

# KOALA (SWINDON OPPORTUNITY GROUP)

England & Wales · Charity number 298541

## Details

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Other names	KOALAS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1988-02-09
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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**Address** Koalas Swindon Opportunity Group  
Salt Way Centre  
Pearl Road  
Middleleaze  
Swindon  
SN5 5TD

**Phone** 07553987138

**Email** [koalasopportunitygroup@gmail.com](mailto:koalasopportunitygroup@gmail.com)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO RELIEVE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND TO PRESERVE THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF THEIR PARENTS FAMILIES AND GUARDIANS.

**Activities:** Koalas provides support information and advice for families who have children with special needs/disabilities. At the same time we provide a pre-school setting for the children, working in partnerships with families and professionals we plan for the individual child's development and help them achieve their individual goals through the Early Years Foundation Stage.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** SWINDON
- Swindon
- Wiltshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,664	£3,073	-	-
2024-03-31	£1,481	£326	-	-
2023-03-31	£1,188	£42,494	-	-
2022-03-31	£30,695	£50,513	-	-
2021-03-31	£66,853	£90,774	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>MRS LIZ ANGUS</b>	Chair	
DONNA COOK		
MRS JO GWINNETT		
NICHOLAS COPE		

**KOALA (SWINDON OPPORTUNITY GROUP)**

England & Wales - Charity number 298541

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# Accounts

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# KOALAS

## Swindon Opportunity Group



Charity Number 298541  
Salt Way Centre, Pearl Road,  
Swindon, SN5 5TD  
Email: [Koalasopportunitygroup@gmail.com](mailto:Koalasopportunitygroup@gmail.com)

### Annual Report and Accounts April 2021-March 2022

#### **What is Koalas?**

Koalas is an opportunity group that provides support, information advice and friendship to families who have children with special needs. At the same time, a playgroup is provided for the children with special needs and their siblings. This gives them the opportunity to play alongside those children following the normal developmental pattern. Koalas also help to foster mutual respect, allowing children to accept others for who they are. In this way Koalas encourages future generations to be more accepting of others that are differently able.

This form of integration not only builds friendships but also helps siblings learn about special needs. The siblings can become more able to accept their brother or sister who may behave differently and they also realise that they are not the only children who have a brother or sister like that.

Most of all, Koalas is a place where families can come and sit, chat and have a small amount of respite. A chance to moan, cry and laugh, whatever the emotion, we at Koalas are here, in our small way to help and empower.

#### **What makes Koalas Unique?**

- Established in 1987 we have forged strong relationships and working partnerships with all stakeholders.
- An impartial source of information and support for parents
- Our team is highly trained and qualified. Continued investment ensures comprehensive and specialised service.
- Our Independent charitable status enables us to source additional funding and practical support from charitable trusts and companies.
- Koalas is co-located in the Integrated Service for Disabled Children, helping children, young people and their families live ordinary lives.

### Management Committee

Chair:-	Liz Angus	Parent
Secretary:-	Donna Cook	Retired Teacher
Treasurer:-	Nicholas Cope	Accountant
Committee:-	Joanna Gwinnett	Parent
	Jess Franco-Franklin	Parent

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### Staff employed by Koalas to August 31st 2021 when they were Tupe'd to Swindon BC

Manager	Nicola Hollingsworth	NQT
Senior Playleader	Claire Powell	BA Early Years Degree
Playleader	Sharon Hooper	NVQ3
	Laura Alldritt	BA Early years Degree
	Sarah Shoemith	BA Early Years Degree
	Liz Stephenson	BA early years Degree
	Donna Fretwell	NVQ3
Assistant Playleader	Antonia Wozencroft	NVQ2
Administrator/book keeper	Anna Davis	

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### Staffing

Investment in developing staff skills in all areas is paramount to delivering a comprehensive and specialist service.

Ofsted requires 50% of staff to be level 3 or above. 87% of Koalas employed staff are level 3 and above.

### Investing on our staff

The management committee of Koalas has seen the importance of continuing to support the development of knowledge and skills of staff. Throughout their time working for Koalas Staff had the opportunity to attend a range of training and so we are pleased that staff TUPE'd to Swindon BC do so with a high level of skill and training.

### Chair report for Koalas April 2021 – March 2022

The team at Koalas continued to deliver a first class provision in support of the children and families attending each week. The staff remained highly qualified and valued among their professional colleagues. Families continued to applaud the first class services they got and valued the enormous benefit to both themselves and their children. Behind the scenes much was changing.

This year saw the end of Koalas as we have known it before. Already the service had changed with Nicola now leading after Stephanie's retirement. The future had been unclear as there was still a thought that Koalas would be tendered out as a joint offering with Swindon's Special Tots and Portage services. That all changed in April 2021 as Swindon Borough Council decided that they would actually transfer the provision delivered by Koalas into the local authority itself and if agreed the staff would be TUPE'd over to their employ.

