



THE COWSHED

Annual Report and Accounts

For the period 2022 - 2023



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



Contents

Organisation Details.....	4
Who We Are and What We Do	5
Trustee's Report.....	6
Chief Executive's Message.....	7
Referrals.....	8
Donation Centre.....	11
Hygiene Bank.....	12
Arts and Crafts Group.....	13
Projects Report	14
Feedback.....	16
Thank You.....	19
Achievements and Performance	20
Financial Review – Independent Examiner's Report	22
Accounts – Statement of Financial Activity.....	23
Accounts – Balance Sheet	24
Notes to the Financial Accounts	
1. Basis of Preparation	25
2. Accounting Policies	26
3. Income Analysis	27
4. Analysis of Receipts of Government Grants.....	29
5. Donated Goods, Facilities and Services	29
6. Expenditure Analysis	30
7. Fees for Examination of Accounts	32
8. Paid Employees	32
9. Pension Scheme.....	33
10. Tangible Fixed Assets	34
11. Debtors and Prepayments.....	35
12. Creditors and Accruals	35
13. Cash at Bank and In Hand	35
14. Charity Funds	36
15. Charity Funds Previous Year.....	37
16. Transactions with Trustees and Related Parties	38
Structure Governance and Management	38



Organisation Details

STAFF

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

TRUSTEES

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

CHARITY MENTORS

Chris Barrett
Steve Hedley

DUTIES OF THE TRUSTEES

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

Address -

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

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



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

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

Kester Russell

Abbie Walker



Who we are and what we do

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

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

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

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

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



Chair of Trustee's Report

INTRODUCTION

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

Operational Overview

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

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

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

Financial Health and Sustainability

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

Future Challenges

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

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

Thanks

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



**Chair of Trustees,
The Cowshed Charity**

10th December 2023



Chief Executive's Message

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

Key Highlights

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

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

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

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

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

Financial Overview

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

New Developments

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

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



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

Acknowledgments

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

Looking Ahead

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

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Referrals

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

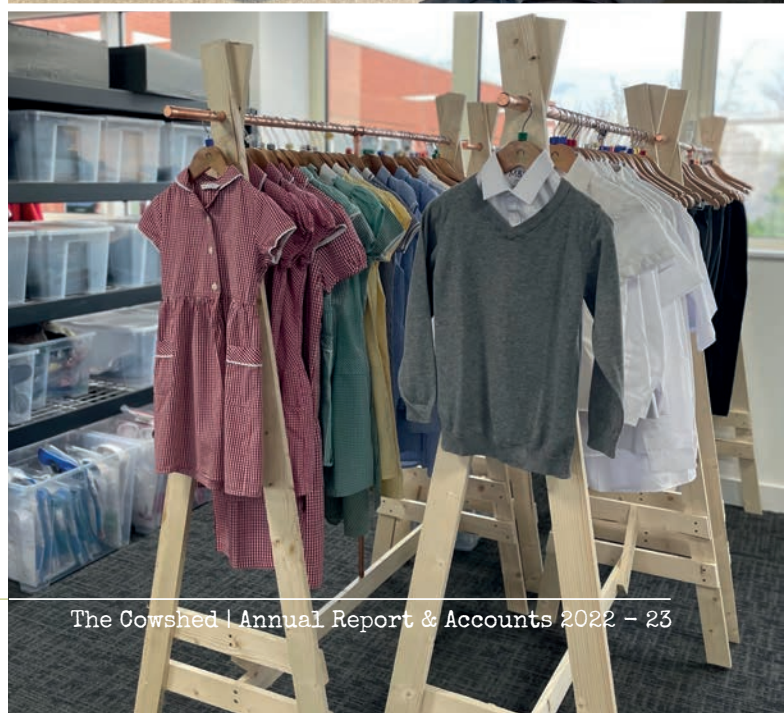
Out of the total individuals supported, 5,109 received what we term a “standard” referral, comprising a week’s worth of clothing designed to last a minimum of 6 months, new toiletries, new socks, and underwear, as well as toys and books for children. Even after excluding Ukrainian referrals, the total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

