

The Baby Equipment Loan Service And Toy Library
Registered Charity No. 1196768

Trustees' Report
and
Financial Statement
for the period ended
31 March 24

The Baby Equipment Loan Service And Toy Library

Name: The Baby Equipment Loan Service And Toy Library

Charity no: 1196768

Structure: Unincorporated association governed by a constitution.

Trustees: Angela Waton
Carol Dennison
Janice Swinburne
Nicholas Waton (deceased June'23)
Susan Dixon
Emily O'Hare

Trustees are elected by the membership at each Annual General Meeting.

Address: Footprints Day Nursery & Children's Centre
North Road
Wallsend
NE28 8RH

Bankers: The Co-operative Bank Plc

Independent Examiner: Mark Thompson MAAT
VODA
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing
2nd Floor, Wallsend Customer First Centre
16 The Forum
Wallsend
NE28 8JR

The Baby Equipment Loan Service And Toy Library

Review of activities and performance

Throughout the financial year April 2023 to March 2024 the BELS & TL has continued to provide services to children, young people and families in North Tyneside. The food and fuel crisis has been unremitting and we have seen many more families borrowing baby equipment and joining the Toy Library in order to keep their costs down. They also tell us that they are happy to reuse and recycle to lessen the environmental impact.

Baby equipment and toys loaned by multiple families, reduces the waste of purchasing and dealing with the packaging of items that may only be required for a short period of time. We are also seeing families borrowing low-cost party packs, including larger toys, that can be loaned for various special events and dressing up outfits that can be used for one off events such as World Book Day.

The toys and games purchased for children with additional needs in mind has had a huge impact upon the children who have borrowed them and this is something we are determined to progress.

Our free Groups and services offer activities that benefit children and young people by developing their self-confidence, social skills and provide some light and hope in difficult times for their parents/carers.

The Project Support Workers and Volunteers further developed the Toy Library website, welcomed new and old Toy Library members to the Project, hired baby and safety equipment, facilitated Toddler Groups and Stay and Play sessions, highlighted important dates in the calendar and visited many groups and organisations throughout the Borough.

The introduction of the Wednesday drop in (rather than an appointment system) has proved really popular with families who need that flexibility.

The Trustees have worked on reviewing and updating policies and these are put into practice by staff, volunteers, and the management committee.

The Team undertook a VODA Operational Health Check. This was a positive experience as we had mainly green and a few ambers on the traffic light system.

This has been a great year for building partnerships. We worked in partnership with Karbon Homes to supply their residents with free baby and safety equipment and free memberships to the Toy Library.

We were pleased to link with Feeding Families to be able to offer their food boxes to our members. We are hoping to develop another partnership to enable BELS & TL to facilitate a baby and toddler group to reach out to the asylum seeker and refugee community.

Thank you to the Trusts and Foundations who have helped to make all the above activities possible – the ASDA Foundation, the Barbour Foundation, BBC Children in Need, Carrie Reay Grassroots, Reeds Grassroots and Port of Tyne Community Action at the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, the Co-op Local Community Fund, Karbon Homes Community Fund, Sir James Knott Trust, R.W.Mann Trust, Masonic Charitable Foundation, North Tyneside Fund, the Prime Fund and the Winter Family Fund at the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, Squires Foundation Fund at the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, Tesco Community Grants, William Webster Charitable Trust.

As always, our local (and sometimes, not so local but with a connection) community has helped to fund the services of BELS & TL. Thank you to Sean Farrell, Jon Goodwin and members of Slimming World, Wallsend.

The Project is based in Footprints Day Nursery and Children's Centre, where we enjoy positive relationships with staff and where both Projects support each other and signpost clients to the different services on offer.

Thank you also to everyone who donated toys and equipment, small sums of money, gifts for our Annual General Meeting raffle and tombola and those who donated their time, skills and knowledge.

All of our work was overshadowed by the sudden death of our Trustee, Nick Waton, in June 2023 and we miss him greatly. A huge thank you goes to Nick's family and friends who gave donations to the Baby Equipment Loan Service and Toy Library in memory of Nick.

Financial Review

The financial position for the period shows net incoming funds of £37,206 and total outgoing resources of £56,150. With a balance brought forward figure of £60,802 this leaves a carried forward figure of £41,858. Of this, £19,300 is restricted funds, and £12,000 is a reserve for contingencies as our reserves policy below (see the notes to the accounts), leaving £10,558 of unrestricted reserves. The Trustees consider the financial position of the charity to be stable, but are constantly looking for funding to continue the service.

Plans for the Future

- To continue to encourage the involvement of more Volunteers and Trustees in the Project
- To research ideas for reaching home schooled children
- To assess the popularity of the toys and games purchased for children with additional needs.
- To continue to update the BELS & TL website.
- To work in partnership with colleagues in North Tyneside to develop new group sessions.
- To promote the baby / safety equipment aspect of the Project.

The trustees / directors have considered the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on the provision of public benefit and they confirm that public benefit has been provided by the range of activities as described above.