It was immediately apparent that this was a sensible course of action. As a small charity, Koalas could not afford to operate without a grant from the council. Despite having relatively large financial reserves, Koalas would not have a home at Salt Way if it chose to continue. Finding new premises would quickly drain any financial resources. For the sake of the staff it was sensible to give them security of employment, so we agreed to transfer the staff and the tangible assets of Koalas over to Swindon Borough Council.

All staff agreed to transfer although Koalas did offer them the option of redundancy if they preferred.

Predictably the TUPE process was drawn out and complicated by SBC leaving an awful lot of it to the last minute. The staff transferred over to work for council from September 2021 leaving the trustees to tie up the remaining loose ends for the charity. Whilst very sad in many ways it is good to know that the support for the children and families remains on a secure footing going forward.

Liz Angus  
Chair- Koalas Opportunity Group  
2022

### Community Donations and Fundraising.

We appreciate all the support that we receive from the local community it makes so much difference to what we are able to offer the children and families who attend Koalas.

#### Donations

	Details	Amount
	Avon Rubber	200.00
Sub Total		200.00
Fundraising - koalas		
	Swindon Lottery	39.00
	Just Giving- fundraising by others in community	1670.83
Sub Total		1709.83
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1909.83</b>

## **Co-ordinated Partnership working**

Koalas continued to retain strong links with other professionals as we delivered a service in the summer term, working to support the children attending Koalas. Occupational therapists, Physiotherapists, Speech and Language therapists and Educational Psychologists are regularly visiting children in the playroom to undertake assessments and provide the therapy needed by the children and their families. Whilst it is useful for all of these professionals to be able to work with the children and their families in the Koalas playroom, there is obviously a benefit for the Koalas staff as they are able to include the strategies suggested into their own work with the children.

The pandemic continued to provide challenges in the last few months but the team provided a good working relationship with all staff involved in the care of the children we work with.

The Koalas staff are confident to engage with professionals and request their presence at short notice when the family needs help and support. As such it is common for professionals to 'pop down' to provide resolution to a problem as soon as they are able. We continued to work in conjunction with schools and nurseries to share our expertise with them and to influence the provision afforded to our children in other settings. We saw it was imperative that there was a consistent approach, providing reassurance to families and giving our children the best possible start in their education. The approach to other educational settings often begins before the child has started with them and continues until they leave Koalas. In previous years we had often remained as a source of parental support even after the child has moved on. We are sure that the staff who transferred to the borough have continued to work in this way carrying on the good work that Koalas and its staff had always prided itself in.

## **How have we helped?**

### **Activities through the year**

For the period April to July 2021 Koalas staff continued to provide families with the opportunity to act as lead professional where they would organise TAC meetings to ensure a coordinated service is provided for the child and family. In addition where they were not Lead professional they would attend and contribute to TAC meetings organised by others as well as attending any meetings organised by social care services.

### **Education Health and Care Plans**

It is extremely important that we plan to support the continued development of our children as they transition to school. Part of this process is for key-workers to make requests to the local authority to undertake a statutory assessment of their educational needs where appropriate as well as liaising with the receiving school to ensure that the transition for the child and family is seamless. This has always been such an important part of the summer term as for any child it can be a difficult time transferring from a familiar setting to a new one and giving the receiving school the important information to help the child settle is key to positive experiences.

## Statistics

Children's attendance throughout the year 2021-20212

Date	Special Needs		Mainstream		Total Attendance	Sessions open
	Girls	boys	Girls	boys		
April-June	46	121	5	27	199	38
July	10	27	0	7	44	11
Total	56	148	5	34	243	49

## TREASURERS REPORT 2022

### INTRODUCTION

Koalas has successfully transitioned across to the Borough, the financial position reflects the few months of operations before closing.

This is an opportunity to thank everyone involved over many years and wish them every success in the continuation of the Service under a new umbrella.

The process of winding down is almost complete.

### RESULTS

The Accounts show the position at the end of March 22. The committee are working through the grant applications to ensure any residual monies are invested and given back to the community.

A table of Attendance and Sessional costs analysed by expenditure is shown below

Nicholas Cope FCCA

**TABLE OF ATTENDANCE AND SESSIONAL COSTS ANALYSED BY EXPENDITURE TYPE**

Cost Analysis £	2021/22 Expenditure	2021/22 Cost per Session	2021/22 Cost per Attendance	2020/21 Expenditure	2020/21 Cost per Session	2020/21 Cost per Attendance	2019/20 Expenditure	2019/20 Cost per Session	2019/20 Cost per Attendance
Salaries & Wages	40,488	826.29	166.62	81,563	547.40	66.58	79,001	530.20	64.49
Administration	5,041	102.88	20.74	4,302	28.87	3.51	4,164	27.94	3.40
Playgroup Exp	783	15.98	3.22	2,988	20.06	2.44	3,785	25.40	3.09
Transport & Travel	182	3.71	0.75	124	0.83	0.10	1,303	8.74	1.06
Other	498	10.16	2.05	624	4.19	0.51	1,175	7.89	0.96
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>46,992</b>	<b>959.02</b>	<b>193.38</b>	<b>89,601</b>	<b>601.35</b>	<b>73.14</b>	<b>89,427</b>	<b>600.18</b>	<b>73.00</b>
Depreciation	3,521	71.86	14.49	1,174	7.88	0.96	1,713	11.49	1.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,513</b>	<b>1,030.88</b>	<b>207.87</b>	<b>90,774</b>	<b>609.22</b>	<b>74.10</b>	<b>91,140</b>	<b>611.68</b>	<b>74.40</b>

**DAYS OPEN**

49

149

149

NB: Depreciation is an accounting entry and does not involve the payment of cash.

