



Registered Charity 1189302

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

# **2023**

**The Forest of Dean Baby Bank (Charity # 1189302)**

**Registered address: 12 Hillside Close, Bream, GL15 6LU**

**The Trustees:**

Sally Thomas Brown – Chairman  
Chris Hedges – Secretary and Logistics Manager  
Asiza Tait – Treasurer and Operations Manager  
Elkie Lonnkvist - Silent

*Our Objectives:* To be a safety net to families in the Forest of Dean who are experiencing financial crisis. We provide needed baby essentials, including many different types of baby related equipment to families that need our help. We also help provide good quality second-hand clothes to families, from size premature baby all the way to 14-year-old children. Each year we help families obtain uniform for a range of primary and secondary schools in the Forest of Dean.

*Our Core Beliefs:* The Forest of Dean Baby Bank believes that no child, individual, or family should be excluded from the charity's activities on the grounds of age, gender, health or disability, pregnancy, maternity, sexuality, class, family status, means, ability, colour, ethnic origin, culture, religion, or belief. We aim to ensure that all who wish to work in, or volunteer to help with, our charity should have an equal chance to do so. We aim to create effective partnerships within all parts of our community, including schools, GP surgeries, children's centres, health visitors, midwives and social care to provide services that are accessible according to need.

*How we accomplish our objectives:* We have five volunteers who assist with sorting our donations, packing parcels and delivering parcels when necessary. We have no paid employees, all our activities are run and managed by volunteers. We do recompense our volunteers for mileage when they do deliveries.

The organisation does not undertake activities with children in the absence of their parents/carers but could observe the young person's/children's welfare within their family setting. Parents/carers remain responsible for their children's welfare throughout all the work that we undertake to support them.

There is clear hierarchy where volunteers are encouraged to use their initiative and feel supported in their role. Our volunteers are a precious resource and without them we would not be able to provide the help that we do.

***The 2023 in Review***

Over this year we have received grants from FEED, Lydney Town Council, Monmouthshire BSOC and the Forest of Dean District Council.

Our first grant from FEED was restricted to buying milk and food for babies. With the increased prices of formula there was a serious issue with parents being unable to afford the exorbitant prices. With media coverage and pressure for many sources the prices did stabilise, but for several months, families were pushed to approach charities for help to feed their babies. We spent £914.12 on purchasing formula for families. A huge increase from last year.

The Forest of Dean District Council entrusted us again with even larger amounts of Household Support Funding. These funds were restricted to buying food and clothes and other essentials over a preset time frame of July 2023 – March 2024. The funding was supposed to finish the end of March 2024, but it ended on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2024 due to high demand for help.

We used Tesco Corporate Gift cards again to distribute the funds for grocery help. We distributed about £28 000 in grocery vouchers and buying groceries for families. We spent over £8000 buying school uniform for families where our donated stock wasn't enough to meet the need. This year we dedicated a portion of the school uniform budget to helping with buying secondary school uniform, something we had not done before. This help was clearly needed as it was taken up immediately and many parents were really struggling with the high cost of mandatory secondary school uniform for their children just starting their first year of secondary school. We also spent close to £5000 on purchasing warm clothes, coats, pjs and slippers where our donated stock was not enough.

Over 2020 we provided 272 parcels, 2021 we provided 409, 2022 we provided 573. This year we provided **1057** a huge increase and a very clear demonstration of how families are really struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

This year we joined the Baby Bank Alliance (an excerpt from their website at [About the Baby Bank Alliance — Baby Bank Alliance](#))

