothes and other items which would otherwise have ended up in landfill sites.



# Trustee's Report

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by The Charities Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

The purpose of the charity, as set out in its governing document, is the relief of poverty of persons in need. In particular, but not exclusively by providing such persons with good quality free clothing.

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects are the provision of standard referrals of a week's worth of clothing, toiletry packs and other essential items such as bedding and curtains when requested.

2021/2022 was another very challenging year for the charity sector, with the first quarter still governed by the COVID pandemic and the end dominated by the war in Ukraine and the associated cost of living impacts.

The prime strategic focus for the trustees is funding and ensuring the ongoing sustainability of the charity as it continues to expand.

The charity has grown rapidly throughout the year with final revenues and expenditure up by over thirty percent. As a result of this continued expansion it has been difficult to maintain a reserve of three to six months operational costs and this remains a key objective for 2022/2023.

In order to support the continued increase in demand, the level of staff has been increased from 5 to 8 and this will need to be increased further in the coming months.

In September 21 we gave notice on the premises of our donation centre in Winnersh and moved to a new location in Reading with approximately three times the space available. The additional space has also allowed us to open a second referral centre and a second craft centre to meet our growing demand.

In the summer of 2021, following the decision to remove troops from Afghanistan we saw an influx of evacuees from Kabul being housed in local hotels that were in need of support. The large influx was a challenge for the charity especially as the majority of evacuees requiring support were young males, so required similar items

It was very rewarding to see the huge efforts put in by both staff and volunteers to ensure we could deliver them our service and make them feel welcome.

The charity continues to receive significant support from our wonderful team of volunteers who perform vital tasks such as assisting with sorting donations, selecting items for referrals, delivering referrals, making our tote bags and much more. We are constantly amazed by their diligence and commitment and we could not achieve our aims without them.

We are also extremely thankful to all of our financial supporters from the smallest donors and fundraisers through to the larger trusts and foundations. We have been very lucky this year receiving support from many organisations, too many to list here, but including The National Lottery, Garfield Weston Foundation, Wokingham United Charities and many of the Unitary Authorities. I would especially like to thank The Horseman Trust who provided our original funding which allowed us to get established, and they have been regular supporters ever since.

Looking forward, there continue to be significant challenges ahead as we start to see further increases in demand from Ukrainian refugees and the cost of living crisis however the Trustees are confident that the charity will weather these challenges and continue to grow.

Well done and thank you to all involved.

*Kester Russell - Chair of Trustees*



# Chief Executive's Message

2021/ 2022 continued to be an incredibly challenging year. After seeing a huge rise in demand during the Coronavirus Pandemic and then our Christmas project which doubled from 2020 we were hoping to restore a little stability and forward planning in the charity only to be faced with the war in Ukraine and the increased demand this presented. We are really proud of the huge commitment and hard work shown by all the staff and volunteers as we continued to rise to the challenge in front of us. We made the decision that we would support the refugees arriving in the country and this quickly escalated as more families were housed in the local area needing many essentials as they literally arrived with the clothes on their backs.

When we started the charity in 2018 we had no idea just how much The Cowshed would be needed in the coming years and the amount of support we would be able to provide through the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the looming cost of living crisis which the country now faces. Since we launched, we have supported over 15,000 people in Berkshire and this numbers continues to rise at an alarming rate. Whilst it would be better that the support we offer was not needed there has always been poverty and as long as there is The Cowshed will hopefully be around to help anyone who needs us.

We have continued to build valuable relationships within the community and now work with over 930 people across 220 organisations who refer into The Cowshed for support. We love seeing the charity grow and through dedication and hard work of so many we can show love and support to those most vulnerable in our community.

We are proud that The Cowshed not only changes the lives of the people we support but also the people that support us...

*"I started volunteering at The Cowshed after a long period away from paid employment due to illness. I was immediately impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of all who worked and volunteered at the charity, and, on a personal level, the way I was so warmly accepted and welcomed to 'the gang'. The sheer hard graft shown by every single person helping out was such a refreshing environment to be in, and the camaraderie and sheer joy of being part of a charity*

*whose support and need was growing in front of our eyes was awe inspiring. My colleagues at The Cowshed took me from a very difficult period in my life back to believing in myself, the support and friendship was amazing, and I never want to lose my link with the charity, whether it be through helping out, donating or just coming in to say hi and make tea for those working so hard for the benefit of others. As much as I helped the charity by volunteering, they helped me to move on with my life, and I will always be grateful for that."* - **A Volunteer**

**Sally Russell - Founder & Chief Executive**



# Service Report

## REFERRALS

Between April 2021 and March 2022 we supported 6397 individuals across Berkshire. We now receive referrals from over 220 organisations including all 6 unitary authorities, homeless organisations, domestic violence services, probation, mental health services, schools and many others.

Of these referrals over 3,000 were what we would term a “standard” referral. This package is where we aim to provide a week’s worth of clothing to last an individual a minimum of 6 months, a set of new toiletries, new socks and new underwear, as well as toys and books for children. A cost analysis of the items given shows that the average referral value is £347 per individual. This relates to the cost to the individual of buying the items provided at the cheapest possible market value. Each of our referrals is lovingly packed into bags handmade by our craft group from recycled fabric.

We also provided many other essential items to individuals and families in crisis. We provided 684 individuals with bedding including new duvets and pillows, 345 with school uniform, and 403 with baby equipment such as cots, Moses baskets and prams. Through Hillsong Church Reading we were also able to provide 3,200 food parcels as an additional support through the Covid pandemic.

In 2021/2022 we supported between 75 and 100 individuals each week of which 66% were under 18.

## NEW REFERRALS CENTRE

In February 2022 we opened the doors to our second referrals centre in Reading. Due to the massive increase in demand for our service, we needed more capacity in order to fulfil all the requests we were receiving. Our new space in Bennet Court now processes referrals for Reading and West Berkshire whilst our original centre in Hurst caters for Wokingham, Bracknell and East Berkshire.



# Service Report

## PROM

Attending Prom or the Leavers Ball is an important and exciting event for 16 to 18-year olds. Outfits are often very expensive resulting in some students either not attending or their families potentially getting into debt. We provide a free Prom outfit lending service to any school age children whose families/carers are unable to purchase one for them. We also rent outfits for a flat rate of £50/£25 for those who may want to save on purchasing a dress/suit. This year we helped 77 people find their perfect prom outfit, including referrals for 15 individuals who could not have afforded to go otherwise.



## DONATION CENTRE

What a busy year it's been for our donation centre.

In November 2021, the Donation Centre moved from our premises at King Street Lane, Winnersh to Bennet Court in Reading. With help from many staff and volunteers, we put up walls, put in plumbing and a kitchen, decorated, and set up an even bigger centre, only closing for donations for one week whilst we moved.

The amount of donations received has continued to increase in line with the demand for our services. During the year we sorted through over 152 tonnes of donations; keeping the clothing, bed linen etc which is in excellent condition to launder and give out to our clients, recycling what we can to make into bags, by the Craft Group, or moving it on to bring



# Service Report

in much needed revenue to help pay for the products we have to buy such as duvets, toiletries and underwear.

We are continuing our recycling commitment and support for other local charities including Against Breast Cancer, by being a collecting point for pre-loved bras. Jac in a Box Wokingham by passing on any household goods we receive and cannot use; Emmbrook School free library with children's books.

We have over 70 wonderful volunteers at the donation centre who are committed to helping the Cowshed and give up their time to come in every week to sort donations and launder clothes to be given out to our clients. This includes students and teachers from Addington School; Youth Justice League and Duke of Edinburgh award scheme students.

We also have fantastic support from an increasing number of local businesses whose employees are coming in to help with all the practical jobs. Some of these companies have committed to come one day every month or choose consecutive weeks for their teams to work with us.

## ARTS AND CRAFTS GROUP

Craft at the cowshed has continued to grow from strength to strength. This wonderful group of volunteers have managed to keep both Hurst and Reading supplied with referral bags, toiletry bags and toy bags as well as making over 2000 Santa sacks for our 2021 Christmas appeal.

The group has also created many beautiful crafts to sell both online and at various craft fairs throughout the year including lots of beautiful jubilee themed items which sold out as quickly as they could be made raising over £4000 for the charity! The craft group also supports sewing workshops in partnership with Activate Learning for adults to learn new skills at a reduced rate and we have also run very popular sewing and craft courses for children during school holidays.

The craft group has now grown to over 65 volunteers who come to meet new friends, learn new skills, and support The Cowshed. As one volunteer said recently "When I first came here I felt I had died and gone to heaven! What could be better than sewing, chatting, making new friends and at the same time doing good".



# Service Report

## BRAS AT THE COWSHED

Having a well-fitting bra is extremely important. Sadly most women in this country do not get measured and this is especially the case for our clients who are often unable to afford to buy new clothing. Thanks once again to Wacoal Europe for providing us with wonderful new bras and underwear. We continue to offer a free bra fitting service for cup sizes A- HH where our referred clients will be able to come to our showroom in Reading and be treated to a fitting and two free beautiful bras from Fantasie or Freya and other brands ( subject to stock availability) Fitting really is key to a woman finding the perfect bra and will transform the way she looks and feels giving her the right support and foundation to her outfit. Bras are an expensive item for our clients and this service will be a fantastic addition to the service we already offer to families in need locally.

We have supported over 500 women this year with bras, many of whom have never been fitted and were overjoyed with the difference this small service brought.

## LITTLE BLACK DRESS SALE

Word has been spreading about our occasion wear outlet at Bennet Court which is open to the public on a daily basis, and since Covid restrictions ended we have seen an upturn in sales as events like weddings, festivals and special parties are now happening again.



# Projects Report

## CHRISTMAS PROJECT

In December 2021 we provided Christmas gifts for 2,420 individuals who would not otherwise have received any presents. This is a massive increase of 100% on 2020 and works out at 12,000 presents provided. Referrers had the opportunity to specify a child's interests and we tried our best to take this into consideration when selecting gifts. Each sack contained 4 gifts, a book, a selection pack and stocking filler and each of the presents were lovingly wrapped by our team of "Elves at The Cowshed" and put into fabric sacks made by our wonderful craft group. The sacks were then either delivered or collected in time to bring joy on Christmas day!

