



Trustees' Report and Accounts unaudited For the year ended 31 December 2022

Little Stars Baby Bank
Registered Charity No. 1191130
www.littlestarscharity.org

Little Stars Baby Bank
Financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2022
Reference and administration details

Charity registration number	1191130
Registered office address	Unit 11 Tower Park Ennerdale Road Shrewsbury SY1 3TD
Accountants	TCA (Shrewsbury) LLP Third Floor 21 St Mary's Street Shrewsbury Shropshire SY1 1ED
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Trustees	L Simcoe (resigned 31 July 2022) B Jones (resigned 30 September 2022) E Jones (resigned 5 April 2022) K Mckinstry (resigned 19 June 2022) H Scurr (appointed 4 May 2022) A Garmston (appointed 23 May 2022) T Cottam (appointed 21 August 2022, resigned 28 October 2022) D Kortas (appointed 12 December 2022) C Williams (appointed 24 January 2023) A Bowler (appointed 30 January 2023)

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Trustees' Annual Report

The Trustees of Little Stars Baby Bank are pleased to present their report and the financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2022.

Our Vision and Mission

Little Star's vision is a world where all babies and children have access to the basic essentials that they need to feel safe and secure.

Our mission is to alleviate the emotional stress and financial pressure of families by providing quality essentials for babies, children and pregnant women. We believe that every family, no matter how complex their situation, should be shown kindness and support at the time they need it most.

Statement of Public Benefit

Our service benefits children of families who, for various reasons, do not have access to the basic essentials that every child deserves. We deliver bundles to various referral partners around the county of Shropshire. In delivering our services we further benefit the public, as follows:

- **Families:** Providing essentials has a significant impact on the family, the service helps keeps babies and young children clothed, clean and safe. This not only helps to remove financial pressure, but also alleviate the emotional stress by providing the basic provisions.
- **Wider community:** The local community are able to donate their pre-loved baby items which not only helps the family who are receiving those items but it also reduces landfill waste and helps the environmental impact.
- **Referral partners:** Professionals now have a service within the county they can use after a visit to a family they know need the basics.

Due to the kind support of fundraiser and donors, Little Stars is able to contribute and supplement the bundles with brand new equipment needed that cannot be donated as pre-loved. Voluntary income enables Little Stars to continue the work and develop the service. In defining our charitable programme, we have regard for the Charity Commissions general guidance on public benefit.

Changes to Trustees

After a successful trustee recruitment process the original Trustees decided at different stages to step down from the charity to allow the charity to move forward with the new Trustee's. The new Trustee's brought a wealth of skills to complement the work already achieved for Little Stars and to help take it forward. L Simcoe took on the position of CEO and works full time for the charity.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporation Organisation ("CIO") which was registered with the Charity Commission on 3rd September 2020 and is governed by a constitution as a Foundation CIO.

Methods used to recruit and appoint new trustees

New Trustees are recruited openly in line with Little Stars Baby Bank's Trustee Recruitment Policy. Trustees receive a full induction to the charity and a set of key documents, to enable them to gain the required information to fulfil their role.

An annual skills analysis ensures the Trustees offer a suitable range of knowledge and skills to support the charity. Where a skills gap is identified we aim to seek Trustees to bridge this gap.

The Board will aim to adhere to the principles of the Charity Governance Code for Small Charities. This is an ongoing process, and we are working towards fulfilling all aspects of the code.

Objectives

The general aims and objectives of Little Stars are to support families living and working within Shropshire by:

- Working alongside various organisations to provide relief of financial hardship for families who cannot afford the essential baby/children items needed.
- Provide quality items which not only helps the family receiving them but also the environment impact.
- Giving help to pregnant women with essentials needed after giving birth.

Activities

Our Bundles

We provide items free of charge which include, although not limited to; clothing, prams and cots (with a new mattress included). As babies grow and explore, we are able to provide the right safety equipment in the home such as stairgates and socket covers. We are very proud to offer a hospital bag pack and maternity clothing, ensuring pregnant ladies are looked after with all the basics they need too.



