



Bedfordshire South Branch
Registered Charity No.259020

Annual Report

The trustees present the annual report 2023



The year of the Mamas....

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Introduction

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity branch during the year and the position on 31 December 2023 and consider that the charity is in a strong position to continue its activities during the coming year, and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

The branch has a comprehensive Conflict of Interest policy and mitigation strategy to manage the conflicts. Conflicted Trustees leave the room when appropriate and cannot partake in any discussions or votes related to the connected party. Each committee meeting begins with any updates to conflicts of interest. Decisions relating to any remuneration, pay or other benefit will always exclude conflicted Trustees.

The branch Board of Trustees in 2023 managed the following conflicts of interest:
Jo Byrne (Chair) as a connected person to Patsy Coote (Trustee)

The Branch welcomed a new Trustees during 2023, Lynda Harris. We welcome applications from individuals both with an interest in animal welfare and the skills required to help manage the governance and strategy of the Branch. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a Trustee, please email info@rspca-bedfordshiresouth.org.uk.

Chair's Report by Jo Byrne

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for our RSPCA Bedfordshire South Branch for 2023, highlighting our achievements, challenges, and the path forward for our Branch.

One of the significant achievements this year has been the establishment of three pet food bank partnerships! These partnerships have enabled us to extend our support to pet owners experiencing financial difficulties, ensuring that their beloved companions receive the care and nourishment they deserve and, ideally, remain in their homes.

We also successfully launched our first free microchipping event in November 2023, aimed at providing essential identification for pets as well as giving those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis an opportunity to have their animal companions chipped without charge. We chipped 98 animals at our first event thus enhancing their chances of being reunited with their owners in case of separation.

Throughout the year, we organised several fundraising events to support our operations and welfare programs. These events not only raised vital funds but also increased community engagement and awareness of our small Branch.

I am delighted to report that we have rehomed a total of 248 animals during the year: 112 cats, 57 rabbits, 3 dogs and 76 guinea pigs and other small furrries. This significant achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our staff, fosterers, and volunteers.

Our Branch is very fortunate to have a strong team of Trustees who have passion and determination in guiding our Branch's success. We have our tireless Branch Manager who

manages the day-to-day running of the Branch, dealing with an ever-increasing number of calls for help, as well as co-ordinating the pet food banks, animal fosterers, volunteers, and ensuring the Branch adheres to all required organisational compliance. Our effervescent Shop Manager maintains the steady steering of our Ampthill Charity Shop, which continues to serve as a vital focal point for the local community – and donations are always welcome! The commitment and leadership demonstrated by the entire Bedfordshire South Branch team has been instrumental in driving our mission forward and ensuring the smooth operation of our charity and I thank them all for their dedication and tenacity, particularly during these financially trying times.

Despite our successes, we face challenges – from rising veterinary bills and the increasing cost of pet food, to the increased number of calls for support and, sadly, rehoming animal companions lost, abandoned, or whose owners can no longer afford their care. To address these challenges effectively, we need to explore strategies to enhance fundraising efforts, recruit more fosterers, and – where we can afford to – provide support to pet owners struggling with veterinary expenses.

As we push forward through another year, I am confident that we have a strong foundation to build upon. With the dedication of our robust team, the support of our community, and a focus on the future, I believe we are well-positioned to overcome challenges and achieve even greater success in the coming year.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the Trustees, staff, fosterers, volunteers, branch members, donors, and the community for their unwavering support and commitment to our mission. Together, we will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of animals!

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Details

Charity Number: 259020

Registered Address: 34 Springfield Road, Luton, LU2 3HF, Tel: 07510 390872

Shop Address: 117 Dunstable Street Ampthill Beds MK45 2NG, Tel: 01525 838040 Trustees during 2023.

