

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

**Trustees' Report
and
Financial Statement
for the period ended
31 March 25**

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
Charlotte Kennedy
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 Community Hub & Library
16 The Forum
Wallsend
NE28 8JR

The Baby Equipment Loan Service And Toy Library

Review of activities and performance

Throughout the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 the Baby Equipment Loan Service and Toy Library (BELS & TL) has continued to provide services to children, young people and families in North Tyneside.

This is the Project's 40th year. From the beginning, as part of Rosehill Young Women's Project through to charitable status in its own right, the BELS & TL has supported thousands of families with baby and safety equipment, toys and games, free group sessions and support and advice on many issues.

During the past year, 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.

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 we hope to further develop this range.

During the 40 years of its existence, BELS & TL has been managed by a volunteer Management Committee. The staff and management have a wealth of experience gathered over the years and updated with continuous professional development.

There are two part time Project Support Workers. In addition, two Volunteers aid the staff team with the day-to-day work of the Project.

Over the years, many Volunteers have played a significant role in the Project. These dedicated local individuals are driven to support our community, and through their involvement, they share and develop their knowledge and skills.

We have three Designated Safeguarding Officers, one of whom is the Designated Safeguarding Lead. She is a Trustee and ensures that all issues concerning the safety and welfare of children and young people and vulnerable adults who attend BELS & TL are properly dealt with through policies, procedures, administrative systems and training.

Two new members of the Management Committee (one recently becoming a Trustee) have experience of governance and policies from their day jobs. We are now undertaking a complete overhaul of all policies. The two Safeguarding Policies (Adults and Children / Young People) are reviewed every year. Other policies have different timescales depending on their content. In the past two months, we have reviewed and updated our Confidentiality and Data Protection Policy and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy. The Whistleblowing Policy and Recruitment and Selection Policy are currently being reviewed.

The BELS & TL ethos is that everyone we work with will be treated fairly and not subject to discrimination. We welcome the diversity of communities and organisations we engage with. All policies are read, understood and put into practice by Staff, Volunteers and Management Committee. The policies are working documents and dictate our practice. Therefore, the contact we make with our members will be non-discriminatory as will any contact with new clients referred to us.

Although we are a very small Team, we know that we have a huge impact on the community we serve.

Thank you to the Trusts and Foundations who have helped to make all the above activities possible – the Barbour Foundation, BBC Children in Need, the Bernicia Foundation, the Hadrian Trust, the Hospital of God, the Joicey Trust, the Sir James Knott Trust, the William Leech Charity, the R.W.Mann Trust, the National Lottery, Awards for All England, North Tyneside Fund, the Prime Fund and the Winter Family Fund at the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, the Shears Foundation and St. Hilda's 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 and to members of Slimming World, Wallsend. Thank you also to everyone who donated toys and equipment, small sums of money and to those who donated their time, skills and knowledge.

Financial Review

The financial position for the period shows net incoming funds of £53,930 and total outgoing resources of £52,830. With a balance brought forward figure of £41,858 this leaves a carried forward figure of £42,958 Of this, £26,962 is restricted funds, and £12,000 is a reserve for contingencies as our reserves policy below (see the notes to the accounts), leaving £3,996 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 celebrate our 40th birthday at our Annual General Meeting in November 2025.
- To develop new Group Sessions in collaboration with partners in the North Tyneside area.
- To design new leaflets advertising the services of BELS & TL.
- To review and update all current Policies, introducing new Policies where appropriate.
- To continue to encourage the involvement of more Volunteers and Trustees in the Project
- To continue to monitor the usage of the Baby Equipment Loan aspect of the Project and to assess the Toy Library membership, including the popularity of the toys and games purchased for children with additional needs.
- To continue to update the BELS & TL website.