Following this project we sent out a survey to all our referrers which revealed...

- 78% Preferred wrapped presents
- 96% were very happy with the service we provided



## AFGHAN EVACUEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

In August 2021 Kabul was captured by Taliban forces leading to the mass evacuation of vulnerable Afghans. We were contacted by multiple organisations to be part of the collaborative response to support these evacuees. Throughout August to December, working alongside Wokingham Borough Council, Care4Calais and West

Berkshire Health Visiting we supported over 150 Afghans with clothing and other essential items.

In 2021-22 we also supported 437 asylum seekers who have no recourse to public benefit.



# Projects Report

## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME



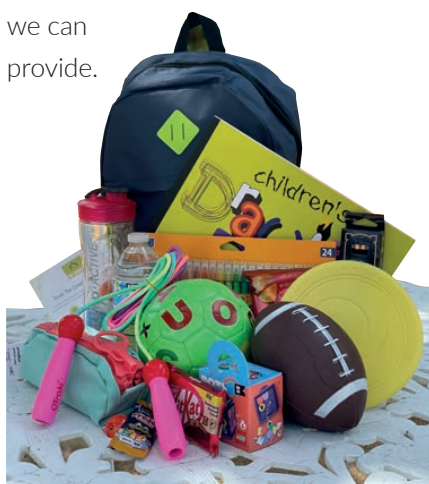
We are delighted to partner with Wokingham Borough Council as part of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme. This programme provides support to children in receipt of free school meals through holiday periods. Research has shown that the school holidays can be pressure points for some families.

For some children this can lead to a holiday experience gap, with children from low-income households being:

- less likely to access organised out-of-school activities
- more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health
- more likely to experience social isolation

As part of the response to address this experience gap, throughout the summer we ran craft activities

at 6 different events across the Wokingham Borough and also provided take home rucksacks and outdoor/craft activities to 450 free-school meal children to provide things to make and do during the summer holidays. It was also a great opportunity to reach out to local families with information about the support we can provide.



## NOAH BOXES

We are being asked more and more for household items such as cutlery, towels, crockery, pans, kitchen utensils etc for people moving into sheltered / emergency accommodation who for whatever reason have found themselves with very few possessions and do not have the resources to purchase these themselves. We are partnered with a fantastic new company in London called Noah who offer starter packs. These packs each contain items which provide a great start for people who are often in extremely difficult and traumatic situations. The boxes can be adjusted to meet the persons/ family's requirements and are delivered straight to their homes.

## WELCOME TO THE WORLD

In 2021 we were approached by the care leaving team at Brighter Futures for Children. They often found that the care leavers under their team had very limited support when pregnant and expecting their first child. Care leavers can be very much on their own, with little family support and no-one to turn to other than the leaving care team. Growing up in care can be hard, as you miss out on many things, so when a care leaver becomes pregnant, it can be a very daunting time. The gift of a 'Welcome to the World Hamper' with beautiful and essential items which every new mum or dad should have, will be a way of making them feel valued, and help prepare for and celebrate the birth of their child. Each hamper contains brand new items needed for a baby including bottles, steriliser, babygrows, changing bag and mat, toiletries, nappies, baby bath among many other items.



# Projects Report

## HELP US GROW OUR CHARITY

As we continue to expand at a rapid rate, we wanted to launch an initiative which would enable us to grow our charity so we can open centres in other counties. Raising funds in 2020 was a challenge with no events taking place and opportunities to reach the public were limited, so we brainstormed and came up with the idea to make gifts in our craft group that we could put in boxes and send through the post. This has been a huge success and we are building on the initial ideas and adding new boxes all the time. We now have an online shop and have been booking craft stalls for the summer to sell all the wonderful items our superb craft group volunteers have been making from recycled fabrics.



## HYGIENE BANK

Many people locked in poverty or those who find themselves in times of crisis often experience restricted options. This leaves them caught between being able to heat their home, pay their rent, buy food or keep clean. Hygiene poverty can be shaming, humiliating and excluding.

In early February 2022 we set up the Reading branch of The Hygiene Bank supporting local charities Care4Calais Reading, The Cowshed and Wokingham Foodbank.

The Hygiene Bank runs on donations from both public donation points and brand donations.

We have also successfully trialled “donation bin loans” whereby an organisation such as an office or church will host a donation bin for a drive.

We are excited about the potential of this project and with more donation points coming soon, we aim to help more people locally in need via our community partners with much needed toiletries, period products and household cleaning supplies that they may otherwise have to go without.



# Feedback

Today one of my officers was brought to tears with a delivery of items from The Cowshed this is to enable one of our service users to attend a funeral on Friday. Ensuring people have good family ties and maintain support networks is a crucial part of reducing reoffending and this is going to be really important to this person although for a sad reason, as he will reconnect with others that are important to him. Just wanted to say a huge 'thank you' from all of us at Probation, as so many of our officers have positive stories to tell about The Cowshed and we're really grateful for all the support we are given from you and your team.

**Senior Probation Officer**

Can I just say thank you so much for your support this year. The referrals I have made to you have all been blown away by your generosity and the items they have received. All of my referrals have been for families who are really struggling and they have all wanted me to pass on their thanks. My little 14 year old is now walking to school on his own for the first time now that he has a warm coat. This has made such a difference to his mum as she has a severely disabled daughter and now does not have to get care for her whilst she takes her son to school. The work you do is amazing so thank you!!!

I am emailing to say the biggest and most heartfelt thank you for the stockings you provided for my children this Christmas. I was absolutely blown away by the generosity shown towards my family, the children had a wonderful Christmas that I just could not have provided for them this year. The father of my children has various issues which has meant he has been unable to contribute physically, emotionally or financially towards our children for a few years now. I had never anticipated that I would find myself a single parent to young children, we have been staying with family for a couple of years whilst I finish my studies and get back onto my feet, money has been extremely tight. Christmas is a stressful time for so many families who worry about disappointing and upsetting their children like I have done in recent years. I was honestly so moved by the lengths The Cowshed have clearly been to, to help families like mine. Thank you for everything you have done."

Thank you very much for delivering much wanted items for our Service User. She appreciated it very much. From me please tell all of your Team, to be proud of the work they do because the support you provide for vulnerable people goes a long way in taking away their anxiety of worrying about how they will purchase items they really need but cannot afford. This gives them time and increases their capacity to begin dealing or focusing on the barriers or issues they have.

**Modern day slavery and victim care adviser**



# Feedback

*We are a family of five and asylum seekers. We didn't have enough clothes, shoes, jackets, toiletries, and necessary things when we became homeless. During that hard time, we were recommended to contact "The Cowshed" charity organisations by our health visitor. Once we contacted them, they provided with all the necessary items such as suitable clothes age by age, shoes, jackets, laundry items and toys in a professional manner. It was really helpful during that stressful and helpless situation.*

*Also, when I was pregnant, I was in need of maternity clothes and was provided with lots of it which was really useful during that time.*

*Also, after we were blessed with a baby girl, The Cowshed helped us a lot with baby items such as baby clothes, crib, bedding set, Moses basket, highchair, feeding bottles, nappies, wipes, bath tub and toiletries etc. All of the baby items were arrived just in time before our girl was born.*

*It was quite a lot of stuffs we couldn't even imagine. We were very much grateful to get all the stuffs at once on time. Our baby girl was so lucky to have all ready before her arrival. We received helps from The Cowshed for several times more than 6 months period. Also, they even sent us baby clothes up to 9 months to our new-born baby.*

*We are so grateful to The Cowshed charity organisation for helping us when we were in need. My children were so happy when they received clothes, shoes, and their favourite toys. Most of the items were brand new. We as a family still don't know how to thank The Cowshed for being so kind and helpful during our stressful time. We like to wish The Cowshed good luck with their work and May God bless their charity work more and more. We once again we say a big THANK YOU! for helping us!"*

**Client**

*As a foster parent, our social worker kindly referred my young person to The Cowshed to take a look at Prom Dresses! And what an afternoon we had- Nikki looked after us, we looked through hundreds of the most beautiful dresses and chose around 20 for my foster child to try on. She fell in love with 4 and whittled it down to her favourite! This is on a hire basis and we are extremely grateful! Not only was the most beautiful dress loaned to her but she was given a stunning pair of shoes and a bag to keep! Then.... She was allowed to raid the make up boxes! Brand new makeup, lashes, eyebrow kits.. every 16 year olds dream! We are completely overwhelmed with what this charity provides, we feel so fortunate to have been able to come - and Nikki is completely awesome! Thank you again Cowshed!"*

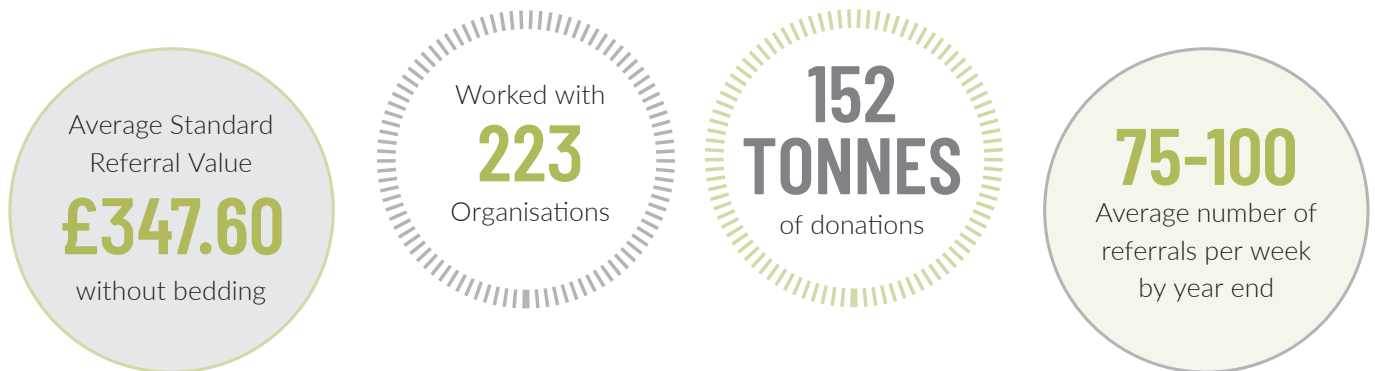
*I just wanted to say a huge thank you for all your help with past, current and I'm sure future clients, at Two Saints we strive to support some of the most vulnerable people in our communities and it's been made a lot easier with your support. I was personally blown away by The Cowshed's generosity at Christmas with the gifts, I came into the donation centre a number of times over that period and was in awe of the organisation and what you offer the local communities, and despite presents piled high and volunteers working hard to get them wrapped you still found the time to pick amazing, personalised gifts for my clients. I really can't express enough what those presents meant for my clients, the first gifts they would have received in years and for them to be so thoughtful was just wonderful. The feedback I had from my clients was that of joy, feeling special and cared for."*