Trustees during 2023

Jo Byrne, Chair, from 15/09/2020 to present

Emily Stratton, Trustee, from 16/06/2022 to present

Lindsay Carignan, Trustee, from 16/06/2022 to present

Patsy Coote, Trustee, from 21/10/21 resigned 01/02/23

Claire Robinson, Trustee, from 16/06/2022 to present

Rosie Rice, Trustee, from 16/06/2022 to present

Barbara Grell, Trustee, from 21/10/21 to present

Gary Hooper, Trustee, from 22/07/2021 to present

Lisa Francis, Trustee, from 22/04/2021 to present

Prash Thakkar, Trustee, from 10/02/2020 to present

Dalinda Pani, Trustee, from 11/05/2015 resigned 01/11/2023

Lynda Harris from appointed 01/03/23 to present

Staff

Branch Manager – Alison Sutton
Shop Manager – Marie Moir
Deputy Shop Manager – Sharon Cutler
Deputy Shop Manager - Tania Spittle

Accountants & Independent Examiners

Graham Hunt & Co
Chartered Accountants
Unit 15
Hockliffe Business Park
Watling Street
Hockliffe
Bedfordshire
LU7 9NB

Bankers

Barclays, 16 High St N, Dunstable LU6 1JZ
NatWest, 81 High St, Bedford MK40 1YN

Volunteering

As a Branch we rely on volunteers to make our aims of helping animals in need and improving animal welfare a reality. Our volunteers provide the backbone to our work and make a huge contribution to prevent cruelty and promote kindness. The numbers of volunteers vary throughout the year. Volunteer roles include:

- ✓ Administration
- ✓ Social Media
- ✓ Fostering
- ✓ Driving and transport
- ✓ Events
- ✓ Fundraising
- ✓ Shop work
- ✓ Trustee

Achievements & Branch Statistics

We re-homed:

- ✓ 3 dogs
- ✓ 112 cats
- ✓ 57 rabbits
- ✓ 76 small furries
- ✓ TOTAL: 248



We are always looking for new volunteers and rely on their hard work and commitment to be able to do all we can to help animals in need. Volunteering with us is a great way to meet likeminded people who share the same enthusiasm for animal welfare. Anyone can volunteer and we encourage volunteers from all sections of the community. If you would like to find out more, please e-mail: info@rspca-bedfordshiresouth.org.uk

Fundraisers:

19 March 2023 – Spring Craft Fair



1 July 2023 – Dog Show and Summer Fundraiser



30 September 2023 – Autumn Craft Fair



Charity Objectives

The objectives of the Branch are to promote the work and objectives of the Society - to promote kindness and to prevent or suppress cruelty to animals by unlawful means, with reference to the area of the branch, in accordance with the policies of the Society. We are to concentrate on our charitable aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. Under the Charities Act 2011, the advancement of animal welfare is recognised as a distinct statutory charitable purpose. The legislation and The Animal Welfare Act of the same year indicated an acceptance by society that treating a living creature with compassion has a moral benefit for the public. Whilst this public benefit is clear, it is sometimes difficult to balance against any detriment.

The Branch's animal welfare work, although local in nature, benefits society at large, and aims to help people in need with the care of their animals. The Branch helps unwanted, abandoned, and sick animals. We support our local Inspectorate by taking in mistreated or abandoned animals, including pets whose owners suffer ill health, financial difficulties, loss of housing or pass away. The Society's Inspectorate rescues animals in distress and enforces the law against cruelty and mistreatment of animals in England and Wales by bringing prosecutions.

The work is key to 'The prevention and suppression of cruelty' part of the RSPCA objectives and promotes humane sentiments towards animals which involve their moral benefit to humankind. The branch offers help and advice to rehome unwanted animals or strays. We take in numbers that reflect the space we have for the most abused and neglected animals and in order of most need. We think this is fair and compliant with welfare needs. The adoption fee charged is reasonable and highlights the ongoing personal and financial commitment of pet ownership. Animals in our care are given a health check, wormed, flea treated, vaccinated, neutered, and microchipped. We respond to enquiries from the public via telephone and email direct to the Branch Manager at: info@rspcabedfordshiresouth.org.uk

The Branch raises money to support its work through its charity shop in Ampthill, which also help to promote our rehoming, neutering and other messages in line with RSPCA policies, campaigns, and values. The Branch provides volunteering opportunities for those who wish to support our work, including fostering, raising awareness of animal welfare issues through the promotion of campaigns, fundraising and retail opportunities in our shop. This benefits local people and companies through providing the possibility of doing work which is both compassionate and rewarding and offers experience which may assist participants in finding paid work. We thank our volunteers for their hard work, dedication, and commitment. The trustees have reviewed the outcomes and achievements of our objectives and activities for the year, to ensure they have focused on our charitable aims and continue to deliver benefits to the public. In deciding what activities, the Branch should undertake we have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

Statement of Trustee Responsibilities

The trustees are required under the Charities Act 2011 to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year (unless the charity is entitled to prepare accounts on the alternative receipts and payments basis). In preparing the financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- ✓ Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- ✓ Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- ✓ State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- ✓ Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity, and which enable with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity, and which enables and ensures that the financial statements comply with applicable law and regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Rescue and Foster Stories

Misha's Story – sometimes, our fosters don't get rehomed but stay with us until the end...