**KOALAS SWINDON OPPORTUNITY GROUP**

**Charity No 298541**

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022**

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**KOALAS SWINDON OPPORTUNITY GROUP**

Charity Number 298541

**Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022**

<u>GENERAL ACCOUNT</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>		<u>2020-2021</u>	
<b>Income</b>				
<b>General:</b>				
Playgroup charges / subs	403.76		1,362.50	
Nursery Education Grant	3,750.49		13,796.02	
		<b>4,154.25</b>		15,158.52
Fundraising	430.00		1260.00	
less Cost of sales	-233.98	196.02	-216.00	1,044.00
Signalong and other sales	0.00		0.00	
less Cost of sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CAF FRIENDS OF	0.00	0.00	30.00	30.00
Miscellaneous income	1785.16	1,785.16		1,249.38
Bank interest	5.59	5.59		17.63
		<b>1,986.77</b>		<b>2,341.01</b>
<b>Grants:</b>				
SBC Children Services / Swindon PCT	22,639.50		47,389.63	
BBC Children in Need	0.00		0.00	
ECAT	0.00		0.00	
Heart Radio	0.00		0.00	
		<b>22,639.50</b>		<b>47,389.63</b>
<b>Donations:</b>				
Other donations each over £250 last year	0.00		0.00	
Other donations each under £250	1,883.07		1,923.09	
		<b>1,883.07</b>		<b>1,923.09</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b><u>30,663.59</u> *</b>		<b><u>66,812.25</u></b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>				
Salaries	40,487.68		81,562.69	
Postage & Telephone	70.00		877.48	
Printing & Stationery	204.78		254.40	
Transport	182.04		97.72	
Travelling expenses	0.00		26.20	
Playgroup expenses	782.98		2,988.25	
Books	0.00		0.00	
Training courses	600.00		425.00	
Insurance	3,570.32		1,624.65	
Advertising	0.00		0.00	
Fees and Subscriptions	150.00		0.00	
Accountancy Fee	446.00		120.00	
Book-keeping and accounts	150.00		1,000.00	
AGM expenses	0.00		0.00	
Miscellaneous CAF -CIS	347.87		624.19	
Building Expenses	0.00		0.00	
Depreciation	3,521.53		1,173.84	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b><u>50,513.20</u> *</b>		<b><u>90,774.42</u></b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit on the General Account 2021-2022</b>		<b><u>-19,849.61</u></b>		<b><u>-23,962.17</u></b>

**KOALAS SWINDON OPPORTUNITY GROUP**

Charity Number 298541

**Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022**

<b>BUILDING FUND</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2020-2022</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Donations	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	31.84	40.37
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>31.84</b>	<b>40.37</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Surplus/ Deficit on the Building Fund</b>	<b>31.84</b>	<b>40.37</b>

**KOALAS SWINDON OPPORTUNITY GROUP**

Charity Number 298541

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2022**

	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2020-2022</b>
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>		
Balance of Fixed Assets at 1st April 2022	3,521.53	4,695.37
Add: Purchases this year	0.00	0.00
Less: Depreciation this year	-3,521.53	-1,173.84
	<b>0.00 *</b>	<b>3,521.53</b>
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Building Fund savings accounts	63,717.36	63,685.52
Lloyds Deal restricted for reserves	0.00	0.00
Lloyds Business Instant	47,770.36	67,764.77
Caf Friends of Koalas & Portage	10,203.69	10,551.56
Caf CIS CV restricted until 2019	0.00	0.00
Current Account and Cash in hand	19,901.75	15,887.55
Sub - total	141,593.16 *	157,889.40
Less: Accrued charges	-270.00	-270.00
	<b>141,323.16</b>	<b>157,619.40</b>
<b>Net Asset Value at 31st March 2022</b>	<b>141,323.16 *</b>	<b>161,140.93</b>
<b>The Net Asset are Distributed as follows:</b>		
General Fund as at 1st April 2021	97,455.41	121,417.58
Surplus /Deficit for 2021/ 2022	-19,849.61	-23,962.17
Transfer from building fund	0.00	0.00
<b>Total General Funds</b>	<b>77,605.80 *</b>	<b>97,455.41</b>
Building Fund at 1st April 2021	63,685.52	<b>63,645.15</b>
Surplus /Deficit for 2021/2022	31.84	40.37
Transfer to General Fund	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Building Fund restricted</b>	<b>63,717.36 *</b>	<b>63,685.52</b>
<b>Total Net Assets as above</b>	<b>141,323.16 *</b>	<b>161,140.93</b>

