



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/04/24

To 31/03/25

Charity name: The Raft

Charity registration number: 1194852

Objectives and Activities

The Charity's Objects are, for the public benefit, specifically the relief and assistance of children and their families in Leicester and Leicestershire who are in need because of adverse childhood experiences, through targeted and preventative support that includes, but is not limited to:

- Facilitating collective action between churches and partners
- Networking and signposting
- Training and events which promote therapeutic parenting, positive social, emotional and mental health and trauma informed practices
- Campaigning and advocacy for care-experienced and looked after children
- Delivery of projects and services that build resilience and aid recovery.

During the year 01/04/24 to 31/03/25, The Raft delivered the following activities in relation to the above charitable purposes:

1. Delivery of care packages to newly approved foster carers in Leicester (20 in the reporting period to Leicestershire County Council)
2. Development of our Bounce Together programme at a local trampoline park (Boost Leicester)- monthly sessions for care-experienced families, with trampolining and craft for children and support around the parents / carers (which has included attendance by professionals for specialist advice and self care).
3. Creation of a new podcast "Faith That Cares", for Christians involved in foster care and adoption, which is now available on Spotify.
4. Further Brain Builders (Lego Serious Play sessions) for children, with the aim of promoting brain development and wellbeing.
5. A Christmas party for Leicestershire adoptive and foster families
6. Lego clubs in the summer, Christmas and half term holidays
7. We were successful at obtaining grants from Arnold Clark Community Fund to deliver a summer holiday storytelling club for care-experienced children, from Asda for our Christmas party and crowdfunding for Bounce Together.
8. One Church, Leicester, became a charity partner, and financial supporter
9. Oadby Baptist Church supported us through provision of knitted blankets for babies and children.

One new trustee was appointed, Carys Radford, and one, Deborah Hill, was re-elected for a further three year term. All trustees have full regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The Raft has the following policies in place:

- Conflicts of Interest
- Equality, Inclusion and Diversity
- Health and Safety
- Risk assessment
- Safeguarding
- Financial controls (draft)
- Register of interest
- Privacy notice
- Data protection

Achievements and Performance

The Raft has achieved the following during the reporting period:

- We created our new website, www.theraftleicester.co.uk
- In the reporting period, we ran three sessions at Boost Leicester, attended by approx. 60-80 people each time. These enabled children to work off stress and develop friendships.
- We ran two further Lego Serious Play (LSP) pilot sessions (Brain Builders) with LSP facilitator, Julia Reeve, and used feedback from these sessions to decide to extend these sessions and train two volunteers from The Raft in LSP facilitation. This will allow us to offer bespoke, trauma-informed LSP sessions to more care-experienced children in Leicester.
- We attracted more followers on our social media accounts, and extended our prayer network
- We worked with our local Rotary Club to take over 60 adults and children to Wicksteed Park theme park for the day.
- Our Christmas party was attended by over 100 adults and children from foster and adoptive families, and we had lovely feedback from those who joined us.
- We delivered presentations to the Jewel Conference at Hope Community Church in September 2024, the Rotary Club in October 2024, and Quorn Baptist Church in January 2025, helping to raise awareness of our work and attract supporters.
- Our new podcast, Faith That Cares, launched on Spotify in June 2024 and releases episodes approximately once a month.
- Chef and Spice Fundraising meal and auction in September 2024 raised over £1,000
- One Church funded vouchers for children at Christmas – 100 given out.

Financial Review

The Raft holds a charitable bank account with Lloyds Bank.

Income during the reporting period: £16,109

Expenditure during the reporting period: £10,761

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document of The Raft is a “foundation model constitution”. Its only voting members are its charity trustees. The Raft is a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation).

The constitution sets out the method of trustee selection: every charity trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO. All charity trustees must subscribe and adhere to, in belief and lifestyle, the Statement of Beliefs.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Raft
Other name the charity uses	n/a
Registered charity number	1194852
Charity's principal address	The Raft c/o Hope Community Church 56 Bull Head Street Wigston Leicester LE18 1PA

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

1. Debbie Hill, Chair of Trustees
2. Chris Plummer, Treasurer and Secretary
3. Paul Cromwell, Safeguarding Lead
4. Carys Radford

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

This section is not applicable.

Exemptions from disclosure

This section is not applicable

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees.

Signature	
Full name:	Deborah Anne Hill
Position:	Chair
Date:	10/09/25



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
The Raft

No (if any)
1194852

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
4/1/2024


To

Period end date
3/31/2025

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 £
A1 Receipts					
Bounce Together crowd funding	-	4,587	-	4,587	-
Christmas	-	4,238	-	4,238	-
Fundariser (Chef and Spice event)	1,788	-	-	1,788	-
Pool party	-	150	-	150	-
Story telling club	-	390	-	390	-
Donations	4,956	-	-	4,956	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	6,744	9,365	-	16,109	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	6,744	9,365	-	16,109	-
A3 Payments					
Bounce Together	-	250	-	250	-
Christmas	-	1,950	-	1,950	-
Fundraising event and ticket tailor	583	-	-	583	-
Lego Serious Play	3,100	-	-	3,100	-
Pool party	-	233	-	233	-
Story telling club	-	822	-	822	-
Insurance	96	-	-	96	-
Resources	3,495	-	-	3,495	-
Website	231	-	-	231	-
Sub total	7,505	3,255	-	10,760	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	7,505	3,255	-	10,760	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	761	6,110	-	5,349	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	761	6,110	-	5,349	-

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	Closing balance at 31/3/24	4,616	9,365	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	4,323	768	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	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)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees				
Signature		Print Name		Date of approval
		Deborah Hill		1/12/2026