**Housing First Community Support Worker**

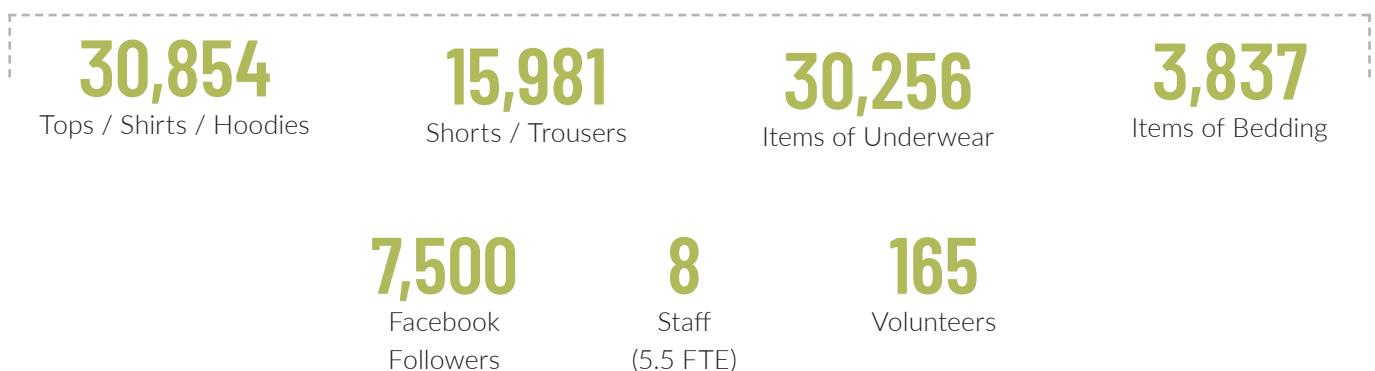
# Achievements and Performance

	Referrals	Individuals Helped	Previous Year	Financial Benefit Provided
Standard Requests	2,521	3,156	2,532	£1,097,021.00
HAF Craft Packs	N/A	450	0	£13,500
Christmas Present Sacks	925	1752	1,040	£105,120
Vulnerable Adult Christmas Gifts	275	497	216	£9,940
Christmas Hampers	90	171	338	£5,130
Prom	95	95		£16,800
Refugee and Evacuee Support	N/A	150	0	£52,140
Welcome to the World	8	8	0	£2,800
Noah Boxes	84	118	10	£10,030
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,998</b>	<b>6,397</b>	<b>4,136</b>	<b>£1,312,481</b>

The Easter Hamper project was a COVID specific project providing support to families during lockdowns and was not repeated in this financial year.



Gave **128,636** Items in Standard Referrals including



# Thank You

The Cowshed would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those individuals, families, businesses and grant making bodies that have supported us

this year. Without the support they provide we would be unable to deliver the service we do.

We would also like to say a special thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who

week after week support us sorting, washing and ironing donations as well as supporting our referral teams, driving our delivery vans and producing referral bags and many other items in our craft groups.



# Financial Review – Independent Examiner’s Report

I report on the accounts of The Cowshed for the period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021, which are set out on pages 20 to 34.

## RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity’s trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity’s trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

## BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’ S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a ‘true and fair view’ and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’ S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met;

or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed:



Name: Christopher Fairweather

Date: 16th November 2022

Relevant professional qualification or body:

ICAEW (Member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales)

Address: 10 Swallows Croft, Reading RG1 6EH

# Accounts – Statement of Financial Activity

Categories by Activity	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
<b>Incoming resources (Note 3)</b>		F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	S01	113,628	187,846	-	301,474	214,962
Charitable activities	S02	47,466	-	-	47,466	65,968
Other trading activities	S03	20,011	-	-	20,011	2,901
Investments	S04	-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of income	S05	-	-	-	-	-
Other	S06	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>S07</b>	<b>181,105</b>	<b>187,846</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>368,951</b>	<b>283,831</b>

<b>Resources expended (Note 6)</b>						
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	S08	5,533	-	-	5,533	3,162
Charitable activities	S09	165,199	186,846	-	352,045	233,478
Separate material item of expense	S10	1,090	-	-	1,090	-
Other	S11	-	-	-	-	33,515
<b>Total</b>	<b>S12</b>	<b>191,621</b>	<b>167,047</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>358,668</b>	<b>270,155</b>

<b>Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)</b>	S13	9283	1000	-	10,283	13,676
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S14	-	1000	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	S15	9283	-	-	10,283	13,676
<b>Extraordinary items</b>	S16	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	S17	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>						
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	S20	9283	1000	-	10,283	13,676
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward	S21	38,140	-	-	38,140	24,464
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>S22</b>	<b>47,423</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>48,423</b>	<b>38,140</b>

# Accounts – Balance Sheet

Categories by Activity	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
<b>Fixed assets</b>	B01	-	-	-	-	-
Intangible assets (Note 15)	B02	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets (Note 14)	B03	42,367	-	-	42,367	32,527
Heritage assets (Note 16)	B04	-	-	-	-	-
Investments (Note 17)	B05	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>42,367</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,367</b>	<b>32,527</b>

Current assets						
Stocks (Note 18)	B06	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	B07	352	-	-	352	28,230
Investments	B08	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	B09	23,794	-	-	23,794	44,404
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>B10</b>	<b>24,146</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,146</b>	<b>72,634</b>

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 20)	B11	11,771	-	-	11,771	60,704
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Net current assets/(liabilities)	B12	12,375	-	-	12,375	11,930
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<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>B13</b>	<b>54,784</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>54,784</b>	<b>44,457</b>
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Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 20)	B14	-	-	-	-	-
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Provisions for liabilities	B15	-	-	-	-	-
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<b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>		<b>54,742</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>54,742</b>	<b>44,457</b>
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Funds of the Charity						
Endowment funds (Note 27)	B17	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds (Note 27)	B18	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds	B19	54,740	-	-	54,740	44,457
Revaluation reserve	B20	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>B21</b>	<b>54,740</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>54,740</b>	<b>44,457</b>

# Notes to the Financial Accounts

## 1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

### 1.1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014
- and with the Charities Act 2011

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.\*

### 1.2 GOING CONCERN

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis.

### 1.3 CHANGE OF ACCOUNTING POLICY

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note {2}.

### 1.4 CHANGES TO ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period (3.46 FRS 102 SORP).

### 1.5 MATERIAL PRIOR YEAR ERRORS

No material prior year error have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS 102 SORP).



# Notes to the Financial Accounts

## 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### 2.1 RECONCILIATION TO GAAP – Not Applicable

### 2.2 INCOME

#### Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Yes No N/A

X		
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#### Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Yes No N/A

X		
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#### Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP).

Yes No N/A

X		
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#### Government grants

The charity has received government grants in the reporting period

Yes No N/A

X		
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#### Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Yes No N/A

X		
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#### Donated goods

Donated goods are measured at fair value (the amount for which the asset could be exchanged) unless impractical to do so.

Yes No N/A

		X
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Goods donated for on-going use by the charity are recognised as tangible fixed assets and included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.

#### Support costs

The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.

Yes No N/A

X		
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#### Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

## 2.3 EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

#### Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Yes No N/A

X		
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#### Deferred income

No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.

Yes No N/A

X		
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## 2.4 ASSETS

#### Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least

£42,367

They are valued at cost.

Yes No N/A

The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 10.

X		
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# Notes to the Financial Accounts

## 3. INCOME ANALYSIS

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Donations and legacies:</b>					
Donations and gifts	39,625	41,916	-	81,541	36,629
Gift Aid	3,240	-	-	3,240	2,460
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
General grants provided by government/ other charities	42,241	140,605	-	182,846	169,273
Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	-	5,325	-	5,325	600
Donated goods, facilities and services	-	-	-	-	6,000
Fundraising Activities	28,522	-	-	28,522	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,628</b>	<b>187,846</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>301,474</b>	<b>214,962</b>

<b>Charitable activities:</b>					
Recycling	47,466	-	-	47,466	32,453
WUC Funding	-	-	-	-	33,515
	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,466</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>47,466</b>	<b>65,968</b>

<b>Other trading activities:</b>					
Shop sales of donated items	12,055	-	-	12,055	2,901
Prom Sales	2,556	-	-	2,556	-
Courses	1,140	-	-	1,140	-
Help Us Grow Project	2,730	-	-	2,730	-
Other Revenue	1,530	-	-	1,530	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,011</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,011</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>Income from investments:</b>					
Interest income	-	-	-	-	-
Dividend income	-	-	-	-	-
Rental and leasing income	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

# Notes to the Financial Accounts

## 3. INCOME ANALYSIS

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Separate material item of income:</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-

<b>Other:</b>					
Conversion of endowment funds into income	-	-	-	-	-
Gain on disposal of a tangible fixed asset held for charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Gain on disposal of a programme related investment	-	-	-	-	-
Royalties from the exploitation of intellectual property rights	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>181,105</b>	<b>187,846</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>368,951</b>	<b>283,831</b>
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### Other information

368,951.53

All income in the prior year was unrestricted except for:  
(please provide description and amounts)

£187,846 - Salary £79,958, Rent £39,416, Referrals £41,300, Fixtures £900, Arts and Crafts £2,500, Children's Craft £8,447, Christmas Sacks £10,000, Noah's Box £5,325



# Notes to the Financial Accounts

## 4. ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Description	This year £	Last year £
Government grant 1 - Police and Crime Commissioner COVID Grant	-	30,124
Government grant 2 - Local Authority NNDR Business Grant	-	15,000
Government grant 3 - Wokingham Borough Council Health and Activity Programme	8,447	-
Government grant 4 - Wokingham Borough Council Winter Hardship Funding	25,000	-
Government grant 5 - Bracknell Forest Council Winter Hardship Funding	10,000	-
Other	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,447</b>	<b>45,124</b>

## 5. DONATED GOODS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Description	This year £	Last year £
Seconded staff	-	-
Use of property	-	-
Other - Delivery Van	-	6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,000</b>

**Please provide details of the accounting policy for the recognition and valuation of donated goods, facilities and services.**

The Delivery van was recognised on the SOFP as a tangible asset and is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 5 years. The fair value of the donation has been estimated using the price of a similar make, model and age van.