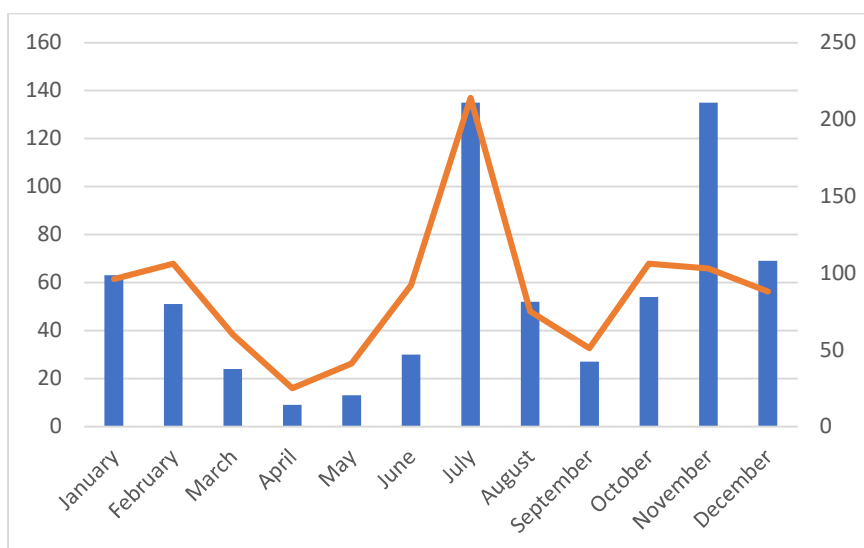
*A national Baby Bank Alliance – so that baby banks can come together with one voice, boost the impact of the incredible support they offer across the country and share the stories of the families they support. We want to ensure that all baby banks can access the funding, goods, volunteers and practical support they need to be the most effective they can be. The founding Alliance board members are Baby Bank Network Bristol, Little Village, Save the Children and Purposeful Ventures; we will soon be expanding our board and Advisory Group to include additional baby bank leaders, ensuring that the Alliance is always run by and for the baby bank community.*

*The Baby Bank Alliance is jointly incubated by Purposeful Ventures and Save the Children.*

In joining the Baby Bank Alliance, we are now including how many children we have helped in our statistics as that is a measure of data we need to report back to the BBA during yearly surveys.

<b>2023</b>	<b>Self- Referred</b>	<b>Referred</b>	<b>Families Helped</b>	<b>Children helped</b>	<b>Bundles</b>
January	55	22	63	109	96
February	64	18	51	127	106
March	37	10	24	77	60
April	13	5	9	22	25
May	23	6	13	39	41
June	37	14	30	69	92
July	122	25	135	256	214
August	77	12	52	162	75
September	48	16	27	67	51
October	38	18	54	85	106
November	85	54	135	276	103
December	82	33	69	245	88
	<b>681</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>1534</b>	<b>1057</b>
Baby Bundles		230			
Clothing Bundles		651			
School Uniform Bundles		176			
		<b>1057</b>			

#### Families helped versus bundles given out.



Yours Sincerely

**The Trustees**  
**Forest of Dean Baby Bank**



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Rose's Way Foundation

1189623

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

6/1/2022

To

5/31/2023

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donation	6,320	-	-	6,320	10,764
Merchandise Sales	227	-	-	227	1,124
Loans	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising	505	-	-	505	5,347
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	68	-	-	68	2
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b> (Gross income for AR)	7,119	-	-	7,119	17,237
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	7,119	-	-	7,119	17,237
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Purchase of merchandise	2,842.57	-	-	2,843	18,291
Office Equipment	-	-	-	-	2,041
Repayment of loan	-	-	-	-	1,994
Donations	3,501.00	-	-	3,501	1,848
Software	248.00	-	-	248	614
Subscriptions	103.88	-	-	104	48
Postage	-	-	-	-	37
Marketing	207.99	-	-	208	116
Fees	216.00	-	-	216	5
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	7,119	-	-	7,119	24,994
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	7,119	-	-	7,119	24,994
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	1	-	-	1	7,757
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	20,519	-	-	20,519	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	20,518	-	-	20,518	7,757

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Savings	15,990	-	-
	Current	4,516	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>20,506</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Loans	0	-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Ajeans	Andrew Jeans	3/12/2024	





**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts**

**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
The Forest of Dean Baby Bank

**On accounts for the 7  
month period ended**

31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1189302

**Set out on pages**

Page 1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Name:**

Derek Michael Broom FCCA

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

Chartered Certified Accountant

**Address:**

Fairways

Lansdown Walk, Bream

Gloucestershire, GL156NE