

# 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 Shoesmith	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>		<b>15,158.52</b>
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>30,663.59 *</b>		<b>66,812.25</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>50,513.20 *</b>		<b>90,774.42</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit on the General Account 2021-2022</b>		<b>-19,849.61</b>		<b>-23,962.17</b>



**KOALAS SWINDON OPPORTUNITY GROUP**

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**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	63,645.15
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**

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**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
	<u>1,986.77</u>	<u>28,708.66</u>	<u>30,695.43</u> *	<u>66,852.62</u>
<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
	<u>943.87</u>	<u>49,569.33</u>	<u>50,513.20</u> *	<u>90,774.42</u>
<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>	<u>24,997.91</u>	<u>116,325.25</u>	<u>141,323.16</u> *	<u>161,140.93</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 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').

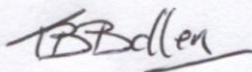
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

**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  
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