Donated goods for resale are recognised at the point of sale as it is impractical for the charity to recognise them on receipt due to the volume and variety of the goods donated. Income relating to these items is recognised in Other trading activities in the SOFA.

**Please provide details of any unfulfilled conditions and other contingencies attaching to resources from donated goods and services not recognised in income.**

Not applicable

**Please give details of other forms of other donated goods and services not recognised in the accounts, eg. contribution of unpaid volunteers.**

Unpaid volunteers contribute to the charity in a wide variety of roles which cannot be quantified.

The charity receives a significant amount of donations of goods which are donated free of charge as part of the core service. Due to the volume and variety of goods received and distributed, it is impractical to assess the value of these goods and therefore they are not included in these accounts.

# Notes to the Financial Accounts

## 6. EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Expenditure on raising funds:</b>				
Incurring seeking donations	-	-	-	-
Staging fundraising events	834	-	834	227
Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity	2,330	-	2,330	1,716
Start up costs incurred in generating new source of future income	2,356	-	2,356	1,088
Other trading activities	13	-	13	131
<b>Total expenditure on raising funds</b>	<b>5,533</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,533</b>	<b>3,162</b>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities:</b>				
Salaries	32,821	79,958	112,779	57,595
Rent, Rates, Utilities	72,414	39,416	111,830	69,470
Storage	-	-	-	-
Purchases for referrals	6,748	41,300	48,048	42,427
Set Up Costs	4,469	900	5,369	2,409
General Expenses	5,788	-	5,788	5,278
Other Costs	-	-	-	-
Arts and Craft Supplies	757	2,500	3,257	3,481
Children's Craft Project	1,989	8,447	10,436	16,851
Christmas Sacks Project	11,711	10,000	21,711	16,933
Easter Hamper Project	165	-	165	9,181
Accountancy	3,365	-	3,365	2,867
Noah's Box Project	228	5,325	5,553	1,278
Building Materials and Maintenance	9,468	-	9,468	1,692
Vehicle Costs	2,272	-	2,272	160
Insurance Costs	3,090	-	3,090	1,735
IT Software, Subscriptions and Consumables	2,666	-	2,666	1,344
Staff Training	276	-	276	778
Depreciation Expense	5,776	-	-	5,776
Hygiene Bank	195	-	-	195
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>164,199</b>	<b>187,846</b>	<b>352,045</b>	<b>233,478</b>
<b>Separate material item of expense</b>				
Staff Welfare	1,090	-	1,090	-
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other</b>				
WUC Referral Costs	-	-	-	33,515
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,515</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>170,822</b>	<b>187,846</b>	<b>358,668</b>	<b>270,155</b>

# Notes to the Financial Accounts

## 7. FEES FOR EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS

Please provide details of the amount paid for any statutory external scrutiny of accounts and other services provided by your independent examiner. If nothing was paid please enter '0' in the appropriate box(es).

	This year £	Last year £
Independent examiner's fees	0	0
Assurance services other than audit or independent examination	0	0
Tax advisory fees	0	0
Other fees (for example: financial advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner	0	0

## 8. PAID EMPLOYEES

### 8.1 Staff Costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	111,201	56,920
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	1,578	675
Other employee benefits	-	-
Total staff costs	112,779	57,595

Please provide details of expenditure on staff working for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid by a related party

Not applicable

Please give details of the number of employees whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) fell within each band of £10,000 from £60,000 upwards. If there are no such transactions, please enter 'true' in the box provided.

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

True

# Notes to the Financial Accounts

Please provide the total amount paid to key management personnel (includes trustees and senior management) for their services to the charity

34000

8.2. Average head count in the year

	This year number	Last year number
Fundraising	1	-
Charitable Activities	6	5
Governance	1	-
Other	-	-
<b>Total staff costs</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>

## 9. DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PENSION SCHEME OR DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME ACCOUNTED FOR AS A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Amount of contributions recognised in the SOFA as an expense

1578

Please explain the basis for allocating the liability and expense of defined contribution pension scheme between activities and between restricted and unrestricted funds.

The liability and expense of the defined contribution pension scheme is allocated to expenditure on charitable activities. Unrestricted funds are used except where a restricted fund was received for salary costs for a specific role.



# Notes to the Financial Accounts

## 10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

### 10.1. Cost or valuation

	Freehold land & buildings £	Other land & buildings	Plant, machinery and motor vehicles £	Computer Equipment £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
At the beginning of the year	-	-	10,202	4,418	17,908	32,527
Additions	-	-	-	-	15,616	15,616
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers *	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>At end of the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,202</b>	<b>4,418</b>	<b>33,524</b>	<b>48,143</b>

### 10.2 Depreciation and Impairments

<b>**Basis</b>	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL 5 Years	SL 3 Years	SL 10 Years	SL or RB
<b>** Rate</b>						

*Straight Line ("SL") or Reducing Balance ("RB")*

At beginning of the year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	2,040	1,473	2,263	5,776
Impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers*	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>At end of the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,040</b>	<b>1,473</b>	<b>2,263</b>	<b>5,776</b>

### 10.3. Net Book Value

Net book value at the beginning of the year	-	-	10,202	-	17,908	32,527
Net book value at the end of the year	-	-	8,161	2,945	31,260	42,367

# Notes to the Financial Accounts

## 11. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

11.1. Analysis of debtors	This year £	Last year £
<b>Trade debtors</b>	-	-
<b>Prepayments and accrued income</b>	-	-
<b>Other debtors</b>	351.80	28,230.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>351.80</b>	<b>28,230.00</b>

## 12. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

12.1. Analysis of creditors	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
Accruals for grants payable	-	-	-	-
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	5,886	29,797	-	-
Payments received on account for contracts or performance-related grants	-	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	2,593	2,593	-	-
Taxation and social security	2,155	886	-	-
Other creditors	1,136	692	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,771</b>	<b>33,968</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### 12.2. Deferred income

**Please complete this note if the charity has deferred income.**

**Please explain the reasons why income is deferred.**

Income is deferred when we receive a grant in advance for expenditure over a specified period of time. The income is released when the expenditure has occurred.

Movement in deferred income account	This year £	Last year £
<b>Balance at the start of the reporting period</b>	-	-
<b>Amounts added in current period</b>	-	26,735
<b>Amounts released to income from previous periods</b>	-	-
<b>Balance at the end of the reporting period</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,735</b>

## 13. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	This year £	Last year £
<b>Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)</b>	-	-
<b>Short term deposits</b>	-	-
<b>Cash at bank and on hand</b>	23,794	44,404
<b>Other</b>	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,794</b>	<b>44,404</b>

# Notes to the Financial Accounts

## 14. CHARITY FUNDS

14.1. Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

**Key:** R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds

Fund names	Type *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Fund balances carried forward £
Earley Trust	R	Referral Consumables	-	3,000	3,000	-
Garfield Weston	R	Salary	-	18,333	18,333	-
Wokingham Town Council	R	Salary	-	3,000	3,000	-
Arnold Clark	R	Referral Consumables	-	1,000	1,000	-
National Lottery	R	Referral Consumables	-	10,000	10,000	-
BCF	R	Referral Consumables	-	5,000	5,000	-
BCF	R	Salary	-	5,000	5,000	-
PF Charitable Trust	R	Referral Consumables	-	2,000	2,000	-
Hilden Charitable Trust	R	Referral Consumables	-	5,000	5,000	-
Didymus	R	Referral Consumables	-	5,000	5,000	-
Toy Trust	R	Christmas Present Project	-	2,000	2,000	-
Wokingham United Charity	R	HAF Project	-	4,000	4,000	-
Wokingham Borough Council	R	HAF Project	-	2,447	2,447	-
52 Lives	R	School Uniform	-	500	500	-
The Englefield Trust	R	Salary	-	3,000	3,000	-
Wokingham United Charities	R	Christmas Present Project	-	5,000	5,000	-
Wokingham Borough Council	R	HAF Project	-	2,000	2,000	-
Brighter Futures	R	Household Support Grant	-	1,000	1,000	-
Warburtons	R	Referral Consumables	-	400	400	-
Reading Family Church	R	Winter Coats	-	2,000	2,000	-
National Lottery	R	Referral Team Costs	-	42,625	42,625	-
Public Donation	R	Noah Boxes	-	5,325	5,325	-
Hedley Charitable Trust	R	Referrable Consumables	-	2,000	2,000	-
Masonic Lodge	R	Fixtures and Fittings	-	900	900	-
Terracycle	R	Referral Consumables	-	400	400	-
FSP Foundation	R	Referral Consumables	-	2,500	2,500	-
Shanly Foundation	R	Arts and Crafts	-	2,500	2,500	-
Tesco	R	Referrals Consumables	-	1,500	1,500	-
Grocers Charity	R	Salary	-	5,000	5,000	-
City and Metropolitan	R	Salary	-	3,000	3,000	-
Cash for Kids	R	Christmas Project	-	3,000	3,000	-
Restricted Donations	R	Rent	-	39,416	39,416	-
<b>Other funds</b>	<b>UR</b>	<b>All other income and expenditure</b>	<b>44,457</b>	<b>181,105</b>	<b>170,822</b>	<b>54,740</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>44,457</b>	<b>368,951</b>	<b>358,668</b>	<b>54,740</b>