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

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

**= name changed*

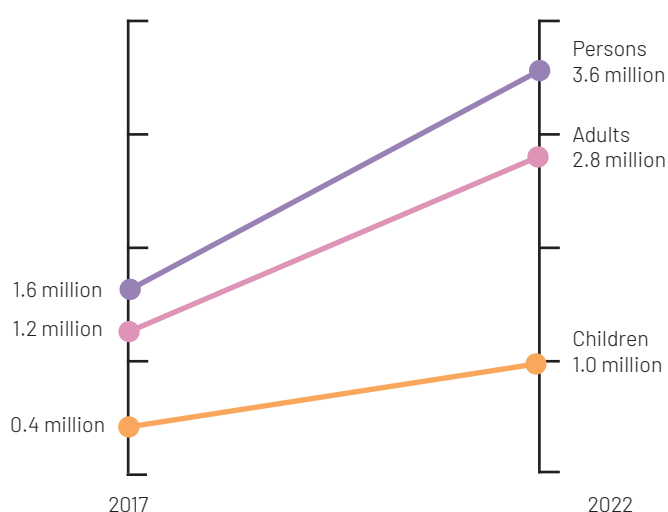
In FY22, our impact was widespread across Berkshire, with Reading contributing 39.2% (2,003 referrals), Wokingham at 27.1% (1,387 referrals), West Berks at 12.5% (640 referrals), Bracknell at 9.4% (475 referrals), RBWM at 5.9% (302 referrals), and Slough at 5.9% (302 referrals) of the total 5,109 main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



Referrals

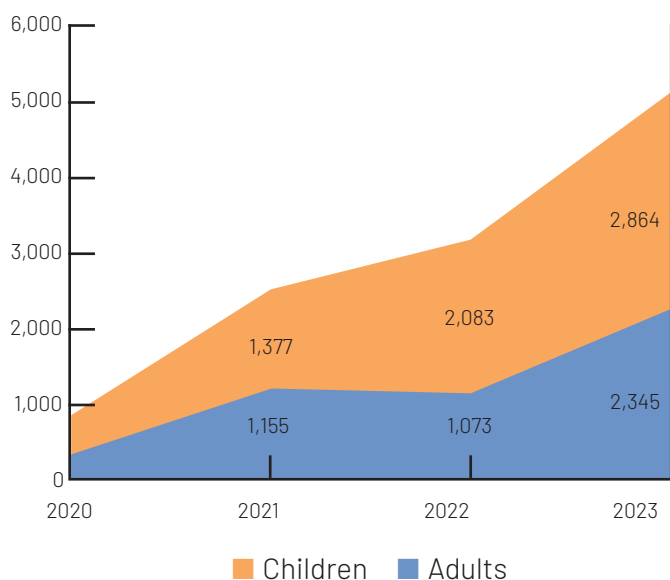
A recent study published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on the levels of destitution in the UK from 2017 to 2022 found that Severe material hardship was “no longer a rare occurrence”, with rates of destitution more than doubling in the last five years as a result of benefit cuts and cost of living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

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



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

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED A STANDARD REFERRAL



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

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

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

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

Referrals

New initiatives for 2022-23

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

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

This is some lovely feedback we received:



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

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

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

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

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

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



Donation Centre

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The Hygiene Bank

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

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

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

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



Arts and Crafts Group

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

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

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



Projects Report

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

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

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

We helped 581 children in Berkshire with school uniform.

