

FUN IN ACTION FOR CHILDREN

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
for the year ended 30 September 2012

Registered charity number: 1077594
Company registration number: 3839376

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FUN IN ACTION FOR CHILDREN

COMPANY INFORMATION

Registered charity number:	1077594
Company registration number:	3839376
Registered office:	221 Preston Road Brighton BN1 6SA
Bankers:	Unity Trust Bank Nine Brindleyplace Birmingham B1 2HB
Directors:	Jonathan Carr (Chair) Ralph Crane Becky Donoher Paul Stammer Joy Constantine
Secretary:	Anne McLaren
Independent examiner:	P L Soni FCA Bradley Soni and Co 365 South Coast Road Telscombe Cliffs BN10 7HA

FUN IN ACTION FOR CHILDREN

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended the 30th September 2012.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

Fun in Action for Children provides an adult long term volunteer befriending scheme to children from disadvantaged lone parent families living in the city of Brighton and Hove in East Sussex.

Children are referred for help by parents, teachers, social workers and health care professionals. Sometimes it is parents themselves who refer children after hearing about the service in positive terms from other families. There are only limited sources of support available locally to families, and this means demand for our service has remained consistently high during our 13 years of operation. At the end of September 2012 the charity had 41 children waiting.

All the children we help are disadvantaged and many experience multiple disadvantages in their families. These can include parent and sibling disability, parental ill-health, poverty, parental unemployment, poor housing, social isolation and a lack of family or friendship support networks. Such environmental pressures affect children in a negative way. They become unhappy and fall behind in schoolwork. They have problems making and retaining friendships with other children. Home life may become fraught with argument and difficulty. Last year our internal monitoring revealed that more than a third of the children continually worry about the future and the health and wellbeing of their parents. This puts a great deal of pressure on young shoulders. And where a child has a long term disability this can add strain to even the most caring of families. Of the 47 children (21 boys, 26 girls) currently receiving a weekly befriending service from the charity:

- 55% Live with a lone parent who has a disability
- 53% Live with a lone parent who has ongoing mental health problems
- 43% Have experienced past domestic violence
- 40% Have been on the statutory Child Protection Register in the past or are currently
- 32% Of the children have a disability
- 17% Have a significant caring role as a 'Young Carer' to a disabled lone parent

Children referred for help are matched with a specially selected, and carefully vetted, adult volunteer 'befriender' who spends around 3-4 hours quality one-to-one time with them every week over an extended period of at least 2 years. The matching of child and adult volunteer is a sensitive process and great care is taken to ensure a good "match" between the volunteer, the child and the child's parent. Once matched it is up to the befriender and the child, working with the parent to decide how they will spend their time together each week. If a child has a particular interest or skill the befriender will help them develop this. They also introduce the child to a range of new interests and opportunities; for example horse riding, swimming and visits to the theatre. Befrienders are committed to supporting the children academically and (with parental permission) make contact with the child's school and offer encouragement and support with reading and homework. Most importantly befrienders provide a trusted listening ear and someone who the child can turn to for emotional support and guidance when things are difficult. The sole aim of our volunteers is to be of use to families in crisis, and so they are well placed to build non-judgmental and encouraging relationships which bring new energy and perspectives to family life.

All volunteers are thoroughly vetted by our highly qualified and experienced staff. The process includes 2 in depth interviews, a home visit, a Criminal Records Bureau check (CRB), and the take up of 3 very full references. In addition, all volunteers complete a compulsory 3 day training programme which includes health and safety, child protection, the boundaries of the role, and how to work effectively with the challenging or withdrawn child. We have regular risk

assessments and all friendships are closely supervised by a named worker. CRB checks are repeated every 2 years.

Given the current economic climate and the issue of long-term youth unemployment the support that we provide for children in their growing up years is becoming increasingly important. A recent report by the Prince's Trust (2013) found that achievement at school and having a positive role model while growing up are factors which significantly improve a young person's wellbeing. Their evidence also showed having supportive relationships with adults in childhood impacts significantly on future adult happiness: 42% of young people who did not grow up in a supportive environment were shown to be unhappy with their lives now, compared to just 14% of those who did receive support. In addition 31% of those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETS) did not have someone to talk to about their problems while they were growing up. These are significant figures drawn from a large and respected study and point to a need for effective early intervention in line with that provided by Fun in Action for Children. The supportive close friendship each child develops with their 'befriender' leads to an increase in the child's self-esteem, improved feelings of wellbeing, and more resilience to the inevitable setbacks they encounter. In the long term our goal is to increase each child's social mobility and help them achieve their full potential.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

This was the thirteenth year of operation for Fun in Action for Children. The Trustees are grateful to all whose support enabled the charity to continue providing this much needed service. The Trustees would particularly like to thank the organisation's committed staff, who continue to deliver a service of great quality and compassion in a challenging financial climate. We also acknowledge the importance of our volunteers who are very much the heartbeat of Fun in Action. We would particularly like to thank them for their dedication and enthusiasm.

The charity had 3 part time employees, comprising a Project Manager and two Senior Caseworkers who managed and supported 67 adult/child friendships during the year. Of these 20 friendships came to an end (with an average length of 3.4 years) and 17 new friendships were made. Although this was a respectable number of new friendships, it was marginally short of the target we set of 20 for the year. The shortfall was largely due to lower recruitment of suitable volunteers in the period. We think peoples caution in coming forward may have been a reaction to the downturn in financial markets and the uncertainty this engendered. We have updated our procedures and wait to discover if this is a trend or a blip when we recruit again in the coming year.