# Notes to the Financial Accounts

## 14. CHARITY FUNDS CONT.

14.2. Details of material funds held and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

**Key:** PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendable endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds

Fund names	Type *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Fund balances carried forward £
Lottery Community Fund	R	Craft Materials for COVID Packs	-	3,000	3,000	-
Wokingham Town Council	R	Prom Coordinator	-	1,000	1,000	-
Wokingham United Charities	R	Referral coordinator and referral costs	-	10,000	10,000	-
Wokingham United Charities	R	Craft Materials for COVID Packs	-	5,000	5,000	-
Woodward	R	Arts and Craft Equipment	-	1,000	- 1,000	-
Neighbourley	R	Craft Materials for COVID Packs	-	400	400	-
BCF	R	Craft Materials for COVID Packs	-	5,000	5,000	-
CAF	R	Salary, Rent, Craft, Referral	-	10,000	10,000	-
PCC	R	Rent, Utilities, Fittings, Referrals	-	15,124	15,124	-
Lottery Community Fund	R	Salary, Rent, Utilities, Fittings, Referral	-	40,000	40,000	-
BCF	R	Distribution Centre Coordinator	-	8,000	8,000	-
The Syder Foundation	R	Referral Costs	-	2,500	2,500	-
PCC	R	Rent, Utilities, Fittings, Referrals	-	15,000	15,000	-
CAF Resilience Fund	R	Distribution Centre Coordinator, Rent, Referrals	-	10,500	10,500	-
Bauer Radio	R	Toiletries	-	1,995	1,995	-
Wokingham United Charities	R	Micro Grant Coordinator	-	4,167	4,167	-
Garfield Weston	R		-	20,000	1,667	18,333
Earley Trust	R		-	3,000	-	3,000
Van donation	UR		-	6,000	-	6,000
<b>Other funds</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>All other income and expenditure</b>	<b>30,782</b>	<b>122,145</b>	<b>135,803</b>	<b>17,124</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>30,782</b>	<b>283,831</b>	<b>270,155</b>	<b>44,457</b>

# Notes to the Financial Accounts

## 15. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES AND RELATED PARTIES

### 15.1 Trustee remuneration and benefits

**None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity (True or False)**

True

### 15.2 Trustees' expenses

**If the charity has paid trustees expenses for fulfilling their duties, details of such transactions should be provided in this note. If there are no transactions to report, please enter "True" in the box below. If there are transactions to report, please enter "False".**

No trustee expenses have been incurred (True or False)

True

### 15.3 Transaction(s) with related parties

**Please give details of any transaction undertaken by (or on behalf of) the charity in which a related party has a material interest, including where funds have been held as agent for related parties. If there are no such transactions, please enter 'true' in the box provided.**

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period (True or False)

True

## Structure Governance and Management

The Cowshed is a Charitable Incorporated organisation and as such is governed in line with the Foundation Constitution. All trustees are voluntary and are appointed via a selection process and approval by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the constitution.

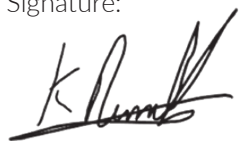
### DECLARATIONS

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Date: 16th November 2022

Signature:



Name: Kester John Russell

Position: Chair of Trustees

Signature:



Name: Abbie Walker

Position: Finance Trustee





# THE COWSHED

The Annexe Hurst Grove Sandford Lane RG10 0SQ

Tel: 0118 934 5120 Email: [info@thecowshed.org](mailto:info@thecowshed.org) [www.thecowshed.org](http://www.thecowshed.org)

Visit our website and social media for more info on our other initiatives. [@CowshedCharity](https://www.instagram.com/CowshedCharity)

Registered Charity No. 1181550

**THE COWSHED**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181550

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# Accounts

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**THE COWSHED**

# **ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

For the period 2020 - 2021





**THE COWSHED**



CRAFT AT THE COWSHED  
WOKINGHAM



**PROM**  
at  
**THE COWSHED**



**BRAS**  
at  
**THE COWSHED**

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# ORGANISATION DETAILS

## STAFF

Sally Russell	CEO
Vicky Newland	Donation Centre Supervisor
Ruth Warms	Donation Centre Supervisor
Becky Russell	Referrals Supervisor
Chloe Newland	Referrals Co-ordinator
Nikki Pond	Referrals Co-ordinator
Sue Chapman	P/T Craft Co-ordinator
Rebecca Mole	P/T WUC Grant Administrator

## TRUSTEES

Kester Russell	Secretary
Abbie Walker	Treasurer
Annette Davies	(Resigned January 2021)
Jeremy Hill	(Resigned Feb 2021)
Susie Templeton	
Suzanne Miles	
Sharon Ketley	(Appointed March 2021)

## CHARITY MENTORS

Chris Barrett  
Steve Hedley

## DUTIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by The Charities Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Address- Hurst Grove, Sandford Lane, Hurst, Berkshire, RG10 0SQ.

The Cowshed is a registered charity (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) In England and Wales (1181550) with the following objectives;

*The relief of poverty of persons in need in particular but not exclusively by providing such persons with good quality free clothing.*

The above object is carried out in accordance with a Christian ethos.

The Annual Accounts were signed on behalf of all the trustees on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021.



Kester Russell



Abigail Walker



# WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Cowshed charity started in September 2018 and officially launched in February 2019 to give practical support to people of all backgrounds in a time of personal crisis. The aim of The Cowshed is to lovingly provide excellent quality cleaned and ironed clothes, bedding, curtains, and other essential items free to anyone in need. The clothes are donated from the public as well as retailers and manufacturers, they are then sorted, washed, and ironed at our donation centre in Winnersh, sent over to our HQ in Hurst ready to be delivered by our drivers or collected by social services, other health professionals or our clients. The idea is that our clients feel they are receiving a gift to assist them in a time of crisis rather than some old clothes that are over worn, marked or damaged.

The people in need are referred to us through social services, churches, schools, charities, doctors, and other health professionals. We then provide the items that are requested free of charge. The Cowshed is staffed mostly by volunteers. In November 2019 we employed our first part time member of staff at Head Office to manage our growing number of referral requests, since then we have rapidly expanded and now employ 7 staff (4.3 FTE).

There is currently no other national charity providing this service in the UK. We have established our first centre in Wokingham which covers all of Berkshire and hope to expand to other counties as soon as the funds are available.

The Cowshed has a threefold impact: recycling used clothing, helping those most in need in our communities, whilst creating a community craft group to support the main charity.

All the clothes that are donated to us are repurposed, the excellent quality clothes are washed and ironed ready for our clients, the slightly damaged clothes / bedding is

repurposed by our arts and crafts group to make items for us to sell and tote bags for us to put our referrals in. Bras are sent to Against Breast Cancer and the plastic bags we receive donations in are given to the food banks locally. Anything left

after this is sold to a recycling organisation to raise further funds to help sustain the charity.

We are extremely excited about having established a movement which directly impacts those most in need in the local community in a positive, loving, non-judgmental way, as well as helping the environment by reusing clothes and other items which would otherwise have ended up in landfill sites.



# TRUSTEE'S REPORT

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by The Charities Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

The purpose of the charity as set out in its governing document is the relief of poverty of persons in need, in particular, but not exclusively by providing such persons with good quality free clothing. The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects are the provision of our standard referrals of a week's worth of clothing, toiletry packs and other essential items such as bedding and curtains when requested.

FY20-21 was a tough year for many people and at The Cowshed we are proud to have remained open and supporting our local community for the entire period. During the year we supported over 6800 adults and children through our standard referrals and the other projects we have launched (see details below). This is a 765% increase in demand from the previous year and we are currently helping between 60 and 70 individuals every week with our standard referrals service.

During 2020-2021 we launched multiple new projects to benefit the community and those in need. During the first Covid-19 lockdown we launched an arts and craft pack referrals service for families to help entertain children during the period of school closures. We also launched Elves at The Cowshed where we provided Christmas presents in lovingly handmade Christmas sacks for families in need. We received great feedback from this project, and it was a real team effort with our staff and volunteers working extremely hard to make it a success. We are also very grateful to the public who donated money or presents which made the project possible.

Similarly, at Easter we ran an Easter hamper project where we worked with Hillsong Church to provide Easter hampers of Easter eggs and crafts to local families.

We are very grateful for the valuable contribution made by volunteers, without whom The Cowshed would not have been able to achieve so much during the year.

Contribution by volunteers includes, but is not limited to;

- The craft group designing, making and selling goods to raise funds for the charity
- Sorting, washing and processing of donations at our Donation Centre
- Selecting items for referrals
- Delivering the referrals to our clients

Craft at The Cowshed operated throughout the year, with our wonderful volunteers continuing to sew referral bags and make crafts at home. When Covid-19 restrictions lifted we were delighted to invite them back to our HQ where they were able to meet socially-distanced in a Covid-safe environment. Their ongoing work making referral bags is invaluable to us, as well as making supplies for our online shop and market stalls to raise much-needed funds for the operation of the charity.

We also launched our online shop during the last month of the year, selling children's seed boxes and bunting boxes. These have proved very popular and we have expanded to an adult's herb box and a 'handbag essentials' gift box. This again raises much needed funds for the items which we provide new to our clients.

Lastly, as Covid-19 restrictions lifted and the government roadmap allowed school Proms and Leaver's Balls we launched our Prom at the Cowshed referral and hire service. We have a wonderful selection of prom dresses and suits which those eligible for our referral service can hire for free for the season. We also decided to open it to those who are ineligible but may still struggle with the financial cost of attending the prom who are able to hire dresses and suits for a small donation.

The Trustees would like to say a huge thank you to all the incredible staff and volunteers at The Cowshed who go above and beyond to support local families in need.



# CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

## OVERVIEW

Fiscal year 2020 / 2021 was an incredibly challenging year in many ways. We started the year 1 week into a national lockdown due to the Coronavirus Pandemic with the Government advising everyone to remain at home and not to go outside except for essential purposes. We had already made the decision that we would remain operational if possible and also not to furlough any of our staff as we felt that as a crisis charity, we were duty bound to be there to support the individuals that needed our help.

At the peak of the first lockdown, we were operating with two staff members in the referral centre and the remainder of our staff and volunteers operating from home either helping with administration remotely or producing the tote bags needed for the referrals from recycled textiles.

As the number of referrals we received continued to grow this form of operating was unsustainable in the long term and we had to develop methods for COVID safe working that allowed us to increase the numbers of staff and volunteers that could return. At the same time as this we also had to develop COVID safe methods for the receiving and sorting of donations as well as the delivery of referrals to clients.

## REFERRALS

The governments no-one left out policy to rehouse all rough sleepers at the start of the pandemic produced a significant increase in referrals as many had little or no spare clothing. Simultaneously as the lockdown continued, we saw an increasing number of referrals relating to Domestic Abuse and other issues.

We also started to see a steady increase in referrals related to financial difficulties as a growing number were affected by either the furlough scheme providing reduced wages, reduced hours or job losses.

During the previous reporting period that was 15 months we had supported 893 individuals, by the end of this fiscal year we had supported over 2,500 individuals with full referrals and another 4,000 through our special projects.

## DONATION CENTRE

As we moved through the first lockdown in March / April 2020 it was clear that due to social distancing guidelines and the need to quarantine donations for a minimum of 72 hours that we would need to expand our physical premises. After a brief search we found the 4KSL building in Winnersh that has over 4000 sq. ft spread over two floors. We approached the landlord / owner of the property and negotiated a rent-free period from the End of June until September at which point, we started paying a reduced rent on the ground floor. This reduced rent ran until the end of the calendar year with the charity then paying reduced rent for both floors from January 2021.

The additional space has enabled us to create a system whereby all donations could be quarantined for 72 hours and allowed us to safely bring in up to 6 volunteers at a time to help sort, wash, and iron the donations whilst maintaining social distancing. The extra room was essential as our level of donations has continued to grow with the daily average hitting 1 tonne by the end of the year. In total during the year, we received 102 tonnes of donations all of which was reused or recycled in some way to prevent it going to landfill.

As restrictions have changed over the last twelve months this extra space has also enabled us to have the flexibility to react quickly and efficiently. It became clear that with the ongoing volume of donations we would need to maintain the facility full time and so in Autumn 2020 we committed to employing a Distribution Centre Supervisor which is a full-time role on a job share basis between two staff members.



# CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

## ARTS AND CRAFTS GROUP

The Arts and Craft Group have continued to be a critical part of our organisation. All our referrals are delivered in Tote bags made by the volunteers in the group so that we do not have to use plastic. All of the tote bags that we produce are made from recycled textiles such as duvet covers and other materials that are not quite good enough to be used directly in our referrals. As we are now averaging in excess of 50 referrals per week and each referral needs an average of 3 bags this is a substantial commitment and we are enormously thankful for all the ladies that produce these bags week after week on our behalf both from home and at the three days a week we host the group in our headquarters.

In addition to this the ladies of the craft group have continued to show their entrepreneurial spirit by designing and making a whole range of items for sale on behalf of the charity. The range of items now includes:

- Tote Bags
  - Bunting
  - Make up bags
  - Reuseable facewipes
  - Hand sanitiser carriers
  - Doorstops
- ...and many others.

All of these are handmade from materials donated to the charity and help contribute to the fundraising required for the main charity.



# PROJECTS - PROM AT THE COWSHED

After excitedly launching our Prom at The Cowshed project in November 2019 we had no idea that after the first few initial appointments the Prom season for 2020 would sadly be cancelled completely due to Covid. So many young people missed out on this exciting event which has become a big part of the leaving school experience. We were extremely fortunate to continue to be donated some wonderful dresses and suits to build on our amazing stock which now has over 350 beautiful dresses. This year the season started late as it was still very unclear if Proms were going ahead or not, but we had a fantastic response and have now had appointments for over 120 teenagers in a very short window. We have provided dresses for many referrals as well as opening the service up for hire to support people who would not necessarily have qualified for a referral but who spending huge amounts of money on an outfit would have proved difficult.



We are also proud that we are recycling these beautiful dresses which would otherwise have only be worn once. Many Proms have been postponed but we are still hoping that they will still go ahead. After this initial success we are delighted to have a great new space upstairs so that we can continue to grow this important service for next year. Giving the young people we get referrals for the opportunity to have the same experience as their peers is so important, the day after a fitting we received this feedback from a local school;



*T came into school beaming today. Please pass on my thanks to everyone involved, and to all who complimented and supported T last night at his fitting. You have made such a big difference to a very deserving young man.*

Showing individuals like this young man that they are valued and loved, as well as helping them to feel good about themselves is why we do what we do.

# PROJECTS - BRAS AT THE COWSHED

Having a well-fitting bra is extremely important, sadly most women in this country do not get measured and this is especially the case for our clients who would not be able to afford the cost of such a luxury. Thanks to Wacoal Europe providing us with wonderful new bras and underwear, we will be offering a free bra fitting service for cup sizes A-HH. Our referred clients will be able to come to our showroom in Hurst and be treated to a fitting and two free beautiful bras from Fantasie or Freya and possibly other brands ( subject to stock availability) Fitting really is key to a woman finding the perfect bra and will transform the way she looks and feels giving her the right support and foundation to her outfit. Bras are an expensive luxury for our clients and this service will be a fantastic addition to the service we already offer to families in need locally.

In preparation for the launch of our bra fitting service, on the 11th of September 2020 7 staff and volunteers took part in the Foundation Bra fitting course led by the fabulous Alison from Intimate Apparel. With their new-found skills the trainees will be fitting our clients with well- fitting bras, thanks to the generous donation from Wacoal Europe, we are delighted to offer this much needed service free of charge to those referred to us as soon as the government guidelines allow. We hope to get this project relaunched in September/ October 2021.



# PROJECTS - ELVES AT THE COWSHED

We had no idea what to expect when we launched our Christmas appeal. We knew from the organisations we work with that Christmas was going to be tough for many families as the pandemic had sadly caused many job losses and homeless numbers had increased. Our wonderful craft group started making sacks and we estimated we would need 1000. The referrals started flooding in for children, care leavers, and the homeless community. We launched our wish list and before long presents were being delivered to Winnersh. We worked with our referrers to try and provide gifts that had been requested by the children we were supporting so that they would have a lovely surprise on Christmas Day. Each sack contained eight presents including a few stocking fillers, books, and a selection pack.

We had wonderful support from many organisations including churches, companies, supermarkets, and other charities. Hillsong Church through the Love Your Neighbour scheme provided fantastic food hampers for our families and helped us with delivering all the sacks. We provided over 1200 sacks and presents to families in need in Berkshire. We could not have done this without the support from over 80 volunteer elves who wrapped thousands of presents, made sacks, delivered the presents, and unpacked all the deliveries. It was a huge team effort, which we are very proud of, and it was great to receive some amazing feedback from the families.



# PROJECTS - EASTER HAMPERS

Many of the families we support had had an incredibly hard year, so we wanted to give them a little treat at Easter. We partnered with Hillsong Church Love Your Neighbour and made an incredible 700 hampers supporting over 2000 children, which included Easter eggs, books, craft activities, Easter treats /eggs and handmade Easter bunting from our craft group.

The feedback we received from the families was that they have never received such a beautiful gift and it gave them a real boost at a difficult time. We were again supported by the wider community who constantly amaze us with their generosity.



# OTHER PROJECTS

## LITTLE BLACK DRESS SALE

We decided to start this project as many of the items we are donated are beautiful formal wear which is far too good to go to our recycling partner, not suitable for Prom at The Cowshed but also not often required by the people we help. We believe in recycling as many of our donations as possible and so decided to open a shop to sell these amazing clothes. Sadly due to Covid the shop was not open for long and with restrictions still in place we have not been able to promote the shop as much as we would have liked, but we hope to continue to grow this idea in the coming year.



## HELP US GROW OUR CHARITY

As we continue to expand at a rapid rate, we wanted to launch an initiative which would enable us to grow our charity so we can open centres in other countries. Raising funds in 2020 was a challenge with no events taking place and opportunities to reach the public were limited, so we brainstormed and came up with the idea to make gifts in our craft group that we could put in boxes and send through the post. This has been a huge success and we are building on the initial ideas and adding new boxes all the time. We now have an online shop and have been booking craft stalls for the summer to sell all the wonderful items our superb craft group volunteers have been making from recycled fabrics.



# OTHER PROJECTS

## WUC PARTNERSHIP

From October 2020 to March 2021, we were contracted to administer mini grants on behalf of Wokingham United Charities. The charity offers grants of up to £500 per individual/family for the purchase of essential items such as white goods, cookers and beds. Our role was to take referrals from the Citizens Advice Bureau One Front Door Covid Response in Wokingham, source the required item(s) and liaise with the client directly before purchasing the item(s) and arranging delivery. We would then follow up with the client after delivery and deal with any queries.



# OTHER PROJECTS

## HILLSONG CHURCH PARTNERSHIP (LYN)

Towards the end of the first national lock down in 2020 we were approached by the pastor of Hillsong Church, James Mowle, to see if we would like them to provide us with bags of food for our clients. The church had been collecting dried food donations from their congregation to deliver to high-risk individuals that were fully self-isolating. As the pandemic progressed this service had been taken over by bigger organisations run through the local authorities, but Hillsong felt there was still a wider need and approached The Cowshed.

After an initial meeting it was agreed that they would give us 20 food bags each week that we would add to our referrals for those that we felt were most in need. Towards the end of the summer Hillsong Church nationally, joined up with a UK wide, government assisted project called Love Your Neighbour for churches in the community to support those most in need with food parcels. Hillsong selected 4 of their church campus locations to run this project including Reading specifically to help with clients of The Cowshed and committed to provide a bag of food for every referral we had for at least a year.