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

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

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



Projects Report

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

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

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

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

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



Feedback



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

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



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



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

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



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



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

Feedback



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

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

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

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



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



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



Feedback



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



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



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



Thank You

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

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



Achievements and Performance

FIG 1. TOTAL HELPED

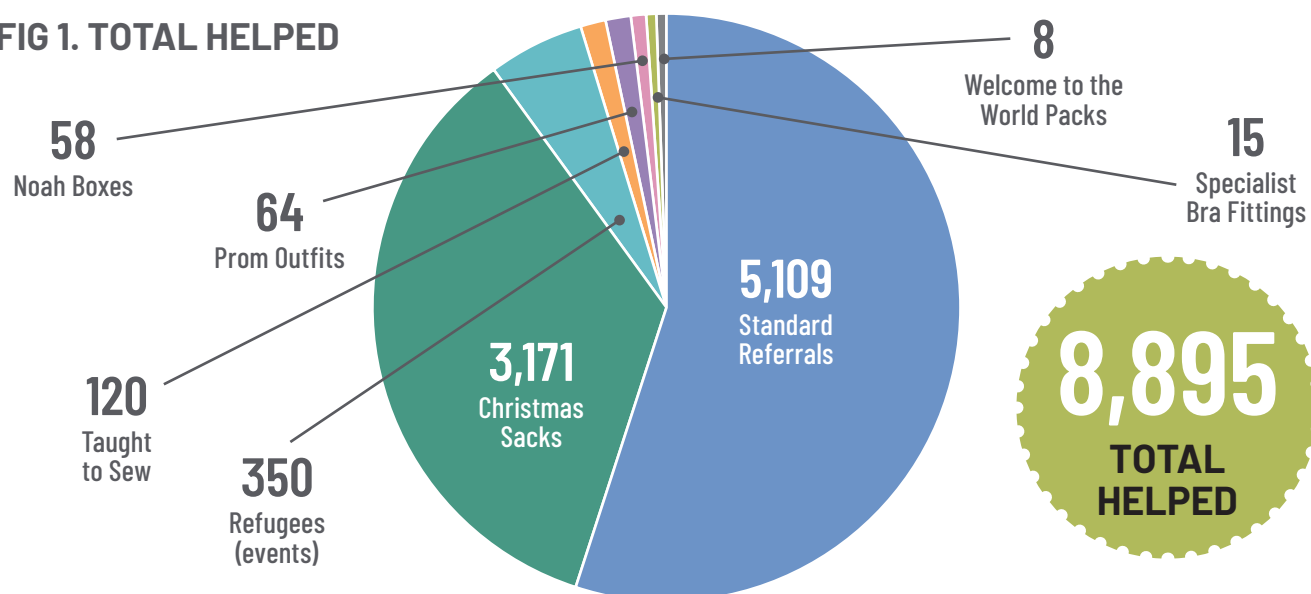


FIG 2. MAIN REFERRALS DELIVERED

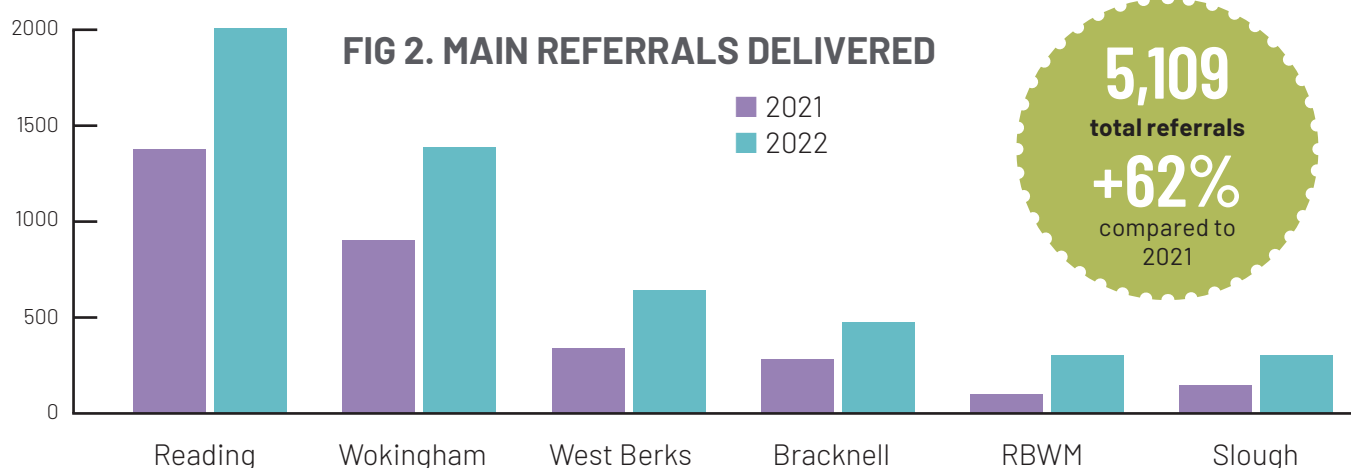
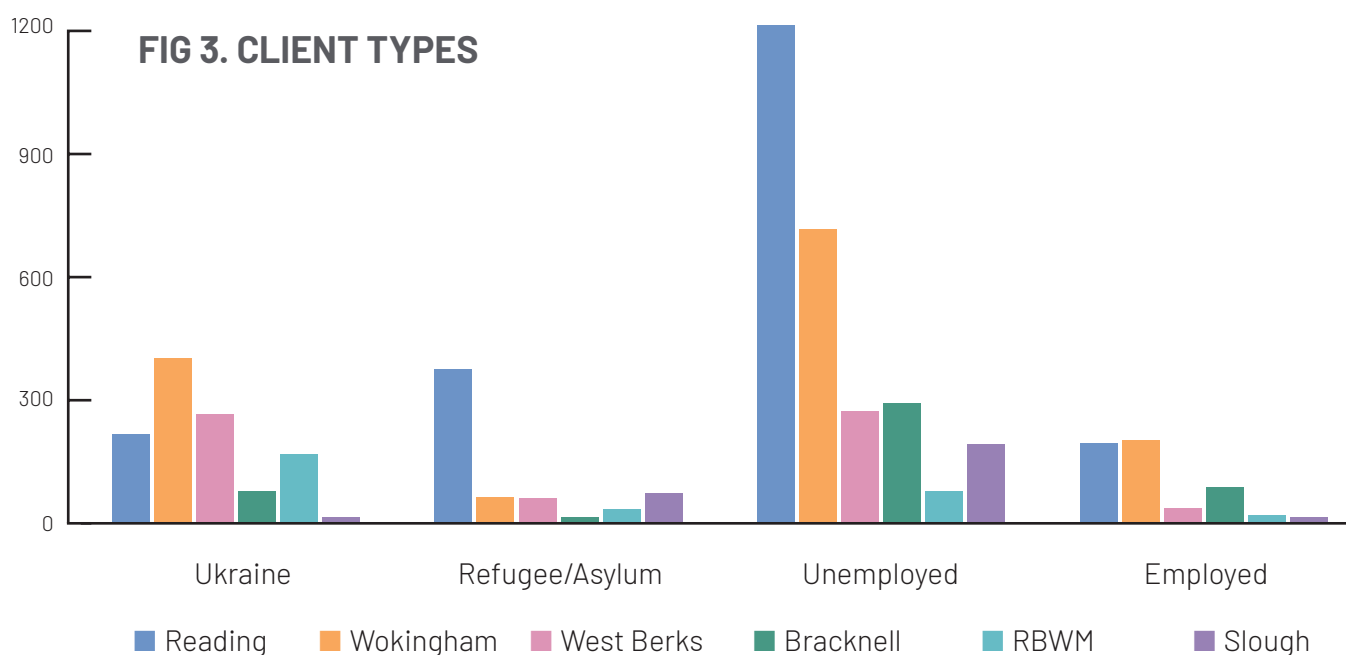