Misha had already lived 16 fairly tough years but following her owner's move to a new home in November 2022, Misha decided she wasn't leaving 'her garden' and kept running away from her new home back to her old garden. Her previous owner dropped off food but soon the new owners occupied the house and started to renovate the garden. Misha took to hiding under another neighbour's garden shed all through the chilly rainy spring of 2023 and steadfastly refused to be trapped – although we did inadvertently trap quite a few *very grumpy* hedgehogs!

The shed-neighbours earned Misha's trust and, thankfully, caught Misha one morning but, upon being returned to her owner and subsequently escaping again – right back to the shed-neighbours – it was agreed Misha would be signed over to the Branch once we caught her again, which was, thankfully, just a couple of damp weeks later. We already knew Misha had an open wound on her flank – she'd had it for a good few years – and, following several months of 'living rough' we knew it would be in a bit of a state. We might be a tiny RSPCA Branch, but we do EVERYTHING we can for those in our care, and after getting Misha's heart scanned to check she could handle an operation, our vet stitched up the wound as best as they could. Unfortunately, but not entirely unexpected, the biopsy showed cancer. Prognosis was 7-ish months. In that time, the wound would likely return and the cancer would spread to other organs like the lungs.

The incredible thing was that we did find a family that was prepared to adopt Misha – absolutely knowing she would only have a few months with them! Misha, however, was a shy girl and easily stressed around people and even just a few weeks 'adjusting' to a new home was a few weeks too many if you don't have a lot of them left, so I decided Misha should stay with me until the end. And what a joy was Misha!! She was the most easy-going foster...loving her treats and, hey, if you're dying you can have as many as you can manage, right?! We spent many an evening with me whittering on about everything and Misha calmy, sleepily listening. Just enjoying each other's quiet company.

In November, Misha started to show signs of heart failure. Heart failure isn't particularly painful, but it is horrible and slow and so very, very exhausting. We tried meds but Misha utterly hated them, and I wasn't going to ugly-force them down the sweet girl...so on 17th November we took our Misha for her last ever trip to the vet. She passed SO quickly in my arms – purring, of course. She was finally at peace without pain.

I shall miss my gentle, purry gal who would patiently let me wash the cancerous wounds that returned in several places all over her flank. She knew there would be a licky-sticky treat at the end, so persevered! I will miss my sweet ginger friend...she's been such an interesting journey. I had worried about her for so many months and was desperately upset when she started to deteriorate but, on the evening of her passing, I actually felt at peace about her for the first time in a very long time. Misha-Masha-Moo-Moo is sleeping the most peaceful sleep now and her ashes are buried in my garden next to the magnolia...love you, Baby Girl x

Pumpkin

Pumpkin was so named because he was found on Halloween in a field with his brother, no mum in sight. Both were very sick and only estimated to be 4 weeks old. They were taken to a local vet who tried for an hour to save the sickest kitten, but sadly the fight was lost. So, their attention turned to Pumpkin, medication was administered to clear up the infection causing his congestion and poorly eye, the vet was unsure whether his eye could be saved or indeed if Pumpkin would make it.

A lovely veterinary nurse couldn't bear to leave him in the isolation room overnight so took him home each evening and cared for him there and brought him back in during the days. I received a call to say a sick kitten needed a foster home. I'd never had such a young sick kitten before, but I agreed as poor Pumpkin needed help.



He was so tiny and adorable and a total mischief maker right from the start. I slept with him curled up round my throat for a week and gave him his medication 3 times a day. Slowly the eye improved and his sneezing and snuffling reduced. He had a regular Vet check, and they were very pleased with his progress. After 3 weeks he was congestion free, and his eye was fully healed.

