

BABY BASICS CHELMSFORD
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR INITIAL PERIOD FROM 12.9.23 TO 31.3.24

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BABY BASICS CHELMSFORD

INITIAL PERIOD FROM 12.9.23 TO 31.3.24

A. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name: Baby Basics Chelmsford

The charity is not known by any other names

Registered charity number: 1204686

Principal address: 257 Linnet Drive, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 8AZ

The charity trustees who manage the charity are:

Mrs Joelle Mortimer, Chair,
Mrs Stephen Mortimer, Treasurer,
Mrs Gillian Booth,
Mrs Susan Hardy,
Mrs Yvonne Goodall,
Mrs Eleanor Cleland,

All the above were in post for the whole period

There are no trustees for the charity, e.g. custodian trustees

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B. TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE INITIAL PERIOD

1. Structure, governance and management

Structure and governance

Baby Basics Chelmsford has a constitution as its governing document and the charity is constituted as a foundation model Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Trustees' selection method

Appointment of trustees is governed by s.10.1 of the charity's constitution from a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

Management

The charity is managed by the trustees and other volunteers with no paid staff.

Wider network

The charity is affiliated with the charity Baby Basics UK as part of the Baby Basics UK network of Baby Banks and is a member of the Baby Bank Alliance.

Other related parties

Baby Basics Chelmsford has kindly been allocated space, free of charge, at Moulsham Lodge Methodist Church, Chelmsford, Essex, for use in storing donations, preparing baskets and as a collection point for the health and social care professionals who in turn pass the gifts over to their clients in need.

The use of this space is at the Church's discretion and there is no lease or hire agreement in operation.

We are very grateful for the ongoing support from the Church, both material and spiritual in the form of prayers, that has enabled this Charity to operate.

Risk review

In meetings trustees have discussed and identified areas of risk and from this the following policies, procedure and measures have been adopted: Handling goods training; safeguarding policy with designated safeguarding lead appointed; health and safety policy; volunteers' policy; reserves policy.

2. Objects and activities

Objects

The objects of the charity are set out in its constitution as follows:

The relief of poverty in England and Wales by providing clothing, toiletries and equipment for babies, children and their parents / carers to persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by reason of their social and / or economic circumstances. And / or charities, or other organisation working with people in need, hardship or distress by reason of their social and / or economic circumstances.

Public benefit

When planning activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The provision of Moses baskets and related items to vulnerable Mums, carers and their babies is based upon referrals received from health and social care professionals who in turn pass the gifts over to the clients in need. This methodology aims to ensure that the beneficiary is engaging with a health and social care professional who can provide ongoing support. We have no contact with the beneficiaries who remain anonymous to us. The charity relies upon the referrer's professional judgement as to whether a donation is required and subject to their decision making, our service is open to all.

Activities

The following main activities are for the public benefit in furtherance of the above objects:

The core activity of the charity is to provide Moses Basket Starter Packs to families struggling with the provision of the essentials to support the arrival of a new born in the Chelmsford and mid Essex locality, referred by a health or social care professional or other charitable organisation to which they are known. We accept the referrer's decision and request for help for their client.

Each pack consists of:

- Moses basket to provide a safe space for baby to sleep
- New mattress to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (Cot Death)
- Spare bedding
- Additional blankets
- Newborn sized baby clothes
- 0-3 months baby clothes

- 3-6 months baby clothes
- Bibs and muslins
- Bath towel
- Cuddly toy
- Nappies and toiletries for baby
- Toiletries for Mum to take into hospital

All the families receiving a Moses basket are referred by health and social care professionals ensuring not only that the need is valid, but more importantly, that as a vulnerable family there is ongoing professional support.

In carrying out these activities the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Most items given to beneficiaries have been received by the Charity as donations. We gratefully accept donations from our local community of both new and pre-loved items.

Over time we have made many connections with local craft groups and knitting circles who provide us with beautiful new items. Many members are elderly and this in turn provides purpose to their activity and reduces social isolation.

We also are fortunate that families who have had babies donate items to help those that are currently in need. We have on occasion been profoundly moved when one of our beneficiaries has taken the time and trouble to later locate us and donate back the items received by us in their time of need for re-use again.

All pre-loved items are checked for quality and carefully laundered and ironed by our volunteers before inclusion in a basket. We aim for all items given to beneficiaries to ideally be “as good as new.”

Volunteers

The volunteers who have worked closely alongside the trustees throughout the whole of this period are:

Mrs Susan Reynolds, Mrs Julie Braine and Mrs Louise McCormack

We thank them for their fantastic hard work and commitment to the charity’s cause; their contribution has been very significant indeed.

3. Achievements and performance

The charity's work has made the following positive difference to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and to wider society as a whole

Baby Basics Chelmsford started activities on 8th September 2019 and was registered as a CIO with the Charity Commission on 12th September 2023.

From its commencement until 31st March 2024 there have been a total of 326 baskets given out to vulnerable Mums and their babies, 74 of these during the this accounting period of being a new CIO. We are experiencing increased demand for our services and believe that this will continue for the foreseeable future.