0.00

**KOALAS SWINDON OPPORTUNITY GROUP**

Charity Number 298541

**Statement of Financial activities for the year ended 31st 2022**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total at <u>2021-2022</u>	Total at <u>2020-2021</u>
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Grant	0.00	22,639.50	22,639.50	47,389.63
Donation	0.00	1,883.07	1,883.07	1,923.09
Fundraising	196.02	0.00	196.02	1,074.00
Investment income	5.59	31.84	37.43	445.92
Other income	1,785.16	4,154.25	5,939.41	16,407.90
	<b><u>1,986.77</u></b>	<b><u>28,708.66</u></b>	<b><u>30,695.43</u></b> *	<b><u>66,852.62</u></b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Project costs	0.00	45,574.23	45,574.23	86,273.70
Management & administration	943.87	3,995.10	4,938.97	4,500.72
	<b><u>943.87</u></b>	<b><u>49,569.33</u></b>	<b><u>50,513.20</u></b> *	<b><u>90,774.42</u></b>
<b><u>Balance on Hand</u></b>				
Net income for the year	1,042.90	-20,860.67	-19,817.77	-23,921.80
Surplus from 2019/21	23,955.01	137,185.92	161,140.93	185,062.73
<b>Surplus carried forward to 2021- 2022</b>	<b><u>24,997.91</u></b>	<b><u>116,325.25</u></b>	<b><u>141,323.16</u></b> *	<b><u>161,140.93</u></b>
	0.00			

Charity Number 298541

Note above restricted funds held:

General Funds to cover extra specialist staff needed and deficit due to shortfall in grants needed.

Building Funds donations and bank interest held wholly to fund a move to new premises.

Charity No 298541

**Independent examiner's report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Koalas Swindon Opportunity Group for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 which are set out on pages one to three.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

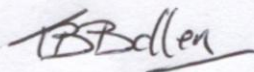
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

**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:

- .a) the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or
- .b) the accounts did not accord with the accounting records: or
- .c) the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts as 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



T B Bollen BSc FCA CTA  
Chartered Accountant

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022

89 Groundwell Road  
Swindon  
SN1 2NA

**KOALA (SWINDON OPPORTUNITY GROUP)**

England & Wales - Charity number 298541

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# Accounts

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# KOALAS

Swindon Opportunity Group

Annual Report and  
Accounts  
April 2020-March 2021

Charity Number 298541  
Salt Way Centre, Pearl Road,  
Swindon, SN5 5TD

Email: [Koalasoportunitygroup@gmail.com](mailto:Koalasoportunitygroup@gmail.com)

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This form of integration not only builds friendships but also helps siblings learn about special needs. The siblings can become more able to accept their brother or sister who may behave differently and they also realise that they are not the only children who have a brother or sister like that.

Most of all, Koalas is a place where families can come and sit, chat and have a small amount of respite. A chance to moan, cry and laugh, whatever the emotion, we at Koalas are here, in our small way to help and empower.

## *What makes Koalas Unique?*

- *Established in 1987 we have forged strong relationships and working partnerships with all stakeholders.*
- *An impartial source of information and support for parents*
- *Our team is highly trained and qualified. Continued investment ensures comprehensive and specialised service.*
- *Our Independent charitable status enables us to source additional funding and practical support from charitable trusts and companies.*
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### Management Committee

Chair:-	Liz Angus	Parent
Secretary:-	Donna Cook	Retired Teacher
Treasurer:-	Nicholas Cope	Accountant
Committee:-	Joanna Gwinnett	Parent
	Jess Franco-Franklin	Parent
	Vacant	Parent
	Jane Duncan	Parent
	Vacant	Parent
	Vacant	Parent
	Vacant	Parent
	Vacant	Parent
	Maureen Ash	Retired Social Worker
	Vacant	other

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### Staff

Manager	Stephanie Hathaway ( to Oct 2020)	NNEB, EYPS, BSc
	Nicola Hollingsworth( from November 2020)	NQT
Senior Playleader	Claire Powell	BA Early Years Degree
Playleader	Sharon Hooper	NVQ3
	Laura Alldritt	BA Early years Degree
	Sarah Shoesmith	BA Early Years Degree
	Liz Stephenson	BA early years Degree
	Donna Fretwell	NVQ3
Assistant Playleader	Antonia Wozencroft	NVQ2
Volunteer	Lucy Simoncsics	
Administrator/book keeper	Anna Davis	

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### Staffing

Investment in developing staff skills in all areas is paramount to delivering a comprehensive and specialist service.

Ofsted requires 50% of staff to be level 3 or above. 87% of Koalas employed staff are level 3 and above.

## **Chair report for Koalas April 2020 – March 2021**

This year has brought Koalas many changes. Changes that shape and alter the face of Koalas for ever.

The over arching theme of the year continues to be the Covid 19 pandemic. Staff returned to the playroom in September 2020 after an enormous tidying operation, taking as much equipment out of the playroom to reduce the infection risk. A huge cleaning operation commenced to ensure every item and surface was sanitised.

