



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
RBKares

On accounts for the
accounting period

1 November 2022 – 31 October 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1197621

Set out on pages

2 to 8

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/10/2023.

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:

MHRoberts

Date:

9 August 2024

Name:

Michelle Roberts

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

Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales
Member 1589891

Address:

10 Courtlands Road

Surbiton

KT5 8PL

RBKARES (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER 1197621 (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

DATE OF REGISTRATION 21 January 2022

START OF FINANCIAL PERIOD 1 November 2022

END OF FINANCIAL PERIOD 31 October 2023

TRUSTEES

Pippa Coe (appointed 15th February 2022)

Miranda Gibson (appointed 17th June 2024)

Tess Green

Beatrix Kenyon (chair)

Samantha Lord (resigned 13th February 2024)

Jane Watson (treasurer)

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

46 Norbiton Avenue

Kingston upon Thames

KT1 3QR

PRIMARY BANKERS

NatWest Bankline

73 High Street

Walton-on-Thames

Surrey

KT12 1DW

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Michelle Roberts

ANNUAL REPORT

The board of trustees has pleasure in presenting RBKares trustees' report and financial statement for the year ended 31 October 2023. RBKares remains a fully volunteer-run charity that creates social change, tackles inequality and makes the community a kinder, better place to live. We were delighted to continue to support the Kingston community by building stronger relationships with local services to support more residents as we identify their needs and make a difference.

Summary of Purpose

RBKares connects kindness and generosity in the Kingston community with vulnerable people and key-workers. We focus on providing support to NHS staff, care homes and other vulnerable groups such as refugees and the homeless. We use the community's sewing and crafting skills to make items to support people in our community, run sewing workshops and wellbeing days empowering people to help themselves.

Our mission is to address local need in the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames and make a lasting impact in our community by bringing Kingston residents and services together to support community members in need. We want to make a difference on a personal level, by plugging support gaps or by complementing local services to support community members.

Summary of the Main Activities

Wellbeing Days:

The RBKares Wellbeing days continue to be a popular monthly event supporting the guests of the Cambridge Road Estate foodbank by bringing 12-15 local services to support their mental, physical, financial and digital health. These include Mind in Kingston, the Samaritans, Royal borough of Kingston (RBK) Benefits support, RBK skills and employment/We Are Digital, RBK Get Active, RBK Adult Education, Superhighways, Footcare, NHS vaccination team, Health checks, Kick-it smoking cessation, Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness (KCAH), SPEAR, Dr Bike from Kingston Cycling Campaign and Full Cycle Community Bike Project. The guests are low income, refugees, substance abusers or rough sleepers and by having these services on site, they can readily access the help they really need. Over 26 months, we've gained the trust of attendees and created an atmosphere where they feel comfortable asking for help. This collaboration is a real asset to our community and continues to develop. The services and charities that attend find it a good way to engage with people who are normally hard to reach.

During this period we held a dental assessment which gave us the data we needed to apply for grants. The Brothers Trust paid for 3 dental sessions with Dentaaid during this time. We held a one off Specsavers clinic in May 2023 where 21 guests were seen and fitted with glasses the following week. We became HeyGirl Partners to provide free access to different types of reusable and disposable period products. We teamed up with Franco Manca to give over 200 free pizzas to food bank guests. At Christmas we decorated and ran Santa's Grotto for the families attending the foodbank.

Refugee sewing workshop:

RBKares continues to run weekly sewing workshops with refugees from over 15 different countries at the Refugee Action Kingston community hub at St. John's Church each Wednesday. Over 20 months RBKares volunteers has gained their trust creating a friendly, collaborative group where English is not such a barrier – these workshops have been transformational in terms of camaraderie, confidence, skills and integration into the community. With 12 sewing machines, overlockers, donated fabric and a team of volunteers, a lot of fun is had while the refugees make clothing, do alterations, sew decorative items and build strong friendships. We continue to support refugees in the borough and those in temporary accommodation with advice and items to make them more comfortable.

Supporting Kingston Hospital:

RBKares continues to support staff at Kingston Hospital with a variety of projects to boost morale amongst staff or to provide staff with items to help them support their patients.

During this year we continued delivering baked goods from the community to the hospital every week boosting this at times of increased strain and involving some local schools. We delivered Christmas presents to give to the patients who were in hospital over Christmas. To help Kingston Hospital celebrate the 75th anniversary of the NHS, many large cakes were made to help different departments celebrate. The volunteers continue to sew and embroider bespoke scrubs for the chaplaincy. We make and fill bags with treats for 'Cancer Nurse Day' and Maternity bereavement. Volunteers knitted nurses to help Matrons start conversations, and when stress levels were high and morale low, they made Dammit Dolls to help with frustrations. RBKares volunteers knitted hundreds of chicks and rabbits to put on easter eggs which the play therapists distributed through the hospital. The volunteers knitted angel pockets for people who lost babies before 24 weeks gestation. A team of 20 RBKares volunteers raised £2,235 on the Kingston Hospital Night to Remember walk, raising much needed funds for their bereavement services. The volunteers then made 120 bags which were filled with arts and craft items and worry worms for the paediatric team. On World Mental Health day we gave hundreds of 'pocket hugs' to be distributed in the hospital and at Tolworth

Hospital. We supported the Child and Adolescent Mental Health unit with anti-anxiety bags which were filled with stationery, fidget toys and worms.

