



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



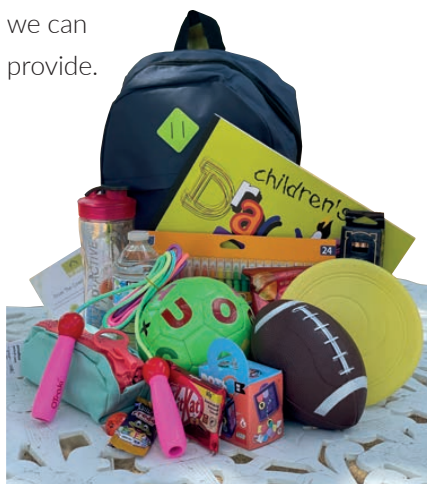
We are delighted to partner with Wokingham Borough Council as part of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme. This programme provides support to children in receipt of free school meals through holiday periods. Research has shown that the school holidays can be pressure points for some families.

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

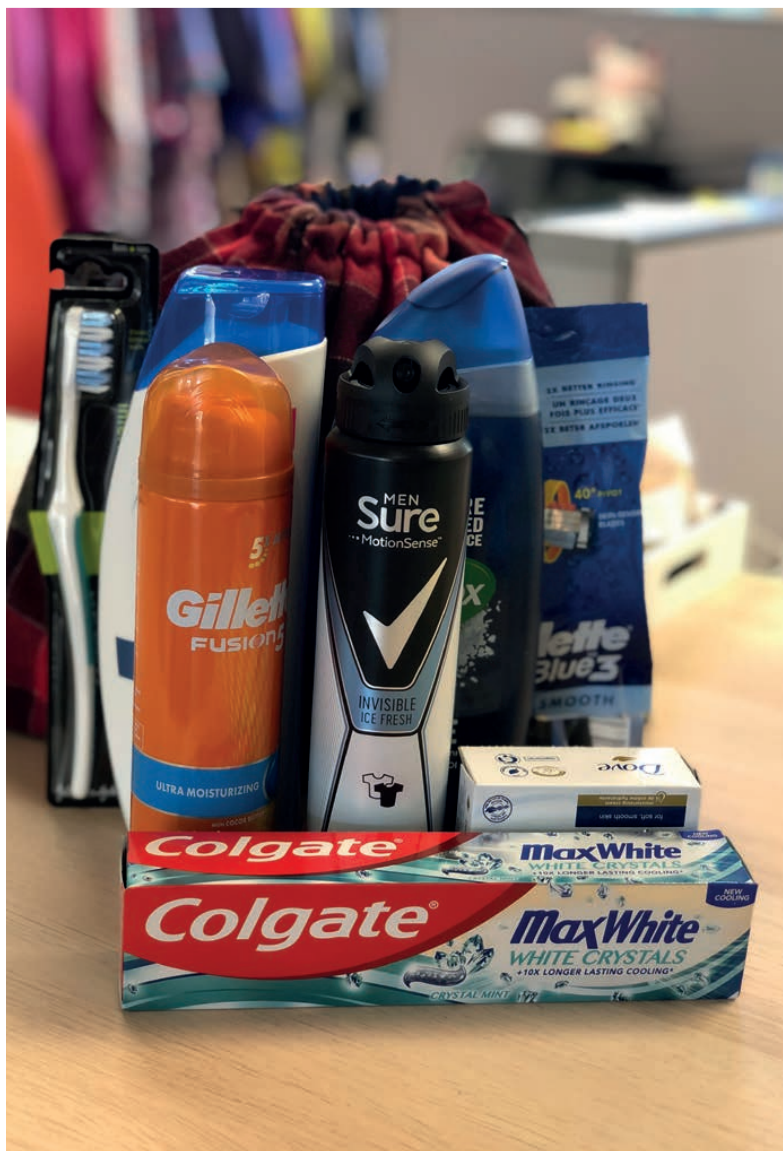
Many people locked in poverty or those who find themselves in times of crisis often experience restricted options. This leaves them caught between being able to heat their home, pay their rent, buy food or keep clean. Hygiene poverty can be shaming, humiliating and excluding.

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
Totals	3,998	6,397	4,136	£1,312,481

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 £
Incoming resources (Note 3)		F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Income and endowments from:						
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	-	-	-	-	-
Total	S07	181,105	187,846	-	368,951	283,831

Resources expended (Note 6)						
Expenditure on:						
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
Total	S12	191,621	167,047	-	358,668	270,155

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

Accounts – Balance Sheet

Categories by Activity	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
Fixed assets	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	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets		42,367	-	-	42,367	32,527

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
Total current assets	B10	24,146	-	-	24,146	72,634

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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Total assets less current liabilities	B13	54,784	-	-	54,784	44,457
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Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 20)	B14	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities	B15	-	-	-	-	-

Total net assets or liabilities		54,742	-	-	54,742	44,457
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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	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	B21	54,740	-	-	54,740	44,457

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 £
Donations and legacies:					
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	-	-	-	-	-
Total	113,628	187,846	-	301,474	214,962

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

Other trading activities:					
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	-	-	-	-	-
Total	20,011	-	-	20,011	-

Income from investments:					
Interest income	-	-	-	-	-
Dividend income	-	-	-	-	-
Rental and leasing income	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

Notes to the Financial Accounts

3. INCOME ANALYSIS

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

Other:					
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	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

TOTAL INCOME	181,105	187,846	-	368,951	283,831
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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	-	-
Total	43,447	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

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 £
Expenditure on raising funds:				
Incurred 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
Total expenditure on raising funds	5,533	-	5,533	3,162
Expenditure on charitable activities:				
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
Total expenditure on charitable activities	164,199	187,846	352,045	233,478
Separate material item of expense				
Staff Welfare	1,090	-	1,090	-
Total other expenditure	1,090	-	1,090	-
Other				
WUC Referral Costs	-	-	-	33,515
Total other expenditure	-	-	-	33,515
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	170,822	187,846	358,668	270,155

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	-	-
Total staff costs	8	5

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 *	-	-	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	-	-	10,202	4,418	33,524	48,143

10.2 Depreciation and Impairments

**Basis	SL or RB	SL or RB	SL 5 Years	SL 3 Years	SL 10 Years	SL or RB
** Rate						

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

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

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 £
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
Other debtors	351.80	28,230.00
Total	351.80	28,230.00

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	-	-
Total	11,771	33,968	-	-

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 £
Balance at the start of the reporting period	-	-
Amounts added in current period	-	26,735
Amounts released to income from previous periods	-	-
Balance at the end of the reporting period	-	26,735

13. 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	23,794	44,404
Other	-	-
Total	23,794	44,404

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	-
Other funds	UR	All other income and expenditure	44,457	181,105	170,822	54,740
Total Funds			44,457	368,951	358,668	54,740

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
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

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.

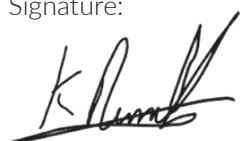
DECLARATIONS

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Date: 16th November 2022

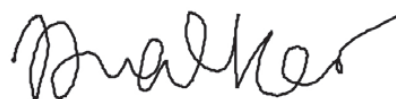
Signature:



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 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