## DRIVING MISS DAISY

In late April at the start of the Pandemic we were looking for volunteer drivers to help deliver our referrals to clients as by this stage we were receiving more each week than our staff could manage. Initially we worked with several different organisations and individuals including staff from Wellington College and Members of Hillsong Church. Unfortunately, we were reliant on individuals using their own vehicles and as we were covering the whole of Berkshire this meant a large commitment from the volunteers both in time and fuel for the more distant referrals.

We were extremely lucky in the Autumn to be approached by CarComm Coachworks Limited who offered to provide us with our own van to deliver referrals. We recruited a regular team of volunteers to act as drivers and now do two delivery rounds a day, Monday to Friday. The van has been affectionately named Daisy by our drivers with their rota known as 'Driving Miss Daisy.'



# FEEDBACK

*Hello lovely team at Cowshed*

*A quick note to say a huge THANK YOU from my client for the wonderful care package you provided.*

*I was able to deliver this to her this afternoon and she couldn't believe it was all for her. I only ever see joy like this at Christmas in my own home with my own children, and its rare in my line of work to deliver such happiness, so being able to share some of that joy with her was just wonderful.*

*You all do such a wonderful thing for our vulnerable people, if we as a team can ever do anything to support please do let me know!*

*With thanks again*

**Sam**  
**Mental Health Social Worker Bracknell CMHT**

*I just wanted to say thank you so much for the art packs that I received for my one of my families, they were over the moon and it will make a real difference for them, I wanted to let you know the message she sent me after:*

*"Omg! The stuff we got was amazing, the kids think it's Christmas!! The boys were over the moon, that's definitely going to keep us occupied. Thank you so much for that!"*

*Thank you again, you are doing such a wonderful thing.*

**Hannah Grainger - Key worker**  
**Community Adolescent Support Team (CAST),**  
**Brighter Futures for Children**

*Just wanted to say a big thank you from us for the donation received on Friday - everything looks great! The team are hanging everything up in our Dressed for Dignity wardrobe as we speak and I wouldn't be surprised if the wards are already making use of the donations - this will make such a difference to our patients.*

**Rachel Thomas**  
**Enhanced Recovery Facilitator for Specialist Medicine NHS#**

*I just wanted to say thank you so much for the donation for Louis yesterday. He has asked me to say thank you from him too and to let you know that it has really helped him out at a difficult time. He is really happy with the items chosen for him and the unexpected groceries were very well received.*

**Kirsty Taylor-Smith**  
**Outreach Worker - St Mungo's**  
**Reading Rough Sleeper**  
**Outreach Service**



# FEEDBACK

Hello Cowshed,

Thank you so much for everything! I'm really happy and pleased with all the items I've received for me and my son. It's so helpful I can't believe it, everything's so clean or brand new all good quality also. Your generosity is really touching, this has made me feel so much more relaxed for starting university as now I know I have everything I need to study. Everything for my son is perfect and he is very happy with his toys the clothes and books will go a long way as it's so needed. This has taken so much weight off my shoulder. I really can't thank you all enough I wasn't expecting all this. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

May God bless you,

**Tyler (September 2020)  
Brighter Futures For Children**

Happy New Year wonderful Cowshed team!!

I just wanted to update you regarding the family in Reading you graciously chose to support from my referral. Firstly a HUGE HUGE thank you, from them and myself for the fantastic stocking/presents sent for the children, they were extremely appreciative sending me photos of them opening their toys on Christmas morning. It was a joy to see.

Also I wanted to send a BIG thank you on behalf of the family again for supporting them previously with toiletries and soft furnishings, these things make such a difference.

I wish you all the best as we enter another challenging period of lockdown, thank you for being there and supporting the most needy.

All the very best

**Hazel**

Thank you so much for the wonderful sacks and gifts that you gave to my health visitor for me and my children. It is very much appreciated and made me cry (happy tears)

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas God Bless you. X

On behalf of the Osinjolu family who, because of your generosity and care, had a brilliant and blessed Christmas. Your team are all amazing, communicate well and always go the extra mile to make a difference in people's lives. The parents were incredibly blessed and could not more thankful. Once again, thank you and your team for making Christmas a memorable one for the children and parents.

Kind regards

**Family Support Manager/Operational DSO, The  
Palmer Academy**

Happy We just wanted to say 'WOW' what incredible gifts, hampers and personal presents you provided us for our care leavers. We were literally blown away by the quantity and quality of the gifts you gave us, thank you for your kindness and for caring about our young people in care as much as we do.

The smiles on their faces as we delivered their gifts and hampers was just priceless and you have helped what could be a bleak time of year into something more enjoyable and fun for them. It was especially lovely to see the little children's faces light up as their father Christmas sack came through the door and you could see the excitement on their faces. Thank you for being such lovely people.

We hope that you all have time to wind down and relax for your Christmas celebrations too. Look after yourselves and we will hopefully see you at some stage in the new year.

**Kayon, Catie, Aaron and all the  
BFFC leaving care team.**

# ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

	Referrals	Individuals Helped	Financial Benefit Provided
Standard Requests (- Under 18s)	1629 (846)	2532 (1377)	£960,767.40
COVID Craft Packs	414	704	£28,160.00
Christmas Present Sacks	600	1040	£83,200.00
Vulnerable Adult Christmas Gifts	216	216	£5,400.00
Christmas Food Hampers		338	£11,830.00
Children's Easter Hampers	600	1217	£48,680.00
Vulnerable Adults Easter Gifts	54	54	£1,080.00
Easter Food Hampers		730	£25,550.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3513</b>	<b>6831</b>	<b>£1,164,667.40</b>



Gave **76,485** Items in Standard Referrals including



# THANK YOU

- 44 Communications
- 52 Lives
- Acorns Day Nursery
- Aldi
- Amazon Smile
- Baba and Boo
- Benevity
- Berkshire Community Foundation
- Blade & Rose
- Block and Deck
- Brookside Church
- CarComm Coachworks
- Cash for Kids
- Cornerstone on Demand
- Crowthorne Foodbank
- Easthampstead Ladies Golf Club
- Easthampstead Rotary Club
- Facemask Essex
- Finchampstead Baptist Church
- First Days Children's Charity
- FLB Accountants
- Frasers Property Retail
- Fynecast Limited
- Garfield Weston
- Give As You Live
- Gress Gardens Tree Care
- Harwood Textiles
- Highfield Park Hotel
- Hillsong Church
- Hipp
- Hurst Grove Estates
- Hyperbole Design & Marketing
- IAG GBS
- In Kind
- Inspiration
- IQVIA
- John Lewis Partnership
- JoJo Maman Bebe
- Kings Church
- Kings Church Wokingham
- Kit and Kin
- Knit for Peace
- KPMG
- Little Sock Company
- Long Acres Bagshot.
- Lucy Locket Loves
- Ministry of Justice
- Moonbun
- Morrisons Winnersh
- N2O Brand Activation
- Neighbourly
- Outbound
- Parkside Family Practice
- Perforce
- Persimmon Housing
- Pigeon Organics
- Premier Research
- Reading FC
- Reading Toy Run
- Sal's Shoes
- Sandhurst Singers
- Shanly Foundation
- South Berkshire Singers
- Sparkle Window Cleaners
- Tesco Wokingham
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner
- The Albert Hunt Trust
- The Ashley Family Foundation
- The Ashworth Charitable Trust
- The CAF Resilience Fund
- The Chocolate Café
- The Earley Help Hub
- The Foxes Den Binfield
- The Holt School
- The Horseman Trust
- The Hygiene Bank
- The Monica Rabagliati Charitable Trust
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- The PF Charitable Trust
- The Piggott School
- The Postcode Community Trust
- The Syder Foundation
- The Woodward Trust
- Veritas
- Verizon
- Wacoal
- Waitrose
- Wellington College
- Winnersh Triangle
- Wokingham Baptist Church
- Wokingham Foodbank
- Wokingham Library
- Wokingham Tangent Club
- Wokingham Town Council
- Wokingham United Charities
- Wokingham Winter Carnival
- XE.com
- Zebra Technologies

...and all our regular volunteers who give their time so generously as well as the local families who pass us the items their families no longer need.

We do apologise if we have missed anyone and would also like to thank all the members of the general public who have fundraised and bought items from our Wishlist.



# FINANCIAL REVIEW – INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

I report on the accounts of The Cowshed for the period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021, which are set out on pages 20 to 30.

## RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

## BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met;

or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed:



Name: Christopher Fairweather

Date: 19th August 2021

Relevant professional qualification or body: ACA (Member of the Institution of Chartered Accountants)

Address: 10 Swallows Croft, Reading RG1 6EH

# ACCOUNTS - STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

Categories by Activity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
<b>Incoming resources</b>	F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	66,546	148,416	-	214,962	95,605
Charitable activities	32,453	33,515	-	65,968	13,310
Other trading activities	2,901	-	-	2,901	-
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of income	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>101,900</b>	<b>181,931</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>283,831</b>	<b>108,915</b>

<b>Resources expended</b>					
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	3,162	-	-	3,162	3,440
Charitable activities	92,730	140,749	-	233,478	74,693
Separate material item of expense	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	33,515	-	33,515	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>95,892</b>	<b>174,264</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>270,155</b>	<b>78,133</b>

<b>Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)</b>	6,008	7,667	-	13,675	30,782
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	6,008	7,667	-	13,675	30,782
<b>Extraordinary items</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>					
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	6,008	7,667	-	13,675	30,782
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward	30,782	-	-	30,782	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>36,790</b>	<b>7,667</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44,457</b>	<b>30,782</b>

# ACCOUNTS – BALANCE SHEET

Categories by Activity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
<b>Fixed assets</b>	F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets	32,527	-	-	32,527	2,209
Heritage assets	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>32,527</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,527</b>	<b>2,209</b>
Current assets					
Stocks	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	-	28,230	-	28,230	-
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	44,404	-	-	44,404	31,680
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>44,404</b>	<b>28,230</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72,634</b>	<b>31,680</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	60,704	-	-	60,704	1,656
Net current assets/(liabilities)	16,300	28,230	-	11,930	30,024
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>16,227</b>	<b>28,230</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44,457</b>	<b>32,233</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	-	-	-	-	1,451
Provisions for liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>	<b>16,227</b>	<b>28,230</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44,457</b>	<b>30,782</b>
Funds of the Charity					
Endowment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds	44,457	-	-	44,457	30,782
Revaluation reserve	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>44,457</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44,457</b>	<b>30,782</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

## 1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

### 1.1. Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit as defined by FRS 102

### 1.2. Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

### 1.3. Change of Accounting Policy

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in below.