Children and families returned and on the whole staff were pleased to be back performing an in person role rather than a virtual one. The cleaning regime continued each morning and evening and when each session had concluded. This worked well for staff although the nature of isolation meant that the numbers of children were variable and absences more frequent.

Just as we got to grips with everything the lockdown occurred in January 2021. The risk assessment was updated and we started again with a reduced number of sessions as more children remained at home with their school aged siblings. Parents remained off site for a short time to reduce the transmission risk to staff.

The situation regarding the commissioning out of Koalas with Special Tots was also impacted by the pandemic. It was relatively clear that the two would come together but how and when was very unclear. Swindon Borough Council were not forthcoming, pressured themselves by providing services in a difficult time. The decision came at Easter 2021 and to our surprise the intention was to transfer Koalas staff into the employ of the borough by September 2021. The semantics and practicalities of this would unravel further in the summer.

Stephanie retired in October 2021 so recruitment was carefully considered as she had been in post since 1992. We were delighted to secure Nicola Hollingsworth, an experienced early years teacher. Nicola's appointment has been successful with the staff valuing her management style and experience. Nicola continues to lead the team during a time of change and uncertainty.

We thank Stephanie for all she has provided over the years and know she is a huge loss to both Koalas and Swindon Borough Council. Enjoy your retirement, no doubt having much fun as a grandmother amongst many other things!

So in summary this is likely to be the penultimate chair report for Koalas. As sad as it is to think the staff and service will be directly under SBC, I am minded to look to the positives. By transferring the service in house SBC have shown a commitment to the provision of specialist services for early years SEN children and their families. Also, the staff have the security of being employed by a local authority and the additional benefits that brings.

Koalas has provided a huge benefit to the local area and many, many families are in a better place because their child attended. Many of the those children are now adults. Koalas will also be regarded fondly by the local community. A job well done I think.

Liz Angus  
Chair- Koalas Opportunity Group

### **A note from Manager**

The start of the year 2020/21 was a very strange one for staff, parents, children and colleagues. Due to the pandemic that descended on us in March 2020 staff quickly had to learn a new way of working.

Within a week we had transferred to working from home and supporting families virtually via email and phones. This was very different for all of us but between staff and parents we muddled through providing advice, support and activities. I am extremely proud of how the team responded to the new way of working.

Many of our children were due to start school in the September. Ordinarily we would have held EHCP reviews or TAC meetings with the receiving school attending. As we weren't able to meet face to face it was necessary to learn how to use Microsoft teams to ensure that we could review children's progress and enable the receiving school to gain information about the children to ensure that there was a smooth transition.

Additionally staff were needing to think about those children who would be starting school in 2021 and apply for EHCP's where necessary. We were reliant on parents giving us as much information about the children and how they were progressing at home to build the picture we needed to make the application. We are extremely grateful for the support the parents gave us during these very difficult times.

All settings were required by the local authority to write risk assessments in relation to all children who have SEND/EHCP's to ensure that they were safe and well catered for at home. It was therefore necessary for us to phone each parent to check how they and their child were coping and what support they were receiving from other services. In some instances this resulted in us finding places at other nurseries to support the well being of the children.

Our aim was to reopen in the September 2020. In order for this to happen we were required to complete a risk assessment in relation to opening and to put a range of safety measures in place. This then had to be approved by Swindon BC's Covid Bronze and Silver groups and for it to be signed off by Health and Safety. One of the major things was for staff to prepare the rooms, removing significant amounts of equipment that were not easy to clean. The staff worked extremely hard alongside the Portage and Special tots teams social distanced over a couple of weeks to ensure we were able to open in the September.

Ordinarily we would have had an information session in the June for the September intake. The local authority in along with Koalas, Portage, Special Tots and All Aboard agreed that children could attend only one specialist setting alongside their mainstream setting.

We worked closely with Special tots and All Aboard Nursery to ensure each child had one specialist setting to attend from September. This did mean that a couple of children who had been with us prior to lockdown transferred to All Aboard as they were able to offer more sessions weekly. We made sure that we transferred all relevant information to ensure their needs were met.

As we know many of our children have Early Help Assessments and plans. These Assessments and plans can be very different in their delivery. Having raised our concerns over the years about the usefulness of some plans. I was part of a multi disciplinary team to quality assure a selection of plans. This was beneficial as it was the start of highlighting the training needs of the children's workforce across the borough.

Having delayed my retirement from July 2020 to end of October 2020, it meant I was able to see the team back at Salt Way and Koalas back open to children and their families.

I am proud of the team in how they responded to what has been a very difficult year.

This is certainly not how I would have liked to have said goodbye to everyone.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff and families who I have worked with in the last 33 years.

Koalas has played a big part in mine and my families life, as both my children attended Koalas in their pre-school years. I have enjoyed my time working with the children and families some of whom are adults in their 30's who have been part of Koalas. I have many happy memories and will miss the relationships that we all build with children and families.

We were fortunate to recruit my successor and Nicola Hollingsworth started in November 2020. As you can imagine she has had to hit the ground running and the pandemic continued to provide challenges for the team.