FIG 3. CLIENT TYPES



Achievements and Performance

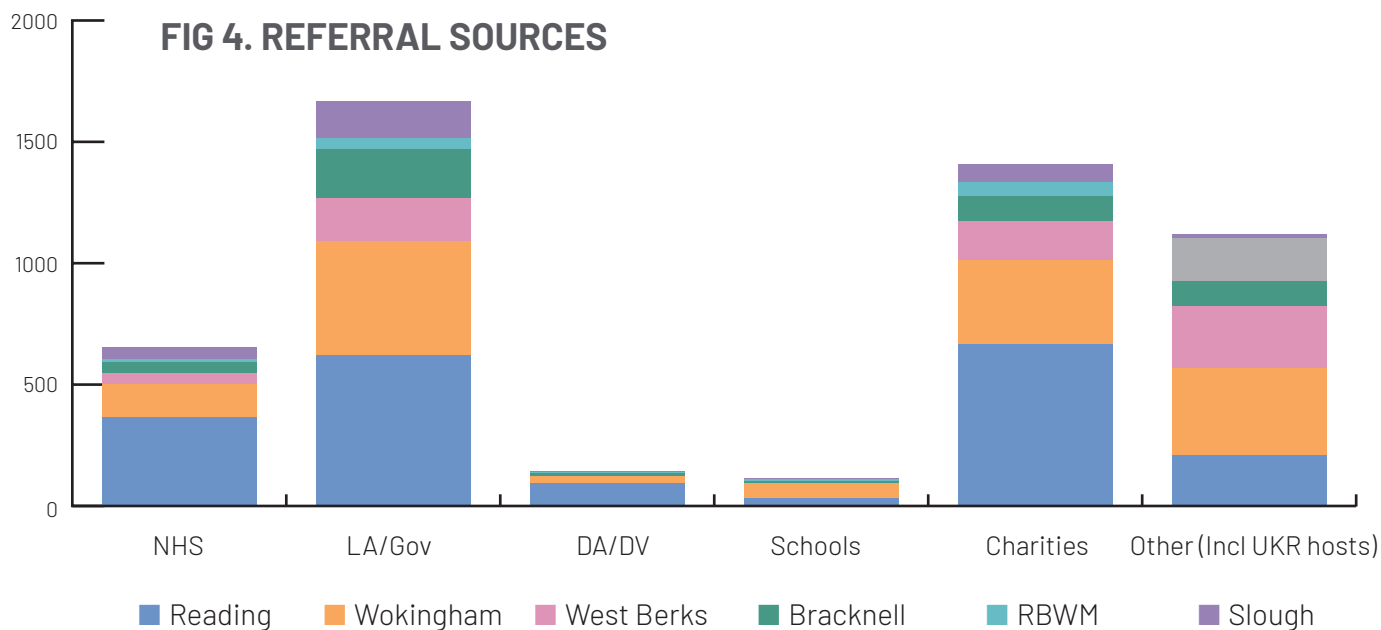


FIG 5. REFERRALS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

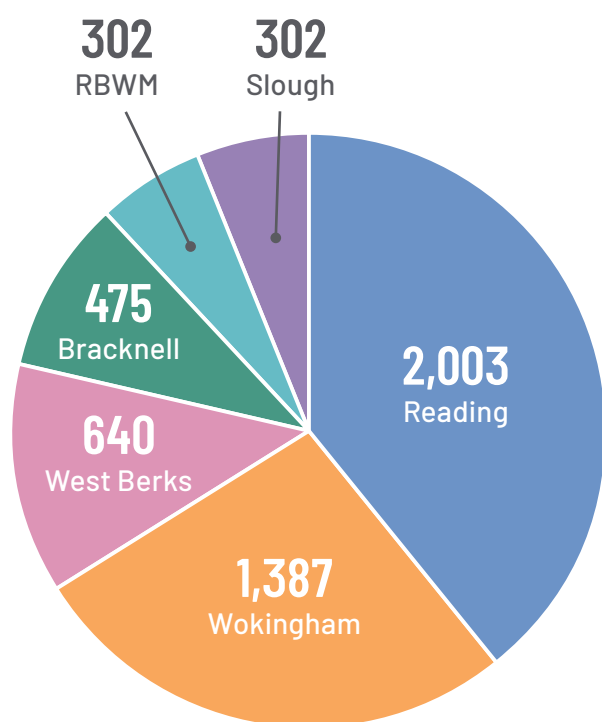


FIG 6. REFERRALS ADULT VS CHILD

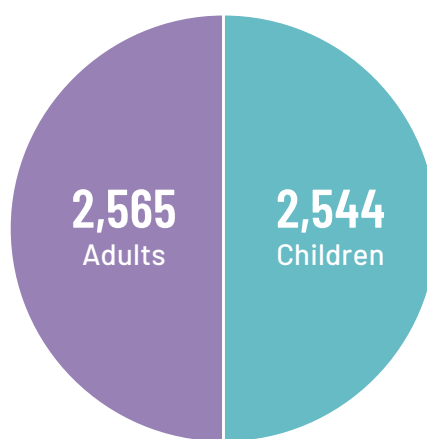
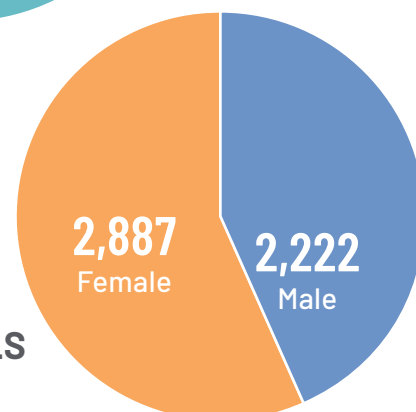


FIG 7. REFERRALS BY GENDER



Financial Review – Independent Examiner’s Report

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

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

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

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

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S STATEMENT

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S STATEMENT

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

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

or

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

Signed:



Name: Christopher Fairweather

Date: 8th November 2023

Relevant professional qualification or body:

FCCA (Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants)

Address: 10 Swallows Croft, Reading RG1 6EH

Accounts – Statement of Financial Activity 2022/23

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

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

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

Accounts – Balance Sheet Financial Year 2022/23

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	51,415	-	-	51,415	42,367
Heritage assets	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets	51,415	-	-	51,415	42,367

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

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	48,008	-	-	48,008	11,771
--	--------	---	---	--------	--------

Net current assets/(liabilities)	7,285	-	-	7,285	12,375
----------------------------------	-------	---	---	-------	--------

Total assets less current liabilities	59,145	-	-	59,145	54,742
--	---------------	----------	----------	---------------	---------------

Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities	-	-	-	-	-

Total net assets or liabilities	59,145	-	-	59,145	54,742
--	---------------	----------	----------	---------------	---------------

Funds of the Charity					
Endowment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds	59,145	-	-	59,145	54,740
Revaluation reserve	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	59,145	-	-	59,145	54,740

Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

1.1 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

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

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

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

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

1.2 GOING CONCERN

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis.

1.3 CHANGE OF ACCOUNTING POLICY

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

1.4 CHANGES TO ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

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

1.5 MATERIAL PRIOR YEAR ERRORS

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



Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 RECONCILIATION TO GAAP – Not Applicable

2.2 INCOME

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

Recognition of income

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

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

Yes No N/A

X		
---	--	--

Offsetting

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

Yes No N/A

X		
---	--	--

Grants and donations

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

Yes No N/A

X		
---	--	--

Government grants

The charity has received government grants in the reporting period

Yes No N/A

X		
---	--	--

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

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

Yes No N/A

X		
---	--	--

Donated goods

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

Yes No N/A

		X
--	--	---

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		
---	--	--

Volunteer help

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

2.3 EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition

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

Yes No N/A

X		
---	--	--

Deferred income

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

Yes No N/A

X		
---	--	--

2.4 ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

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

They are valued at cost.