Our partnerships

Little Stars are able to offer support to those fleeing domestic abuse and are in need of items urgently for their young child; those who may be on the brink of homelessness; or families where there has been a job loss and the household income has been impacted.

Little Stars are continuing to build on their relationships whilst developing new ones. This ensures Little Stars reaches as many families as we can.

Achievements and performance

Our monthly referrals have doubled when compared to 2021. We now receive, on average, 24 referrals per month. Our referral partners have also requested support with other items, such as school uniforms. To date we have supported 407 babies and children by providing the essentials they need. We estimate that this has lifted over £22,000 of financial burden for the babies, children, pregnant women, and families our service supports.

Item	Total given out	Item	Total given out
Stairgates	37	Bath	24
Car seats	2	Bouncer	16
Moses basket	25	Playmat	13
Cots/cotbeds	12	Nappies and wipes	720
Highchair	12	Toiletries	375
Pram	16	clothing	9462
Pushchair	11	carseat	4

Christmas 2022

The charity's Santa's Little Stars campaign provided Christmas gifts to 229 children via the network of professionals the charity has worked with over the financial year. The campaign was once again hugely successful with the support of Tesco who collected gifts for us along with volunteers and use of their facilities from the company Aico.



Our Impact

We work closely with our referral partners to gather feedback and case studies so that we can understand the impact our work. It also helps us to identify areas where we can make changes and improve the services we offer.

Case Study

Little Stars has been supporting a lady working within the Shropshire Perinatal Mental Health Team for the past 8 months. The lady in our service has a one sided weakness and memory loss, she has not been entitled to funding or financial support due to not meeting criteria. This has meant that no resources or support had been given to supply equipment to support her growing Infant. Little Stars has supported the mother and her Infant with vital equipment to enable the mother to live independently with her daughter.

Little Stars supported and supplied various items to help with keeping her baby safe and offering resources that the family could not afford and could be used one handed or to make daily life activities easier.

Low level play pens, highchairs, beanbags and a carry sling to name a few. Without the support of Little Stars the lady would have needed to move into her parents' house which would have impacted negatively on her Mental Health. Little Stars the charity provided vital resources throughout the duration it was required and have made a huge difference to the families' life. Thank you

Testimonials

"A massive thank you for the bundles you put together for children at our school. They were gratefully received by the family, but most of all it was touching to see the children walking into school this morning wearing the clothing you provided. Fantastic charity and a speedy turnaround."

"Little starts charity provided a family with a high chair, beanbag and chair that was suitable for the Infant to use with Hip Spica cast. Funding was not available for the family and specialist equipment costs were extremely high. Little Stars sourced various items and supported the family to obtain the above mentioned items to make look after their baby more manageable."

"Little Stars charity have provided many of our families with baby essentials such as, formula milk, nappies and toiletries. The increase in the cost of living has meant for lots of our families they are no longer able to afford baby essentials. This vital service ensures that Infants are able to complete baby care activities and support parent's mental health with reducing stress and anxiety about financial burden."

Acknowledgments

Little Stars have been delighted with the support of so many wonderful families, individuals, and organisations.

Thank you to the families and individuals who donate their pre-loved baby and children clothing for Little Stars to pass onto other families in need of a helping hand.

Thank you to all the individuals who have donated money to Little Stars.

Thank you Aico, who chose Little Stars as their charity of the year and once again helped move the charity forward with their generosity of gifted storage space at their headquarters in Oswestry, volunteer hours along with monetary contributions.



