



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 19th 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 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.



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
Totals	3513	6831	£1,164,667.40

Average Standard
Referral Value

£379.45

per individual

Worked with

179

Organisations

102
TONNES
of donations

50-75

Average number of
referrals per week

Gave **76,485** Items in Standard Referrals including

19,790

Tops / Shirts / Hoodies

10,251

Shorts / Trousers

7,559

Items of Underwear

2,513

Items of Bedding



5,077

Facebook
Followers

7

Staff
(4.5 FTE)

135

Volunteers



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 £
Incoming resources	F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Income and endowments from:					
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	-	-	-	-	-
Total	101,900	181,931	-	283,831	108,915

Resources expended					
Expenditure on:					
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	-
Total	95,892	174,264	-	270,155	78,133

Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)	6,008	7,667	-	13,675	30,782
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	6,008	7,667	-	13,675	30,782
Extraordinary items	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	6,008	7,667	-	13,675	30,782
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	30,782	-	-	30,782	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	36,790	7,667	-	44,457	30,782

ACCOUNTS – BALANCE SHEET

Categories by Activity	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
Fixed assets	F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets	32,527	-	-	32,527	2,209
Heritage assets	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets	32,527	-	-	32,527	2,209

Current assets					
Stocks	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	-	28,230	-	28,230	-
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	44,404	-	-	44,404	31,680
Total current assets	44,404	28,230	-	72,634	31,680

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	60,704	-	-	60,704	1,656
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Net current assets/(liabilities)	16,300	28,230	-	11,930	30,024
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Total assets less current liabilities	16,227	28,230	-	44,457	32,233
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Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	-	-	-	-	1,451
Provisions for liabilities	-	-	-	-	-

Total net assets or liabilities	16,227	28,230	-	44,457	30,782
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Funds of the Charity					
Endowment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds	44,457	-	-	44,457	30,782
Revaluation reserve	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	44,457	-	-	44,457	30,782

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 £
Donations and legacies:					
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	-	-	-	-	-
Total	66,546	148,416	-	214,962	95,605
Charitable activities:					
Recycling	32,453	-	-	32,453	13,310
WUC Funding	-	33,515	-	33,515	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	32,453	33,515	-	65,968	13,310
Other trading activities:					
Sales	2,901	-	-	2,901	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2,901	-	-	2,901	-
Income from investments:					
Interest income	-	-	-	-	-
Dividend income	-	-	-	-	-
Rental and leasing income	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of income:					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	101,900	181,931	-	283,831	108,915

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	-	-
Total	45,124	-

5. DONATED GOODS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

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

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 £
Expenditure on raising funds:					
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	-
Total expenditure on raising funds	3,162	-	-	3,162	3,440
Expenditure on charitable activities:					
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	-
Total expenditure on charitable activities	92,730	140,749	-	233,478	74,693
Other	-	-	-	-	-
WUC Referral Costs	-	33,515	-	33,515	-
Total other expenditure	-	33,515	-	33,515	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	95,892	174,264	-	270,155	78,133

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 *	-	-	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	-	-	10,202	4,418	17,908	32,527

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*	-	-	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	-	-	442	-	-	442

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	-	-
Total	28,230.2	-

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	-	-	-
Total	33,968	1,656	-	1,451

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	-	-
Total	44,404	31,680

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
Total Funds			30,782	283,831	270,155	-	-	44,457

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
Total Funds			-	108,915	78,133	-	-	30,782

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.

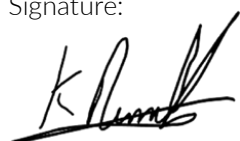
DECLARATIONS

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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