Back in 2019 the commissioner after 32 years of Koalas providing the opportunity group in Swindon made the decision to merge Koalas with the Portage and special tots team and after some deliberation in March of 2021 made the decision to bring the service in house rather than putting out to tender.

This was yet another change and challenge for the team to face on top of the already difficult year. All staff were able to be tupe to Swindon BC and so their jobs were safe. As of September 1st they are now managed by the early years team in the borough and are now part of the Specialist Early Years Centre employ a new manager to take over managing the service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team for all their support over the past years and wish them well for the future. I know they will continue to have the children and families at the heart of what they do.

Stephanie Hathaway  
ex manager

**Community Donations and Fundraising.**

**Donations**

<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Honda	500.00
Parish of Swindon Newton	143.70
D Low	70.00
Hilliers in Memory of S Moore	90.00
Donation via paypal	287.50
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1091.20</b>
<b>Fundraising - koalas</b>	
Swindon Lottery	20.50
Just Giving- fundraising by others in community	831.89
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>852.39</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1943.59</b>

*We appreciate all the support that we receive from the local community it makes so much difference to what we are able to offer the children and families who attend Koalas.*

**Co-ordinated Partnership working**

Koalas continues to retain strong links with other professionals working to support the children attending Koalas. Occupational therapists, Physiotherapists, Speech and Language therapists and Educational Psychologists are regularly visiting children in the playroom to undertake assessments and provide the therapy needed by the children and their families. Whilst it is useful for all of these professionals to be able to work with the children and their families in the Koalas playroom, there is obviously a benefit for the Koalas staff as they are able to include the strategies suggested into their own work with the children.

Obviously the situation with the pandemic has made things difficult in the first few months of the year but once we were back in Salt Way, with all safety measures in place we were able to continue working in partner-

The Koalas staff are confident to engage with professionals and request their presence at short notice when the family needs help and support. As such it is common for professionals to 'pop down' to provide resolution to a problem as soon as they are able.

We continue to work in conjunction with schools and nurseries to share our expertise with them and to influence the provision afforded to our children in other settings. We see it as imperative that there is a consistent approach, providing reassurance to families and giving our children the best possible start in their education. The approach to other educational settings often begins before the child has started with them and continues until they leave Koalas. We often remain a source of parental support even after the child has moved on.

### **Source of Referrals.**

We received a total of 27 referrals during the year April 2020- March 2021

6 from Health Visiting Service  
4 Early Years Family Practitioner  
3 Speech and Language therapy  
6 From Paediatrician  
1 from Paediatric therapy  
1 parental  
3 SENCO  
1 Wilts Portage  
2 not recorded

It should be remembered that Koalas is not a statutory organisation and it is the families' choice as to whether they attend. Additionally this is a difficult time for parents as they come to terms with the fact that their child has additional needs. To walk through Koalas door is an acceptance of this fact and for some parents a difficult step to take.

## How have we helped?

### Activities through the year

#### **Lead Professional and TACs providing a coordinated response for children and families**

- Koalas acted as lead professional for 21 families.
- The team contributed to 19 Early Help/TAC Meetings.
- Staff attended 5 Chin/LACs/permanency meetings or Child protection conferences in the year.

#### **DLA forms**

The team continue to support families in obtaining DLA. This may be to help with the initial application or in some situations Koalas involvement is after an initial refusal from the Department of Work and Pensions. In the year we supported 5 families to complete DLA forms successfully.

#### **Education Health and Care Plans**

It is extremely important that we plan to support the continued development of our children as they transition to school. Part of this process is for the keyworkers to make requests to the local authority to undertake a statutory assessment of their educational needs.

During the year we applied for 8 statutory assessments, completed 12 K3's as required. EHCP's are required to be reviewed every 6 months until the child is 5 years old and then yearly after.

Koalas contributed and attended 8 reviews.

Staff attended and contributed to 5 PEP meetings.

## **Providing work placement for Students.**

Many students attend the setting during the year and gain firsthand experience of working with children with additional needs as part of their placement. We have welcomed a number of students who are placed within services in Swindon as can be seen in the chart below. Koalas also host trainee medical students who are on rotation at GWH. We have started to welcome the apprentice nurses based at GWH providing specialist community placement for them. We find this beneficial to the children and students who gain a first hand experience of the skills needed to work with and support children with SEND and their families.

In 2020/2021 due to the pandemic we took the decision not to accept any students to reduce our risk as much as possible.

## **Investing on our staff**

The management committee of Koalas see the importance of continuing to support the development of knowledge and skills of staff. They therefore give the opportunity to attend training wherever possible. In the year staff have attended the following training:-

- Paediatric training
- Safeguarding level 2 and 3 for 2 staff
- Medication Awareness
- Threshold training
- Epilepsy
- Mandatory SEND training
- Working with resistant families
- Managing allegations
- Speech and Language communication needs
- Manual handling

The manager and Senior playleader continue to attend the EY SENDCO forum and Leaders and Manager forum to ensure they keep abreast of any changes and developments in the Early Years.