Future plans

Little Stars have developed a strong foundation since launching the charity and have a good reputation for quality pre-loved bundles given in a timely manner with support growing from the local community. As the charity look towards the new financial year the strategic focus will be:

- Recruiting a project co-ordinator to help us with the launch of our school uniform.
- Set up Little Community Hubs within strategic locations so families have access to basic essentials without referrals.
- Raising the profile and visibility of the charity.
- Building our fundraising strategy.
- Developing our monitoring and evaluation so that we can feed this back into our work and provide the best possible service for our beneficiaries.

Financial review and reserves policy

The charity has had a successful first year, generating income of over £79k. Expenditure was £41K leaving £62K in monetary funds carried forward. £42k of this is restricted funding as set out on page 9.

The trustees agree to hold free reserves in the region of £11,000

This is to ensure that there is sufficient funds to cover the running costs of the charity for 6 months. Trustees have taken possible risks into account and considered the loss of gifted storage space.

The Trustees agree to continuously monitor this as the charity grows and develops to ensure the amount held in reserves mirrors the level of activity.

The free reserves of the charity at the year end, calculated as unrestricted funds less fixed assets, were £19K.

Basis of Accounting

The accounts of the charity have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with charity regulations.

This report was approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Garmston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Alex Garmston

Trustee

3rd July 2023

**Little Stars Baby Bank
Independent Examiners Report**

**Little Stars Baby Bank
Independent Examiners Report for the year ended 31 December 2022**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 8 to 9.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiners Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

C Moelwyn-Williams

Mrs C L Moelwyn-Williams BSc FCA

TCA (Shrewsbury) LLP
Third Floor
21 St Mary's Street
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY1 1ED

Date - *4th July 2023*

Little Stars Baby Bank
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022
Receipts and payments account

	Unrestricted 2022 £	Restricted 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Receipts				
Grants	4,360	33,592	37,952	34,712
Donations and fundraising income	39,375	1,885	41,260	3,568
Bank Interest received	15	-	15	-
Total Receipts	43,750	35,477	79,227	38,280
Payments				
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Purchases for service users	4,849	661	5,510	2,671
<i>Costs of fundraising</i>				
Fundraising events and promotion	198	-	198	478
<i>Support costs</i>				
Wages and Salaries	14,583	-	14,583	-
Employers National Insurance	1,570	-	1,570	-
Employers Pension Contributions	192	-	192	-
Accountancy	-	600	600	-
Consultancy	-	10,320	10,320	-
Insurance	250	-	250	469
Marketing	1,856	-	1,856	1,366
Office admin (inc'g telephone)	62	-	62	47
Bank charges	81	-	81	101
Rent and storage costs	3,631	-	3,631	2,196
IT costs	420	85	505	563
Vehicle costs	2,013	-	2,013	576
Purchase of a van	-	-	-	5,995
Sundry	215	-	215	45
Total Payments	29,920	11,666	41,586	14,506
Net (Payments)/Receipts - unrestricted funds	13,830	23,811	37,641	23,774
Cash and bank balances brought forward	5,012	18,762	23,774	-
Cash and bank balances carried forward	18,842	42,573	61,415	23,774

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Statement of funds

	2022 £	2021 £
Monetary assets		
Current account	61,339	23,698
Paypal account	76	76
	<u>61,415</u>	<u>23,774</u>
 Other assets		
Van	5,995	5,995
	<u>67,410</u>	<u>29,769</u>
 Funds		
Unrestricted Funds	24,837	11,007
Restricted Funds		
Project Co-ordinator fund	4,965	13,781
Other restricted fund	5,496	4,981
Salaries Fund	32,112	-
	<u>42,573</u>	<u>18,762</u>
	<u><u>67,410</u></u>	<u><u>29,769</u></u>

The Project Co-ordinator fund relates to restricted funding received for the appointment of a Project Co-ordinator, funded by The Postcode local trust

The Other restricted fund relates to restricted funding provided by The Postcode local trust, Tesco and The National Lottery to be used for the baby bank service.

The Salaries Fund relates to restricted funding provided by The Postcode local trust Tesco and The National Lottery to be used for wages and salaries.