At 14 weeks Pumpkin was ready to go to his forever home. We were so very tempted to keep him ourselves, he had stolen our hearts (how couldn't he have). But there are so many other cats out there that also need help so with a heavy heart and many tears we sent Pumpkin off to his forever home.

I have received updates from them, and Pumpkin has truly landed on his paws. He has a doggy friend and two teenagers to terrorise and is very much loved and cared for, with the best garden to go and explore when he's ready. Knowing he is happy and bringing joy to his new family makes all the tears worthwhile.

Why I foster....



Why did I become a fosterer? Because I love animals and wanted to make a difference to their lives! For most animals being in foster care is the first time they will feel love, warmth and they don't have to worry about when they will next receive food if they have been dumped or are found as a stray.

Fostering is so rewarding as each animal that comes into your foster care have their own individual needs. Some stay for just a few weeks whilst some need some more TLC before they are ready to move onto their forever home.

A lot of people ask if it's upsetting when they are adopted and move onto their forever home. The simple answer is yes, all fosters will say they miss each animal as they have their own character but its delightful to see them go to their forever home where they will continue to be loved and cherished and as a fosterer you are proud to say that you helped provide these first steps for the animal in question.

The Year of the Mamas – Gallery





REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023
FOR
RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

Graham Hunt & Co
Chartered Accountants
Unit 15
Hockliffe Business Park
Watling Street
Hockliffe
Bedfordshire
LU7 9NB

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Trustees

J Byrne Chair
E Stratton
L Carignan
P Coote (resigned 1.2.23)
C Robinson
R Rice
B Grell
G Hooper
L Francis
P Thakkar
D Pani (resigned 1.11.23)
L Harris (appointed 1.3.23)

Independent Examiner

Graham Hunt & Co
Chartered Accountants
Unit 15
Hockliffe Business Park
Watling Street
Hockliffe
Bedfordshire
LU7 9NB

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 28 May 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Byrne', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

J Byrne - Trustee

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

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for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Treasurers Report

In 2023, we held a number of fundraising events, some of which were more successful than others which we have taken as a learning for future endeavours. Our income from these activities were on par with prior year.

For the second year running, we saw a significant increase in income from our shop in Ampthill and it continues to be a positive presence for the local community to learn about the work we are doing.

Our adoption income was down from prior year, but we are continuing with our fostering and rehoming program which is still very successful and an important service that we provide.

We received no government grants during 2023, but from RSPCA National we received a grant of £1,566 to support baby rabbits and a grant of £500 which increased our ability to provide pet food to local food banks. We also received £1,000 from Tesco's blue token program to support the local food bank. We received door to door funding from National of £19,786, which was down from the prior year.

We continue to work with vets and pet food suppliers to negotiate reduced fees where possible, but as the number of animals in our care increases, it is inevitable that costs associated with their care and welfare will increase also.

Due to continuing rises in all categories of expenditure, we saw an increase in spending of approximately £18,000 vs prior year and we made an overall loss of £631. This was primarily due to inflationary factors, but the Trustees agreed to continue serving the community and using a small amount of our non-restricted funds in order to do so.

A designated fund of £25,000 remains in place whilst we continue to search for a potential second retail premises or other investment opportunity and the Trustees decided to 'ringfence' £30,000 to enable us to support the community by assisting with neutering expenses in 2023 continuing into 2024. We also spent approximately £1,000 on training and equipment to establish a very successful chipping program which will continue into 2024.

All trustees remain committed to the aim of increasing income, and we are actively exploring investment opportunities, to further enhance the branch and to ensure we have enough funds available to be able to continue carrying out our amazing work, covering all aspects of animal welfare for animals in and out of our care, rescuing animals where necessary and supporting our fantastic team of fosterers.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

259020

Principal address

34 Springfield Road
Luton
Bedfordshire
LU3 2HF

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of RSPCA Bedfordshire South Branch

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of RSPCA Bedfordshire South Branch (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Graham Hunt
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Graham Hunt & Co
Chartered Accountants
Unit 15
Hockliffe Business Park
Watling Street
Hockliffe
Bedfordshire
LU7 9NB