Warmer in Winter project:

With much of the community struggling with the cost of living and high energy prices we decided to sew bags and fill them with items to help keep clients warm. Our incredible volunteers knitted or crocheted blankets, scarves and hats, and bought thermal socks and gloves, hot water bottles, thermal travel mugs, torches, cuppa soup, drinks sachets, gifts, information leaflets and cards from a school children. 280 of these bags were distributed to vulnerable or elderly Kingston residents through local services and charities we work with like SPEAR, Voices of Hope, Foodbanks, Refugee Action Kingston, Alfriston Outreach, Churches, schools and Kingston Young Carers Project.

Care Homes:

Our third Christmas care home project proved very popular with Kingston residents. Care homes let us know the hobbies or likes of their residents who have no family to buy gifts for them, and through posting on social media, community members are matched to care home residents. These are distributed with thousands of cards from local schools.

Fidget mat group:

This group, founded through a loneliness and isolation grant in January 2021, continues to meet alternate weeks. The ladies in this group are the main source of knitted, crocheted and sewn items for all these projects and are a force to be reckoned with. They are very creative and produce an incredible amount of handcrafted goods. Many enjoyed the thank you party we held at Alfriston, celebrating our first year of becoming a registered charity.

The trustees would like to express their utmost thanks to the wonderful contribution made by all the volunteers over the year. They have given their time and skills, from sewing, knitting, and crocheting to designing and teaching, sourcing and transporting, and to supporting the vulnerable people in our community through various events. Without this valuable contribution of time, energy and expertise, we would not have been able to achieve what we have. They have helped create social change, tackle inequality and make our community a kinder, better place to live.

During this accounting year our Chair was awarded a BEM, our warmer in winter bag packing day was a finalist in the Mitzvah Day Awards and RBKares came runner up and was highly commended in the Best Charity/Social Enterprise at the Kingston Business Borough Awards.

RBKares is looking forward to collaborating with more services and charity partners to support Kingston residents in need.

Objectives for the year ahead

Our main objectives for the year ahead include:

- Making our services accessible to more people, especially those considered “hard to reach” and ensuring that the environment at our Wellbeing days is always welcoming to all
- Recruiting more volunteers, particularly for the Wellbeing days and to assist with central admin functions
- Developing a 3- and 5-year business plan to enable us to demonstrate our sustainability to funding bodies
- Developing a succession plan

I would like to thank the companies and groups that have helped us which, with the help of trustees and volunteers, have made all these projects possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Kenyon'.

Beatrix Kenyon

Chair

Receipts and Payments Account

	12 months ended 31 Oct 2023	9 months ended 31 Oct 2022
Income		
Donations - restricted - Care Homes	583	-
Donations - restricted - coffee machine	100	260
Donations - restricted - Fidget mats	-	2,187
Donations - restricted - Hospital fleeces	-	-
Donations - restricted - Kindness kits	-	2,900
Donations - restricted - Refugee Sewing	3,000	1,000
Donations - restricted - scrubs	-	-
Donations - restricted - wellbeing	9,000	11,550
Donations - restricted - Winter Warmer	9,924	1,505
Donations - unrestricted	10,186	1,389
TOTAL DONATIONS	32,792	20,791
Interest income	0	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	32,793	20,792
Expenditure		
Expenses - restricted - Care Homes	186	1,493
Expenses - restricted - coffee machines	151	80
Expenses - restricted - Fidget mats	61	360
Expenses - restricted - Hospital fleeces	-	-
Expenses - restricted - Kindness kits	921	1,711
Expenses - restricted - Refugee Sewing	2,337	205
Expenses - restricted - scrubs	260	121
Expenses - restricted - wellbeing	8,531	9,029
Expenses - restricted - Winter Warmer	5,520	117
Expenses - unrestricted	-	104
TOTAL CHARITABLE EXPENSES	17,968	13,219
Admin costs	1,059	697
TOTAL PAYMENTS	19,027	13,916
Surplus for the accounting period	13,766	6,876

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	31 Oct 2023	31 Oct 2022
Current assets		
Debtors	22	-
Cash	25,349	11,605
Current liabilities		
Creditors	2	2
NET ASSETS	25,369	11,603
Reserves		
Restricted	11,862	5,329
Unrestricted	13,507	6,274
TOTAL RESERVES	25,369	11,603

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 19 July 2024.