## Statistics

### Children's attendance throughout the year 2020-2021

Date	Different children attending				Total Attendance	Sessions open
	Special Needs		Mainstream			
	Girls	boys	Girls	boys		
April-June	14	20	4	3	staff contacted parents weekly 651 emails, 16 texts, 84 phone calls.	closed due to covid
July-Sept	17	37	5	7	84	July closed due to covid re-opened September 12
October-December	15	19	4	3	267	40
January-March	6	17	1	2	224	35
<b>Total</b>					<b>575</b>	

### Children leaving Koalas during the year

Of those children attending in April 2020, 19 left in July 2020.

9 children accessed mainstream school, 8 with EHCP in place and a further 2 children accessed specialist school provision with a further 2 attending SRP's. 2 children transferred to their mainstream nursery setting during the year and 3 children transferred to All aboard Nursery due to covid restrictions on the number of settings allowed to attend. In addition 2 siblings of children also left for mainstream provision.

**Koalas Swindon Opportunity Group, Annual Report 2020/2021**  
**Parental feedback**

Thank you so much Donna your a star I know it's crazy times at the min, but so thankful I have you guys to help me you all do an amazing job - Email received from mum 02/06/20

Can you please thank everyone for all the help and support they have given M and myself, I would not have made it through the past years without your help many thanks and appreciation kind regards PC

25/06/2020 dad emailed "Thank you very much for all the help. Your support has really been timely and did cover our blind spots as parents" when discussing transition to school. 08/07/20 mum emailed "Thank you very much for your help, very much appreciated" with regards to chasing and informing about Aiming High referral.

Thank you for all your lovely emails. Chris and I have read her going with the paperwork. I've read what you've written and I'm so happy! You've written it so beautifully & captured her strengths & anxieties so well! I also appreciate the more concrete plan for transition to school. (If you want to add that as parental contribution, we do!) The only thing I'd add is that she's also under Dr Chinthapali. My anxiety as a parent is the communication between home and school. I'd like to know if I can't relay much to me. I think it would be helpful if I could email her. I'd like to know about her progress/developments/issues outside of school? Don't know if that's a thing. I struggle to walk the path of not getting narky when her needs aren't met but I feel so heartworn when you take the time to support me with your passion. Thank you so much. I can't tell you what a support you have been to me!

## **TREASURERS REPORT 2021**

### **INTRODUCTION**

It's been another challenging year to March 21, our income was in line with expectations but understandably donations were much lower than previous years. As a result, we ended the year with a cash deficit of nearly twenty-four thousand pounds (-£23,962).

We have seen major change during the financial year with the retirement of Stephanie, who I've had the pleasure of working with for the past +25 years, the appointment of Nicola as her replacement and a long-drawn-out tender process with the Borough.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Stephanie for her support and the massive contribution she has made to Koalas over many years and wish her the very best of luck in her retirement.

### **RESULTS**

I have identified below some of the key financial highlights from the Accounts.

The net deficit after depreciation for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 was -£23962, in real cash terms the deficit was -£22,788 before depreciation. This reflects a movement of £1,248 compared to last year.

Our Net Asset position, effectively the money we have in Bank Accounts has decreased as a result of the deficit to £161,140 – a reduction of £23,922 at the end of the financial year. The bank balance of our funds invested in the high interest accounts remained constant.

Following the decision by Swindon Borough Council to take the Service in-house, we will now start the necessary process to conclude the legal & financial aspects as Koalas starts its new journey.

**Nicholas Cope FCCA**

**KOALAS SWINDON OPPORTUNITY GROUP**

**Charity No 298541**

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021**

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**KOALAS SWINDON OPPORTUNITY GROUP**

Charity Number 298541

**Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021**

<u>GENERAL ACCOUNT</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>		<u>2019- 2020</u>	
<b>Income</b>				
<b>General:</b>				
Playgroup charges / subs	1,362.50		2,245.00	
Nursery Education Grant	13,796.02		16,875.66	
		<b>15,158.52</b>		<b>19,120.66</b>
Fundraising	1260.00		166.86	
less Cost of sales	-216.00	1,044.00	-216.00	-49.14
Signalong and other sales	0.00		322.00	
less Cost of sales	0.00	0.00	-240.00	82.00
CAF FRIENDS OF	30.00	30.00	336.81	336.81
Miscellaneous income	1249.38	1,249.38		2,437.07
Bank interest	17.63	17.63		33.78
		<b>2,341.01</b>		<b>2,840.52</b>
<b>Grants:</b>				
SBC Children Services / Swindon PCT	47,389.63		45,279.00	
BBC Children in Need	0.00		0.00	
ECAT	0.00		0.00	
Heart Radio	0.00		0.00	
		<b>47,389.63</b>		<b>45,279.00</b>
<b>Donations:</b>				
Other donations each over £250 last year	0.00		0.00	
Other donations each under £250	1,923.09		1,184.91	
		<b>1,923.09</b>		<b>1,184.91</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b><u>66,812.25</u> *</b>		<b><u>68,425.09</u></b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>				
Salaries	81,562.69		79,000.54	
Postage & Telephone	877.48		72.90	
Printing & Stationery	254.40		324.88	
Transport	97.72		1,255.20	
Travelling expenses	26.20		47.70	
Playgroup expenses	2,988.25		3,785.24	
Books	0.00		0.00	
Training courses	425.00		1,064.40	
Insurance	1,624.65		1,577.46	
Advertising	0.00		663.34	
Fees and Subscriptions	0.00		115.00	
Accountancy Fee	120.00		120.00	
Book-keeping and accounts	1,000.00		1,004.00	
AGM expenses	0.00		0.00	
Miscellaneous CAF -CIS	624.19		396.81	
Building Expenses	0.00		0.00	
Depreciation	1,173.84		1,712.55	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b><u>90,774.42</u> *</b>		<b><u>91,140.02</u></b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit on the General Account 2020-2021</b>		<b><u>-23,962.17</u></b>		<b><u>-22,714.93</u></b>