28 May 2024

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

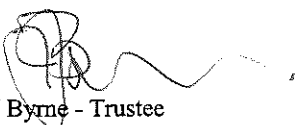
	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Designated Fund £	31.12.23 Total funds £	31.12.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		36,633	-	36,633	37,287
Other trading activities	2	88,768	-	88,768	80,742
Total		<u>125,401</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>125,401</u>	<u>118,029</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Direct Charitable		<u>126,032</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>126,032</u>	<u>108,863</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(631)	-	(631)	9,166
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		189,105	25,000	214,105	204,939
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>188,474</u></u>	<u><u>25,000</u></u>	<u><u>213,474</u></u>	<u><u>214,105</u></u>


The notes form part of these financial statements

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH**BALANCE SHEET****31 December 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Designated Fund £	31.12.23 Total funds £	31.12.22 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5	7,282	-	7,282	9,872
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	3,977	-	3,977	6,675
Cash at bank		182,341	25,000	207,341	201,976
		<u>186,318</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>211,318</u>	<u>208,651</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(5,126)	-	(5,126)	(4,418)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>181,192</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>206,192</u>	<u>204,233</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>188,474</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>213,474</u>	<u>214,105</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>188,474</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>213,474</u>	<u>214,105</u>
FUNDS	8				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				188,474	189,105
Designated Fund				25,000	25,000
				<u>213,474</u>	<u>214,105</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>213,474</u>	<u>214,105</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 28 May 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:


J Byrne - Trustee


E Stratton - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.12.23	31.12.22
	£	£
Fundraising	4,785	4,386
Sale of Goods	64,064	53,592
Commission	133	97
Door to Door	19,786	22,667
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	88,768	80,742
	<hr/>	<hr/>

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Designated Fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	37,287	-	37,287
Other trading activities	80,742	-	80,742
Total	<u>118,029</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>118,029</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Direct Charitable	<u>108,863</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>108,863</u>
NET INCOME	9,166	-	9,166
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	179,939	25,000	204,939
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>189,105</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>214,105</u>

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023****5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023	32,707	2,074	34,781
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2023	24,390	519	24,909
Charge for year	2,079	511	2,590
At 31 December 2023	26,469	1,030	27,499
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2023	6,238	1,044	7,282
At 31 December 2022	8,317	1,555	9,872

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Other debtors	416	416
VAT	3,230	3,960
Prepayments and accrued income	331	2,299
	<u>3,977</u>	<u>6,675</u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Trade creditors	3,744	2,233
Other creditors	1,382	2,185
	<u>5,126</u>	<u>4,418</u>

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	189,105	(631)	188,474
Designated Fund	25,000	-	25,000
	<u>214,105</u>	<u>(631)</u>	<u>213,474</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>214,105</u>	<u>(631)</u>	<u>213,474</u>

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	125,401	(126,032)	(631)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>125,401</u>	<u>(126,032)</u>	<u>(631)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	179,939	9,166	189,105
Designated Fund	25,000	-	25,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	204,939	9,166	214,105
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>204,939</u>	<u>9,166</u>	<u>214,105</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	118,029	(108,863)	9,166
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>118,029</u>	<u>(108,863)</u>	<u>9,166</u>

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	179,939	8,535	188,474
Designated Fund	25,000	-	25,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	204,939	8,535	213,474
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	204,939	8,535	213,474
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	243,430	(234,895)	8,535
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	243,430	(234,895)	8,535
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The General Fund is available for use in fulfilling the general objects of the Charity.

The Designated Fund represents funds that have been set aside to finance a new shop.

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Door to Door income of £19,786 was received from the National Society of the RSPCA during the year (2022: £22,667).

No payments were made to the Branch Emergency Fund during the year or in the previous year.

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Adoption Donations	23,570	29,415
Subscriptions & Donations	3,339	3,666
Gift aid	7,658	4,076
Legacies & Memoriam Donations	-	130
Grants Received	2,066	-
	<hr/> 36,633	<hr/> 37,287
Other trading activities		
Fundraising	4,785	4,386
Sale of Goods	64,064	53,592
Commission	133	97
Door to Door	19,786	22,667
	<hr/> 88,768	<hr/> 80,742
Total incoming resources	<hr/> 125,401	<hr/> 118,029
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Salaries, NI & Pensions	30,443	28,967
Rates and water	268	498
Insurance	950	739
Light and heat	1,347	868
Telephone & Internet	445	630
Sundry Expenses	5,800	1,631
Fostering	37,827	27,002
Fundraising Costs	1,791	1,587
Gift Aid Costs	1,506	277
Cost of Goods Sold	-	75
Rent	10,000	10,329
Equipment Hire	1,503	1,593
Motor and Travelling	-	609
Repairs & Maintenance	238	1,350
Plant and machinery	2,079	2,773
Fixtures and fittings	511	519
Credit Card Charges	1,246	718
	<hr/> 95,954	<hr/> 80,165
Support costs		