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: 4/8/25

Independent Examiners Report

Report to the
trustees of

The Baby Equipment Loan Service And Toy Library

On accounts for
the year ended

31-Mar-25 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:



July 8, 2025

Name:
Address:

Mark Thompson MAAT
VODA
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing
2nd Floor, Wallsend Community Hub & Library
16 The Forum
Wallsend
NE28 8JR

Statement of Financial Activities
for the period ended 31 March 2025

| | | Unrestricted Funds 2025 | Designated Funds 2025 | Restricted Funds 2025 | Total Funds 2025 | Total Funds 2024 |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Receipts | | | | | | |
| Donations and Legacies | 4 | 1,350 | | 50,330 | 51,680 | 34,795 |
| Donations - General | | 248 | | | 248 | 352 |
| Charitable Activities | | 99 | | | 99 | 254 |
| Other Trading Activities | | 1,903 | | | 1,903 | 1,755 |
| Other | | | | | - | 50 |
| Total Receipts | | 3,600 | | 50,330 | 53,930 | 37,206 |
| Payments | | | | | | |
| Charitable Activities | | 9,960 | | 42,668 | 52,628 | 56,124 |
| Other | | 202 | | | 202 | 26 |
| Total Payments | | 10,162 | | 42,668 | 52,830 | 56,150 |
| Surplus / deficit for the year | - | 6,562 | | 7,662 | 1,100 | - 18,944 |
| Transfer between Funds | | | | | - | - |
| Funds at 1 April 2024 | | 10,558 | 12,000 | 19,300 | 41,858 | 60,802 |
| Funds at 31 March 2025 | | 3,996 | 12,000 | 26,962 | 42,958 | 41,858 |

The Baby Equipment Loan Service And Toy Library

Balance Sheet

31-Mar-25

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| notes | | |
| Fixed Assets | 0 | 0 |
| | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash at Bank & in Hand | 42,958 | 40,734 |
| Debtors & Prepayments | | 2,515 |
| Total Cash Balance | <u>42,958</u> | <u>43,249</u> |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Trade Creditors | | 1,391 |
| Net Current Assets | 42,958 | 41,858 |
| Net Assets at 31 March 2025 | <u>42,958</u> | <u>41,858</u> |
| Represented By | | |
| Restricted Funds | 26,962 | 19,300 |
| Designated Funds | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| Unrestricted Funds | 3,996 | 10,558 |
| | <u>42,958</u> | <u>41,858</u> |

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

Signed.....

Position.....Chair.....

Signed.....

Position.....TREASURER.....

Date 4/8/25

The Baby Loan Service and Toy Library
Notes to the accounts, 2025

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 lifeline at the following rates:

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

2. Trustees and Staff

No Trustees were remunerated or received expenses payments.

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------|
| Total Salary Costs | £ | 33,426 |
| 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

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Sean Farrell | 1,235 |
| Slimming World Members - Wallsend | 100 |
| Easy Fundraising | 15 |
| Total Unrestricted Funding | 1,350 |

Restricted Funding

| | |
|---|--------------|
| The Bernicia Foundation | 10,000 |
| Hadrian Trust | 1,000 |
| Hospital of God | 1,000 |
| Joicey Trust | 1,500 |
| Sir James Knott Trust | 5,000 |
| William Leech Charity | 2,500 |
| National Lottery - Awards for All England | 19,000 |
| Shears Foundation | 9,000 |
| St Hilda's Trust | 1,330 |
| Total Restricted Funding | 50330 |

5. Fund Analysis

| Restricted Funds | April'24 | Income | Expend | March'25 |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| BBC Children in Need | 10,000 | | 10,000 | - |
| The Barbour Foundation | 1,800 | | 1,800 | - |
| R W Mann Trust | 2,500 | | 2,500 | - |
| North Tyneside Fund, the Prime Fund and the Winter Family Fund at the Community Foundation, Tyne & Wear and Northumberland | 5,000 | | 5,000 | - |
| The Bernicia Foundation | | 10,000 | 989 | 9,011 |
| Hadrian Trust | | 1,000 | 1,000 | - |
| Hospital of God | | 1,000 | 1,000 | - |
| Joicey Trust | | 1,500 | 1,500 | - |
| Sir James Knott Trust | | 5,000 | 1,066 | 3,934 |
| William Leech Charity | | 2,500 | 2,500 | - |
| National Lottery - Awards for All England | | 19,000 | 4,983 | 14,017 |
| Shears Foundation | | 9,000 | 9,000 | - |
| St Hilda's Trust | | 1,330 | 1,330 | - |
| Total | 19,300 | 50,330 | 42,668 | 26,962 |

| | Apr-24 | Mar-25 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Designated Funds | | |
| Designated Funds are held as contingency as per the charity's Reserves Policy. | 12,000 | 12,000 |

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.