One measure of Baby Basics Chelmsford's impact would be the monetary value of its gifts to beneficiaries however, this can never be accurately established because most of items have been kindly donated to us. We conservatively estimate that each basket and its contents would cost at least £350. Therefore, to date, Baby Baby Basics Chelmsford has provided c. £114,000 worth of vital items to vulnerable Mums and their babies, many who sadly have literally nothing in terms of the necessary equipment, clothing and associated items needed to care for a new born baby.

What also cannot be quantified is the positive impact these gifts bring to society as a whole. However, we know from anecdotal evidence given by feedback from the referrers that many of the recipients have been overwhelmed by the gifts, when from often being in a situation of poverty, loneliness or being exploited, they realise that there are people who care about them.

Many of these vulnerable Mums and families are having a baby in very challenging circumstances. As a positive sign, with every basket there is a little card attached, with a quote from the Old Testament book of Isaiah- "*You are wonderfully made,*" hoping that these gifts may be the start of new directions for the beneficiaries which, with the ongoing support of the carers and health care professionals, may lead to better outcomes in their lives.

One key moment for the charity was "*Fanfare for the Future*" on 19th January 2024 when we had a major promotional event to celebrate Baby Basics Chelmsford becoming a registered charity and as an opportunity to bring together many of our donors, partners and referring professionals. The event was attended by Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Essex and the Mayor of Chelmsford, Councillor Linda Mascot.

Fundraising

In this period the charity has limited its fund-raising activities to discussions of its finances at meetings of trustees and seeking small donations from interested individuals, e.g. making a presentation at a meeting of a local community group; and applying for grants from various sources. The charity does not employ outside or commercial fund-raisers, nor employ any staff itself for this purpose and therefore, has not subscribed to any fundraising regulator.

We thank the many individuals who, within this accounting period, made personal donations whether financial or of new and pre-loved items for passing onto beneficiaries and the following organisations who also generously gave support, either financial or in supplying items for distribution to beneficiaries:

Save the Children, in association with Ashley Louise James
Essex County Council
New City Voices event
Mum 2 Mum Market

4. Financial review

Reserves policy

The restricted funds are made up of a number of funds received for specific purposes.

The trustees have determined that Baby Basics Chelmsford holds the equivalent of a minimum of 6 months normal expenditure as Free Reserves so as to provide a buffer to give trustees time to properly respond to circumstances when it needs to be drawn down.

At 31st March 2024, free reserves amounted to £1,418 which are considered adequate to meet running costs as per the policy and will, in the future, hopefully grow in line with the increasing demand for the charity's services so as to always provide a buffer against future operating deficits as the potential for larger cash flow variations increases.

Financial performance during reporting period:

Income

Total income for the period of £4,403 included £3,135 into restricted funds and £1,268 into unrestricted funds.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the period of £4,159 included £2,699 from restricted funds and £1,460 from unrestricted funds, of the latter, £1,071 on purchasing items to be given directly to charity's beneficiaries and £389 on support costs which enable the

preparation of baskets and other items (consisting of donated goods and purchases) being given to the charity's beneficiaries.

Financial position at 31.3.24

Over the period the General Fund had an operating deficit of £192, resulting in it having a free reserves balance of £1,418 at the period end.

Investments

Because of the small scale of the charity's finances, at this stage, there has been no need to consider investment policy and objectives, including an ethical policy. The trustees will consider such matters as and when financial circumstances are in an appropriate position.

Going concern

The trustees believe that, at 31st March 2024, the charity is financially viable and are not aware of any circumstances financial or otherwise which challenge this opinion.

5. Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above at their meeting on 20th December 2024

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures:



Joelle Mortimer
Chair



Stephen Mortimer
Treasurer

BABY BASICS CHELMSFORD

INITIAL PERIOD FROM 12.9.23 TO 31.3.24

C. RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS 12.9.23 to 31.3.24

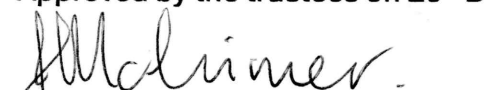
A. Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Receipts			
General unrestricted donations	1,268	-	1,268
Essex County Council : Grant received for set up costs to support the administration and preparation of items being given to the beneficiaries of the charitable activities	-	2,135	2,135
Save the Children : Grant received covering purchases of baby changing bags for giving directly to the beneficiaries of the charitable activities	-	1,000	1,000
Total receipts	1,268	3,135	4,403
Payments			
Items purchased for giving directly to the beneficiaries of the charitable activities	1,071	-	1,071
Costs to support the administration and preparation of items being given to the beneficiaries of the charitable activities	389	-	389
Essex County Council : Set up costs to support the administration and preparation of items being given to the beneficiaries of the charitable activities	-	2,135	2,135
Save the Children : Costs of purchasing baby changing bags for giving directly to the beneficiaries of the charitable activities	-	564	564
Total payments	1,460	2,699	4,159
Net receipts/(payments)	(192)	436	244
Cash funds held at start of initial period on registration as a charity with the Charity Commission	1,610	-	1,610
Cash funds at end of initial period	1,418	436	1,854

B. Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Cash funds	1,418	436	1,854

Approved by the trustees on 20th December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:


Joelle Mortimer, Chair


Stephen Mortimer, Treasurer