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	31.12.23	31.12.22
	£	£
Support costs		
Governance costs		
Staff Salaries, NI & Pension	28,697	25,493
Postage and stationery	367	275
Accountancy	700	1,409
Website & Computer Costs	147	840
Legal & Professional Fees	35	35
Subscriptions	132	646
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	30,078	28,698
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended	126,032	108,863
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net (expenditure)/income	(631)	9,166
	<hr/>	<hr/>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023
FOR
RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

Graham Hunt & Co
Chartered Accountants
Unit 15
Hockliffe Business Park
Watling Street
Hockliffe
Bedfordshire
LU7 9NB

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Trustees

J Byrne Chair
E Stratton
L Carignan
P Coote (resigned 1.2.23)
C Robinson
R Rice
B Grell
G Hooper
L Francis
P Thakkar
D Pani (resigned 1.11.23)
L Harris (appointed 1.3.23)

Independent Examiner

Graham Hunt & Co
Chartered Accountants
Unit 15
Hockliffe Business Park
Watling Street
Hockliffe
Bedfordshire
LU7 9NB

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 28 May 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Byrne', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

J Byrne - Trustee

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 2
Independent Examiner's Report	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 10
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	11 to 12

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Treasurers Report

In 2023, we held a number of fundraising events, some of which were more successful than others which we have taken as a learning for future endeavours. Our income from these activities were on par with prior year.

For the second year running, we saw a significant increase in income from our shop in Ampthill and it continues to be a positive presence for the local community to learn about the work we are doing.

Our adoption income was down from prior year, but we are continuing with our fostering and rehoming program which is still very successful and an important service that we provide.

We received no government grants during 2023, but from RSPCA National we received a grant of £1,566 to support baby rabbits and a grant of £500 which increased our ability to provide pet food to local food banks. We also received £1,000 from Tesco's blue token program to support the local food bank. We received door to door funding from National of £19,786, which was down from the prior year.

We continue to work with vets and pet food suppliers to negotiate reduced fees where possible, but as the number of animals in our care increases, it is inevitable that costs associated with their care and welfare will increase also.

Due to continuing rises in all categories of expenditure, we saw an increase in spending of approximately £18,000 vs prior year and we made an overall loss of £631. This was primarily due to inflationary factors, but the Trustees agreed to continue serving the community and using a small amount of our non-restricted funds in order to do so.

A designated fund of £25,000 remains in place whilst we continue to search for a potential second retail premises or other investment opportunity and the Trustees decided to 'ringfence' £30,000 to enable us to support the community by assisting with neutering expenses in 2023 continuing into 2024. We also spent approximately £1,000 on training and equipment to establish a very successful chipping program which will continue into 2024.

All trustees remain committed to the aim of increasing income, and we are actively exploring investment opportunities, to further enhance the branch and to ensure we have enough funds available to be able to continue carrying out our amazing work, covering all aspects of animal welfare for animals in and out of our care, rescuing animals where necessary and supporting our fantastic team of fosterers.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

259020

Principal address

34 Springfield Road
Luton
Bedfordshire
LU3 2HF

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of RSPCA Bedfordshire South Branch

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of RSPCA Bedfordshire South Branch (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Graham Hunt
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Graham Hunt & Co
Chartered Accountants
Unit 15
Hockliffe Business Park
Watling Street
Hockliffe
Bedfordshire
LU7 9NB

28 May 2024

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

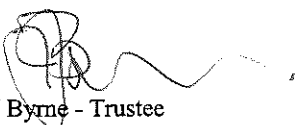
	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Designated Fund £	31.12.23 Total funds £	31.12.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		36,633	-	36,633	37,287
Other trading activities	2	88,768	-	88,768	80,742
Total		<u>125,401</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>125,401</u>	<u>118,029</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Direct Charitable		<u>126,032</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>126,032</u>	<u>108,863</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(631)	-	(631)	9,166
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		189,105	25,000	214,105	204,939
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>188,474</u></u>	<u><u>25,000</u></u>	<u><u>213,474</u></u>	<u><u>214,105</u></u>