**KOALAS SWINDON OPPORTUNITY GROUP**

Charity Number 298541

**Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021**

<b><u>BUILDING FUND</u></b>	<b><u>2020-2021</u></b>	<b><u>2019-2020</u></b>
<b>Income</b>		
Donations	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	40.37	412.14
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>40.37</u></b>	<b><u>412.14</u></b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
<b>Surplus/ Deficit on the Building Fund</b>	<b><u>40.37</u></b>	<b><u>412.14</u></b>

**KOALAS SWINDON OPPORTUNITY GROUP**

Charity Number 298541

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2021**

	<b><u>2020-2021</u></b>	<b><u>2019-2020</u></b>
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>		
Balance of Fixed Assets at 1st April 2021	4,695.37	5,471.34
Add: Purchases this year	0.00	936.58
Less: Depreciation this year	-1,173.84	-1,712.55
	<b>3,521.53 *</b>	<b>4,695.37</b>
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Building Fund savings accounts	63,685.52	63,645.15
Lloyds Deal restricted for reserves	0.00	0.00
Lloyds Business Instant	67,764.77	67,747.14
Caf Friends of Koalas & Portage	10,551.56	10,931.47
Caf CIS CV restricted until 2019	0.00	0.00
Current Account and Cash in hand	15,887.55	38,313.60
Sub - total	157,889.4 *	0.00
Less: Accrued charges	-270.00 *	-270.00
	<b>157,619.40</b>	<b>185,367.36</b>
<b>Net Asset Value at 31st March 2021</b>	<b><u>161,140.93 *</u></b>	<b><u>185,062.73</u></b>
<b>The Net Asset are Distributed as follows:</b>		
General Fund as at 1st April 2020	121,417.58	144,132.51
Surplus /Deficit for 2020/ 2021	-23,962.17	-22,714.93
Transfer from building fund	0.00	0.00
<b>Total General Funds</b>	<b>97,455.41 *</b>	<b>121,417.58</b>
Building Fund at 1st April 2020	63,645.15	63,233.01
Surplus /Deficit for 2020/2021	40.37	412.14
Transfer to General Fund	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Building Fund restricted</b>	<b>63,685.52 *</b>	<b>63,645.15</b>
<b>Total Net Assets as above</b>	<b><u>161,140.93 *</u></b>	<b><u>185,062.73</u></b>
	0.00	

**KOALAS SWINDON OPPORTUNITY GROUP**

Charity Number 298541

**Statement of Financial activities for the year ended 31st 2021**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total at <u>2020-2021</u>	Total at <u>2019-2020</u>
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Grant	0.00	47,389.63	47,389.63	45,279.00
Donation	0.00	1,923.09	1,923.09	1,184.91
Fundraising	1,074.00	0.00	1,074.00	369.67
Investment income	17.63	40.37	58.00	445.92
Other income	1,249.38	15,158.52	16,407.90	21,557.73
	<u>2,341.01</u>	<u>64,511.61</u>	<u>66,852.62</u> *	<u>68,837.23</u>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Project costs	0.00	86,273.70	86,273.70	87,528.97
Management & administration	1,744.19	2,756.53	4,500.72	3,611.05
	<u>1,744.19</u>	<u>89,030.23</u>	<u>90,774.42</u> *	<u>91,140.02</u>
<b><u>Balance on Hand</u></b>				
Net income for the year	596.82	-24,518.62	-23,921.80	-22,302.79
Surplus from 2019/20	23,358.19	161,704.54	185,062.73	207,365.52
<b>Surplus carried forward to 2020- 2021</b>	<u>23,955.01</u>	<u>137,185.92</u>	<u>161,140.93</u> *	<u>185,062.73</u>
0.00				

Charity Number 298541

Note above restricted funds held:

General Funds to cover extra specialist staff needed and deficit due to shortfall in grants needed.

Building Funds donations and bank interest held wholly to fund a move to new premises.

**Charity No 298541**

**Independent examiner's report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Koalas Swindon Opportunity Group for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 which are set out on pages one to three.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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:

- .a) the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or
- .b) the accounts did not accord with the accounting records: or
- .c) the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts as 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

T B Bollen BSc FCA CTA  
Chartered Accountant

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021

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Swindon  
SN1 2NA