### 1.4. Changes to Accounting Estimates

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period (3.46 FRS 102 SORP).

### 1.5. Reserves Policy

The policy of the Charity is to try and achieve an operational reserve of between 3- and 6-months costs.

## 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### 2.1. Income

**Recognition of Income** – These are included in the SoFA when:

- The charity becomes entitled to the resources

- It is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- The monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

**Offsetting** - There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

**Grants and Donations** - Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP).

**Donated Goods** - Goods donated for on-going use by the charity are recognised as tangible fixed assets and included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.

**Volunteer Help** - The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

### 2.2. Expenditure and Liabilities

**Liability Recognition** - Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

**Deferred Income** - No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.

### 2.3. Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity – cost at least £32,527

- These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year
- They are valued at cost
- Depreciation is done on a straight line basis (typically over a 3 or 5 year period)

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

## 3. INCOME ANALYSIS

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Donations and legacies:</b>					
Donations and gifts	29,165	7,463	-	36,629	10,510
Gift Aid	2,460	-	-	2,460	-
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
General grants provided by government/ other charities	34,920	134,353	-	169,273	85,095
Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	-	600	-	600	-
Donated goods, facilities and services	-	6,000	-	6,000	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,546</b>	<b>148,416</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>214,962</b>	<b>95,605</b>
<b>Charitable activities:</b>					
Recycling	32,453	-	-	32,453	13,310
WUC Funding	-	33,515	-	33,515	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,453</b>	<b>33,515</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>65,968</b>	<b>13,310</b>
<b>Other trading activities:</b>					
Sales	2,901	-	-	2,901	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,901</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,901</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Income from investments:</b>					
Interest income	-	-	-	-	-
Dividend income	-	-	-	-	-
Rental and leasing income	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Separate material item of income:</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>101,900</b>	<b>181,931</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>283,831</b>	<b>108,915</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

## 4. ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Description	This year £	Last year £
Government grant 1 - Police and Crime Commissioner COVID Grant	30,124	-
Government grant 2 - Local Authority NNDR Business Grant	15,000	-
Government grant 3	-	-
Other	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,124</b>	<b>-</b>

## 5. DONATED GOODS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Description	This year £	Last year £
Seconded staff	-	-
Use of property	-	-
Other - Delivery Van	6,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>-</b>

The van is recognised on the SOFP as a tangible asset and is depreciated on a [straight-line basis over 5 years]. The fair value of the donation has been estimated using the price of a similar make, model and age van.



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

## 6. EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year £
<b>Expenditure on raising funds:</b>					
Incurred seeking donations	-	-	-	-	334
Staging fundraising events	227	-	-	227	200
Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity	1,716	-	-	1,716	1,272
Start up costs incurred in generating new source of future income	1,088	-	-	1,088	1,634
Database development costs	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	131	-	-	131	-
<b>Total expenditure on raising funds</b>	<b>3,162</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,162</b>	<b>3,440</b>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities:</b>					
Salaries	11,728	45,867	-	57,595	8,548
Rent, Rates, Utilities	33,270	36,200	-	69,470	28,484
Storage	-	-	-	-	619
Purchases for referrals	12,057	30,370	-	42,427	10,336
Set Up Costs	2,409	-	-	2,409	16,435
General Expenses	1,158	4,120	-	5,278	3,555
Other Costs	-	-	-	-	6,716
Arts and Craft Supplies	2,481	1,000	-	3,481	-
Covid	451	16,400	-	16,851	-
Christmas Sacks Project	11,268	5,665	-	16,933	-
Easter Hamper Project	8,655	527	-	9,181	-
Accountancy	2,867	-	-	2,867	-
Noah's Box Project	678	600	-	1,278	-
Building Materials and Maintenance	1,692	-	-	1,692	-
Vehicle Costs	160	-	-	160	-
Insurance Costs	1,735	-	-	1,735	-
IT Software, Subscriptions and Consumables	1,344	-	-	1,344	-
Staff Training	778	-	-	778	-
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>92,730</b>	<b>140,749</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>233,478</b>	<b>74,693</b>
<b>Other</b>					
WUC Referral Costs	-	33,515	-	33,515	-
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,515</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,515</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>95,892</b>	<b>174,264</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>270,155</b>	<b>78,133</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

## 7. FEES FOR EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS

No fees were paid, the review was carried out on a voluntary pro bono basis.

## 8. PAID EMPLOYEES

Staff costs for the year were £57,595 with an average FTE of 4.

No employee received benefits for the reporting period of more than £60,000 Total amount paid to key management personnel was £20,430.

The liability and expense of the defined contribution pension scheme is allocated to expenditure on charitable activities. Unrestricted funds are used except where a restricted fund was received for salary costs for a specific role.

## 9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

### 9.1. Cost or Valuation

	Freehold land & buildings £	Other land & buildings	Plant, machinery and motor vehicles £	Computer Equipment £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
At the beginning of the year	-	-	-	-	2,209	2,209
Additions	-	-	10,202	4,418	15,699	30,318
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers *	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>At end of the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,202</b>	<b>4,418</b>	<b>17,908</b>	<b>32,527</b>

### 9.2. Depreciation and Impairments

**Basis	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL 5 Years	SL 3 Years	SL 10 Years	SL or RB
** Rate						

At beginning of the year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	442	-	-	442
Impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers*	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>At end of the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>442</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

## 9.3. Net Book Value

Net book value at the beginning of the year	-	-	-	-	2,209	2,209
Net book value at the end of the year	-	-	9,760	4,418	17,908	32,085

## 10. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

Analysis of debtors	This year £	Last year £
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	28,230.2	-
Other debtors	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,230.2</b>	<b>-</b>

## 11. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

Analysis of creditors	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	This year £	Last year £	This year £	Last year £
	£	£	£	£
Accruals for grants payable	-	-	-	-
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	29,797	-	-	-
Payments received on account for contracts or performance-related grants	-	-	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	2,593	1,142	-	1,451
Taxation and social security	886	514	-	-
Other creditors	692	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,968</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,451</b>

## 12. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	This year £	Last year £
Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)		
Short term deposits		
Cash at bank and on hand	44,404	31,680
Other	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,404</b>	<b>31,680</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

## 13. CHARITY FUNDS

13.1. Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

\* **Key:** PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendable endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds

Fund names	Type *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
Lottery Community Fund - COVID	R	Craft Materials for COVID Packs	-	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
Wokingham Town Council	R	Prom Coordinator	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Wokingham United Charities	R	Referral coordinator and referral costs	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
Wokingham United Charities	R	Craft Materials for COVID Packs	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
Woodward	R	Arts and Craft Equipment	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Neighbourley	R	Craft Materials for COVID Packs	-	400	400	-	-	-
BCF	R	Craft Materials for COVID Packs	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
CAF	R	Salary, Rent, Craft, Referral	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
PCC	R	Rent, Utilities, Fittings, Referrals	-	15,124	15,124	-	-	-
Lottery Community Fund - COVID	R	Salary, Rent, Utilities, Fittings, Referral	-	40,000	40,000	-	-	-
BCF	R	Distribution Centre Coordinator	-	8,000	8,000	-	-	-
The Syder Foundation	R	Referral Costs	-	2,500	2,500	-	-	-
PCC	R	Rent, Utilities, Fittings, Referrals	-	15,000	15,000	-	-	-
CAF Resilience Fund	R	Distribution Centre Coordinator, Rent, Referrals	-	10,500	10,500	-	-	-
Bauer Radio	R	Toiletries	-	1,995	1,995	-	-	-
Wokingham United Charities	R	Micro Grant Coordinator	-	4,167	4,167	-	-	-
Garfield Weston			-	20,000	1,667	-	-	18,333
Earley Trust			-	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
Van Donation			-	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
Other funds	U	All other income and expenditure	30,782	122,145	135,803	-	-	17,124
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>30,782</b>	<b>283,831</b>	<b>270,155</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44,457</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

13.2 Details of material funds held and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

\* **Key:** PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendable endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds

Fund names	Type *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
Greggs	R	Arts and Crafts Equipment	-	1,130	1,130	-	-	-
Prudential	R	Arts and Crafts Equipment	-	1,500	1,500	-	-	-
Leeds Building Society	R	Referrals consumables	-	750	750	-	-	-
Lottery community	R	Salary and Rent	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
Monica Rabagliati	R	Referrals consumables	-	2,000	2,000	-	-	-
Washing Machine donations	R	Washing Machine	-	78	78	-	-	-
Other funds	U	All donations unrestricted	-	93,457	62,675	-	-	30,782
<b>Total Funds</b>			-	<b>108,915</b>	<b>78,133</b>	-	-	<b>30,782</b>

## 14. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES AND RELATED PARTIES

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity.

## STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Cowshed is a Charitable Incorporated organisation and as such is governed in line with the Foundation Constitution. All trustees are voluntary and are appointed via a selection process and approval by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the constitution.

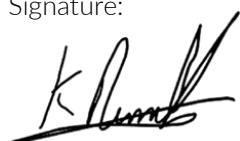
### DECLARATIONS

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Date: 19th August 2021

Signature:



Name: Kester John Russell

Position: Secretary

Signature:



Name: Abigail Walker

Position: Finance Trustee



**THE COWSHED**



CRAFT AT THE COWSHED  
WOKINGHAM



**PROM**  
at  
**THE COWSHED**



**BRAS**  
at  
**THE COWSHED**



# THE COWSHED

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