Risks, reserves and investments

The Trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level equivalent to three months expenditure. This level would allow the charity to continue its activities for a reasonable period in the event of a sudden curtailment of funding. This would allow enough time for the charity to either obtain new funding sources or restructure its activities

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The Trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Signed:  Chair, on behalf of the Trustees, date: 9/7/24

Independent Examiners Report

Report to the
trustees of

The Baby Equipment Loan Service And Toy Library

On accounts for
the year ended

31-Mar-24 Charity no 1196768

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and
examiner

The trustees of the organisation are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act),
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of
independent
examiner's
statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent
examiner's
statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; 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:



June 18, 2024

Name:

Mark Thompson MAAT

Address:

VODA

Spirit of North Tyneside Wing

2nd Floor, Wallsend Customer First Centre

16 The Forum

Wallsend

NE28 8JR

Statement of Financial Activities
for the period ended 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted Funds 2024	Designated Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	4	3637		31158	34795	27647
Donations - general		352			352	453
Charitable activities		254			254	333
Other trading activities		1755			1755	1319
Other		50			50	419
Total Receipts		6048		31158	37206	30171
Payments						
Charitable activities		24164		31960	56124	37751
Other		26			26	29
Total Payments		24190		31960	56150	37780
Surplus / deficit for the year		-18142		-802	-18944	-7609
Transfer between Funds					0	0
Funds at 1 April 2023		28700	12000	20102	60802	68411
Funds at 31 March 2024		10558	12000	19300	41858	60802

The Baby Equipment Loan Service And Toy Library

Balance Sheet

31-Mar-24

	2024	2023
	£	£
notes		
Fixed Assets	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Current assets		
Cash at Bank & in Hand	40,734	60,296
Debtors & Prepayments	2,515	506
Total Cash Balance	<u>43,249</u>	<u>60,802</u>
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	1,391	
Net Current Assets	41,858	60,802
Net Assets at 31 March 2024	<u><u>41,858</u></u>	<u><u>60,802</u></u>
Represented By		
Restricted Funds	19,300	20,102
Designated Funds	12,000	12,000
Unrestricted Funds	10,558	28,700
	<u><u>41,858</u></u>	<u><u>60,802</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the following members of the Management Committee:

Signed.....

Position.....9/7/24 CHAIRPERSON

Signed.....

Position.....TREASURER

Date 9.7.2024

The Baby Loan Service and Toy Library
Notes to the accounts, 2024

1. Accounting Policies

- a** The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Baby Equipment Loan Service and Toy Library meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Fixed Assets are depreciated over a useful lifetime at the following rates:

Toys	50% straight line
Baby Equipment	50% straight line
Office Equipment	25% reducing balance

1.b Opening Balance Adjustment.

The opening balance at 1st April 2023 has been adjusted by £764. The previous accounts showed a liability from HMRC, this has been amended to show correctly as a debtor.

2. Trustees and Staff

No Trustees were remunerated or received expenses payments.

Total Salary Costs	£	33,853
Average no of staff was		3

3. Costs of financial services

The cost for the Independent Examination for the financial period will be £420

4. Funding

Unrestricted

Amazon Smile	25
Asda Foundation	600
Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland	2000
Jon Goodwin	50
Slimming World Members - Wallsend	100
Sean Farrell	213
Donations in Memory of Nick Waton	649
Total Unrestricted Funding	3637

Restricted Funding

BBC Children in Need	10000
The Barbour Foundation	3000
R W Mann Trust	2500
Karbon Homes Community Fund	2783
Sir James Knott Trust	5000
Masonic Charitable Foundation	2000
North Tyneside Fund, the Prime Fund and the Winter Family Fund at the Community Foundation, Tyne & Wear and Northumberland	5000
Tesco Community Grant	375
William Webster Charitable Trust	500
Total Restricted Funding	31158

5. Fund Analysis

Restricted Funds	April'23	Income	Expend	March'24
BBC Children in Need	10000	10000	10000	10000
The Barbour Foundation	0	3000	1200	1800
R W Mann Trust	517	2500	517	2500
Karbon Homes Community Fund	927	2783	3710	0
Sir James Knott Trust	0	5000	5000	0
Masonic Charitable Foundation	0	2000	2000	0
North Tyneside Fund, the Prime Fund and the Winter Family Fund at the Community Foundation, Tyne & Wear and Northumberland	0	5000	0	5000
Carrie Reay Grassroots, Reeds Grassroots & Port of Tyne Community Action at the Community Foundation - Tyne & Wear and Northumberland	5215	0	5215	0
Co-op Local Community Fund	1932	0	1932	0
Tesco Community Grant	0	375	375	0
Squires Foundation Fund at the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland	1511	0	1511	0
William Webster Charitable Trust	0	500	500	0
Total	20102	31158	31960	19300

	Apr-23	Mar-24
Designated Funds		
Designated Funds are held as contingency as per the charity's Reserves Policy.	12000	12000

6. Related party transactions

There were no significant transactions between the project and any related parties during the period. No payments have been made to Trustees.