The notes form part of these financial statements

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH**BALANCE SHEET****31 December 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Designated Fund £	31.12.23 Total funds £	31.12.22 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5	7,282	-	7,282	9,872
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	3,977	-	3,977	6,675
Cash at bank		182,341	25,000	207,341	201,976
		<u>186,318</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>211,318</u>	<u>208,651</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(5,126)	-	(5,126)	(4,418)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>181,192</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>206,192</u>	<u>204,233</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>188,474</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>213,474</u>	<u>214,105</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>188,474</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>213,474</u>	<u>214,105</u>
FUNDS	8				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				188,474	189,105
Designated Fund				25,000	25,000
				<u>213,474</u>	<u>214,105</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>213,474</u>	<u>214,105</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 28 May 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:


J Byrne - Trustee


E Stratton - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.12.23	31.12.22
	£	£
Fundraising	4,785	4,386
Sale of Goods	64,064	53,592
Commission	133	97
Door to Door	19,786	22,667
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	88,768	80,742
	<hr/>	<hr/>

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Designated Fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	37,287	-	37,287
Other trading activities	80,742	-	80,742
Total	<u>118,029</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>118,029</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Direct Charitable	<u>108,863</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>108,863</u>
NET INCOME	9,166	-	9,166
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	179,939	25,000	204,939
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>189,105</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>214,105</u>

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023****5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023	32,707	2,074	34,781
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2023	24,390	519	24,909
Charge for year	2,079	511	2,590
At 31 December 2023	26,469	1,030	27,499
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2023	6,238	1,044	7,282
At 31 December 2022	8,317	1,555	9,872

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Other debtors	416	416
VAT	3,230	3,960
Prepayments and accrued income	331	2,299
	<u>3,977</u>	<u>6,675</u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Trade creditors	3,744	2,233
Other creditors	1,382	2,185
	<u>5,126</u>	<u>4,418</u>

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	189,105	(631)	188,474
Designated Fund	25,000	-	25,000
	<u>214,105</u>	<u>(631)</u>	<u>213,474</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>214,105</u>	<u>(631)</u>	<u>213,474</u>

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	125,401	(126,032)	(631)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>125,401</u>	<u>(126,032)</u>	<u>(631)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	179,939	9,166	189,105
Designated Fund	25,000	-	25,000
	<u>204,939</u>	<u>9,166</u>	<u>214,105</u>
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RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued **for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	179,939	8,535	188,474
Designated Fund	25,000	-	25,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	204,939	8,535	213,474
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>204,939</u>	<u>8,535</u>	<u>213,474</u>

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	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>243,430</u>	<u>(234,895)</u>	<u>8,535</u>

The General Fund is available for use in fulfilling the general objects of the Charity.

The Designated Fund represents funds that have been set aside to finance a new shop.

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

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No payments were made to the Branch Emergency Fund during the year or in the previous year.

RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
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Gift aid	7,658	4,076
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Grants Received	2,066	-
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	36,633	37,287
Other trading activities		
Fundraising	4,785	4,386
Sale of Goods	64,064	53,592
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	<hr/>	<hr/>
	88,768	80,742
Total incoming resources	<hr/>	<hr/>
	125,401	118,029
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Salaries, NI & Pensions	30,443	28,967
Rates and water	268	498
Insurance	950	739
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Telephone & Internet	445	630
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Gift Aid Costs	1,506	277
Cost of Goods Sold	-	75
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Equipment Hire	1,503	1,593
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Fixtures and fittings	511	519
Credit Card Charges	1,246	718
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	95,954	80,165
Support costs		

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RSPCA BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BRANCH

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	31.12.23	31.12.22
	£	£
Support costs		
Governance costs		
Staff Salaries, NI & Pension	28,697	25,493
Postage and stationery	367	275
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Website & Computer Costs	147	840
Legal & Professional Fees	35	35
Subscriptions	132	646
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Total resources expended	126,032	108,863
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net (expenditure)/income	(631)	9,166
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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