£100

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

Yes No N/A

X		
---	--	--

Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

3. INCOME ANALYSIS

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

Charitable activities:					
Recycling	45,406	-	-	45,406	47,466
WUC Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	45,406	-	-	45,406	47,466

Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

3. INCOME ANALYSIS CONT.

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

TOTAL INCOME	265,669	259,757	-	525,426	368,951
---------------------	----------------	----------------	----------	----------------	----------------

Other information

All income in the prior year was unrestricted except for:

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



Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

4. ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS

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

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

None

5. DONATED GOODS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

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

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

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

Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

6. EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

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

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

Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

6. EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS CONT.

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



Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

7. FEES FOR EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS

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

8. PAID EMPLOYEES

8.1 Staff Costs

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

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

Not applicable

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

True

Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

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

39000

8.2. Average head count in the year

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

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

Amount of contributions recognised in the SOFA as an expense

1902

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

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



Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

10.1. Cost or valuation

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

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			5 Years	3 Years	10 Years	

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

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

10.3. Net Book Value

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

Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

11. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

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

12. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

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

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	54,647	23,794
Other	-	-
Total	54,647	23,794

Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

14. CHARITY FUNDS

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

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

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

Notes to the Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

15. CHARITY FUNDS PREVIOUS YEAR

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

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

Fund names	Type PE, EER or UR*	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expendi- ture £	Fund balances carried forward £
Earley Trust	R	Referral Consumables		3,000	-3,000	-
Garfield Weston	R	Salary		18,333	-18,333	-
Wokingham Town Council	R	Salary	-	3,000	-3,000	-
Arnold Clark	R	Referral Consumables	-	1,000	-1,000	-
Hedley Charitable Trust	R	Referral Consumables	-	2,000	-2,000	-
National Lottery	R	Referral Consumables	-	10,000	-10,000	-
Wokingham Masonic Lodge	R	Fixtures and Fittings	-	900	-900	-
BCF	R	Referral Consumables	-	5,000	-5,000	-
BCF	R	Salary	-	5,000	-5,000	-
PF Charitable Trust	R	Referral Consumables	-	2,000	-2,000	-
Hilden Charitable Trust	R	Referral Consumables	-	5,000	-5,000	-
Didymus	R	Referral Consumables	-	5,000	-5,000	-
Terracycle	R	Referral Consumables	-	400	-400	-
FSP Foundation	R	Referral Consumables	-	2,500	-2,500	-
Toy Trust	R	Christmas Present Project	-	2,000	-2,000	-
Wokingham United Charity	R	Health, Activity and Food (HAF) Project	-	4,000	-4,000	-
Wokingham Borough Council	R	Health, Activity and Food (HAF) Project	-	2,447	-2,447	-
Shanly Foundation	R	Arts and Crafts Eqpt	-	2,500	-2,500	-
52 Lives	R	School Uniform	-	500	-500	-
The Englefield Trust	R	Salary	-	3,000	-3,000	-
Tesco	R	Referrals Consumables	-	1,500	-1,500	-
Grocers	R	Salary	-	5,000	-5,000	-
City and Metropolitan	R	Salary	-	3,000	-3,000	-
Wokingham United Charities	R	Christmas Present Project	-	5,000	-5,000	-
Cash for Kids	R	Christmas Present Project	-	3,000	-3,000	-
Wokingham Borough Council	R	Health, Activity and Food (HAF) Project	-	2,000	-2,000	-
Brighter Futures	R	Household Support Grant	-	1,000	-1,000	-
Warburtons	R	Referral Consumables	-	400	-400	-
Reading Family Church	R	Winter Coats	-	2,000	-2,000	-
National Lottery	R	Referral Team Costs	-	42,625	-42,625	-
Public Donation	R	Noah Boxes	-	5,325	-5,325	-
Restricted Donations	R	Rent	-	39,416	-39,416	-
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 Accounts Financial Year 2022/23

16. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES AND RELATED PARTIES

16.1 Trustee remuneration and benefits

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

True

16.2 Trustees' expenses

No trustee expenses have been incurred (True or False)

True

16.3 Transaction(s) with related parties

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

True

Structure Governance and Management

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

DECLARATIONS

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Date: 10th December 2023

Signature:



Name: Kester John Russell

Position: Chair of Trustees

Signature:



Name: Abbie Walker

Position: Finance Trustee





THE COWSHED

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

Email: info@thecowshed.org | www.thecowshed.org

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

Registered Charity No. 1181550