



Caring Kits for Kids

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7 July 2024

Trustees' Annual Report for 2023

About Caring Kits for Kids

Caring Kits for Kids was incorporated as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in 2021 with the aim of fundraising and putting together backpacks for children and young people entering emergency foster care via A&E and for mothers fleeing situations of domestic abuse and human trafficking.

Our kits for children and young people entering emergency foster care contain a change of clothes, toiletries, a mental health resource from the NSPCC and comforts such as a book and a cuddly toy. The kits are designed to provide dignity and comfort to children and young people at an uncertain time and ensure they arrive in emergency foster care with more than just the clothes they are wearing¹.

Our kits for expectant mothers fleeing situations of domestic abuse and human trafficking contain a change of clothes, toiletries, a book, a notepad and pen, a cuddly toy and a drinks bottle.

Caring Kits for Kids' principal address is 3 Swaythling Road, West End, Southampton, SO30 3AE.

Caring Kits for Kids had at the end of 2023 and continues to have four trustees: Mark Houghton MBE, Dr Gayle Hann, Rebecca Taylor and Kalina Bolingbroke.

Kalina Bolingbroke was formally appointed as a trustee on 4 October 2023, following a unanimous vote by the Board of Trustees in September 2023.

¹ Source: <https://www.nfa.co.uk/thinking-about-fostering/types-of-foster-care/emergency-foster-care/>

A Message from Our Chair

As 2023 comes to a close and Caring Kits for Kids celebrates its 3rd Birthday, I'd like to take an opportunity to look back on a few personal highlights for me from the past year. I wish I could give a mention to everything we have achieved (but I've been told this year I have to keep it short!)

In October, I had the privilege, as Chair, of formally welcoming Kalina Bolingbroke to Caring Kits for Kids' Board of Trustees. Kalina has been dedicating her time and energy to Caring Kits for Kids for over 6 years, even before we were incorporated as a charity and has shown enthusiasm and dedication in helping us achieve our goals. I personally look forward to seeing how Kalina will help us shape the future of Caring Kits for Kids in 2024.

2023 was a year of great personal change for me as well. Despite leaving Alstom, I've continued to be delighted to see the company and its hardworking and tireless employees continue to support Caring Kits for Kids and its mission. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Alstom for their continued support.

Lastly, I want to highlight every single person who has helped us deliver a further 81 kits this year, bringing us up to a total of 381 kits delivered to date. We've made lots of exciting partnerships this past year which we deeply look forward to continuing to build in 2024.



Mark Houghton MBE
Chair

2023 Year in Review

2023 has been a time of turmoil for a large proportion of the population, despite reducing inflation rates², the cost of living crisis continues to bite. The number of 'children looked after' in England (including adoptions) on 31 March 2023 stands at 83,840 – up 2% on 2022³. This suggests that the level of help needed to support those going into foster care remains high.

Caring Kits for Kids' response as a charity has been to continue to reach out to hospitals in need of support for their patients, continue to field requests for kits through the website and continue to work with existing contacts local to our hospitals.

Each request is considered on its own merits and action is taken wherever possible. This year, 5 requests resulted in 81 kits being delivered to hospitals in Ipswich, Worthing, Chichester, Derby, Tottenham and Tooting in London. Among the requests were debut deliveries to Ipswich Hospital in February, St Richard's Hospital and Worthing Hospital in July and Royal Derby Hospital in November.

Deliveries to St Richard's Hospital and Worthing Hospital would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of the Chichester Lions Club.



Representatives of Chichester Lions Club make deliveries of kits to a hospital in West Sussex.

Caring Kits for Kids would also like to express its heartfelt thanks to Alstom. Funding the company provided for Derby, in combination with every penny fundraised by employees, continued this year to be vital to Caring Kits for Kids' ongoing mission. Of course equally appreciated are the invaluable hours that volunteers, including those from Alstom, have chosen to dedicate to helping us shop, pack and deliver our kits.

² Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices>

³ Source: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoptions>



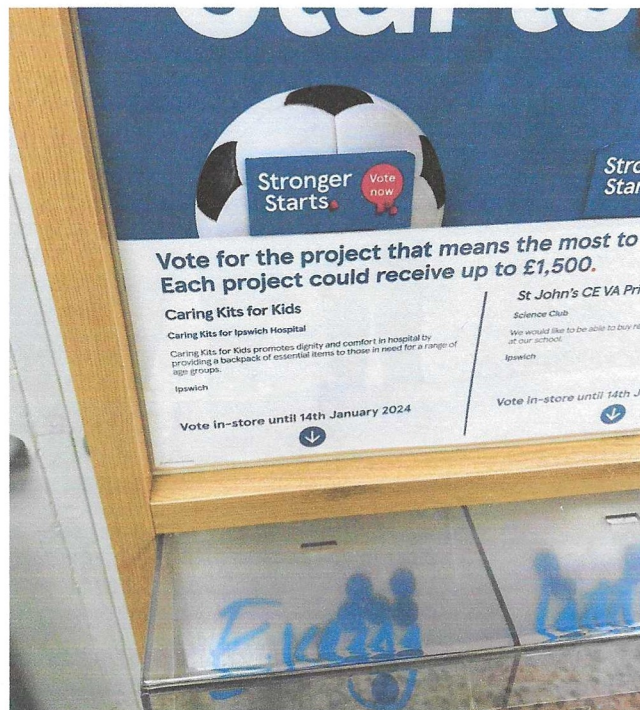
Alstom employees packing kits.



Volunteers from Alstom's Derby site prepare for a day of shopping and a day of packing.

Caring Kits for Kids was also thrilled this year to welcome Kalina Bolingbroke to its Board of Trustees. Prior to becoming a trustee, Kalina had already led deliveries for the charity of 24 kits to North Middlesex University Hospital and 24 kits to St George's University Hospital. In September, Kalina also helped raise over £1300 at coffee mornings in Alstom depots for the charity.

Under Tesco's Community Grant scheme, operations in both Birmingham and Ipswich were guaranteed £500 each; this was announced in April and November respectively. We are enormously appreciative as this equates to the cost of roughly 10 kits.



Caring Kits for Kids appearing in Tesco's Stronger Starts vote.

2023 Financial Review

Trustees have received regular reports this past year on the charity's financial position and have had regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

In 2023, Caring Kits for Kids' income increased by £2281 from £3171 to £5452, expenditure increased by £933 from £3795 in 2022 to £4728 in 2023. Materials spending accounted for £4670 of all expenditure. At the end of 2022, Caring Kits for Kids had £5787 at the bank, with a reserves level of £1000.

In 2023, the rate of inflation in the United Kingdom was 6.8% compared to 7.9% in 2022 and 2.5% in 2021. Whilst inflation levels are decreasing, it is likely the rising cost of goods will continue to remain a risk factor to the charity in 2024.

Going into 2024, loss of key staff/volunteers and a failure to deliver on grant commitments are the two biggest risks the charity faces. Caring Kits for Kids relies on key staff/volunteers to operate and so it will be crucial to retain current staff/volunteers as well as attracting further staff/volunteers. In 2023, Caring Kits for Kids diversified its income with £3,425 coming from grants. It will be essential to fulfil the contractual commitments related to these grants in order to protect the charity's reputation and access future grant opportunities.

Caring Kits for Kids' day-to-day operating costs continue to remain low, thanks in part to nonprofit offerings from Google, BT, Salesforce and Microsoft.



Mark Houghton MBE
Chair

Signed on the behalf of the Board of Trustees'



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Caring Kits for Kids	Charity No. 1193173
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01/01/2023	To 31/12/2023
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
002 JustGiving	109	-	-	109	2,756
003 AmazonSmile	103	-	-	103	137
058 Grant Income	-	3,425	-	3,425	-
004 Match Funding	400	-	-	400	-
005 Fundraising	1,413	-	-	1,413	278
051 Interest Received	2	-	-	2	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	2,027	3,425	-	5,452	3,171
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,027	3,425	-	5,452	3,171
A3 Payments					
268 Web Hosting	2	-	-	2	230
269 Computer Software	0	-	-	0	-
273 Internet & Telephone	9	-	-	9	-
103 Materials	3,093	1,577	-	4,670	3,565
364 Insurance	26	-	-	26	-
363 Bank/Finance Charges	25	-	-	25	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	3,151	1,577	-	4,728	3,795
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	3,151	1,577	-	4,728	3,795
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,124	1,848	-	724	- 624
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	5,066			5,066	
Cash funds this year end	3,942	1,848		5,790	624

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	750-1 Bank Account	2,962	723	-
	750-2 Bank Account	977	1,125	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds <small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small>	3,939	1,848	-

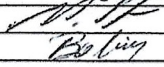
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	MARIE HOUGARTEN	13 JUNE 24
	KALINA BOLING-BROKE	26 JUNE 24