At the end of the year to 30th September 2012 we were supporting 47 one-to-one long term friendships between volunteers and children. Overall this involves volunteers providing around 200 hours of one-to-one attention to children each weekend. We were also supporting 48 "Lifelong Friends" (ongoing open ended relationships between volunteers and children which we encourage and support when the more formal befriending has ended).

Another key part of our work is helping to break down the isolation experienced by lone parents and their children. In the year to September 2012 we organised and ran a programme of 4 group outings for all involved with the charity. These events were popular and well attended and provided an opportunity for all involved with the charity to socialise.

Staff are professionally qualified in social work, counseling and clinical psychology and are highly skilled at placing safe and effective volunteers in vulnerable families. Their success is evidenced by the many positive outcomes outlined in the table below.

	1.Improved relationships <i>As reported by parents and children</i>	2. Increased confidence <i>As reported by parents and children</i>	3. Expanded horizons <i>As reported by parents and children</i>	4. School Progress <i>As reported by parents and children</i>
2009	73%	89%	96%	73%
2010	82%	78%	91%	77%
2011	85%	96%	96%	77%
2012	86%	80%	92%	82%
Average	82%	86%	94%	77%

The charity continued to develop its website in the year, providing information and easy access to all our services. The Trustees are grateful for the efforts of our volunteer website manager who organises our on line profile at www.funinaction.org.uk.

THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMING YEAR

The Trustees are pleased to report the charity was able to retain all three staff throughout the year albeit with some flexibility in their working hours. The Trustees are grateful to the staff for their adaptability in what is a very challenging financial climate. A key objective for 2013 and the long term, is to raise the additional funds needed to consolidate and expand the work of the charity in order to fully meet the heavy demand for the service.

The Trustees are continuing attempts to diversify the charity's fundraising strategy. Exploring the financial viability of opening up a second-hand shop in Brighton city centre is a high priority. The Trustees have made good progress in their early investigations.

The staff and Trustees are also exploring a name and logo change for the charity which will more accurately convey our charitable aims. A wide range of views have been collected and we hope to finalise the change early in 2013.

ORGANISATION

The Trustees have reviewed the ongoing finances of the charity through access to regular updated forecasts, management accounts and other information provided by staff at a total of 6 Trustee meetings held during the year. As a general rule the Trustees aim to retain around 3 months running costs in the general reserves account at any one time to minimize the uncertainties arising from fluctuations in fundraising.

The Trustees also used meetings to review the progress of the charities work with children and families through the sharing of detailed reports (both written and verbal) provided by the Project Manager and casework staff.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 13th of December 2011, where various detailed statistical reports for casework completed in the year was reviewed by the Trustees.

Fun in Action for Children is a registered charity and is constituted as a company, limited by guarantee. It was incorporated in September 1999 under the companies Act 1985. Its objects and powers are as set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association. It is governed by a board of Trustees. New Trustees can join the board with the agreement of a majority of existing board members. Recruitment of new members is ongoing to ensure that the breadth of experience needed in the charity is met.

TRUSTEES

The board of Directors acts as Trustee for the charitable company. The Directors of the Charitable Company during the year were as follows:

Jonathan Carr	Chair
Ralph Crane	
Becky Donoher	
Caroline Singh	Appointed and resigned in the year
Joy Constantine	Appointed in the year
Paul Stammer	Appointed in the year
Victoria Simpson	Resigned in the year

In this year the charity had 3 new Trustees join the committee and 2 resign. The charity is fortunate in having 3 committee members, who have each been with the charity for more than 6 years.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Fundraising generated £85,219 (2011 - £77,401) in grants and donations during the year. The year ended with a surplus of £7,040 (2011 – Deficit £5,517) unrestricted funds. Management and administration expenditure was kept to a minimum, with funds raised going in the main on direct charitable activities. The accumulated surplus of £24,705 (2011 - £17,665) is to be used primarily to ensure that the children involved in this scheme are assured continuity in their friendships with their befrienders.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The Trustees confirm that the financial statements following this report comply with the current statutory requirements and with the requirements of the charity governing document.

SMALL COMPANY EXEMPTIONS

This report is prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies.

Approved by the board of Directors on and signed on its behalf:

Jonathan Carr, Chair
4 Burgess Court
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 1EA

FUN IN ACTION FOR CHILDREN

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Charities law and the Companies Acts require the Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing these financial statements the board is required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for:

- a) Keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity
- b) Safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking all reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

FUN IN ACTION FOR CHILDREN

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2012 which are set out in the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

As trustees, you consider that an audit under S43(2) of the Charity's Act 1993 is not required for this year. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts and to state, on the basis of the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under S43(7)(b) of the Act, where particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with S41 of the Act, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act, have not been met; or
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

..... *P L Soni*

P L Soni, FCA
Bradley Soni and Co, Chartered Accountants,
365 South Coast Road,
Telscombe Cliffs,
BN10 7HA

FUN IN ACTION FOR CHILDREN

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 30 September 2012

1. SUMMARY OF FUNDS

	2012			2011
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources	48,144	37,075	85,219	77,401
Resources expended	41,104	37,075	78,179	82,918
Surplus / Deficit for the year	7,040	0	7,040	-5,517
Total funds brought forward	17,665	0	17,665	23,182
Total funds carried forward	24,705	0	24,705	17,665

2. THE FIGURES IN DETAIL

	2012	2011
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Grants, Donations and Other Income - see Note 9	85,219	77,401

How resources were used

	2012		2011	
	£	£	£	£
Working with Children				
Outings and events	647		1,715	
Volunteers' expenses	6,997		5,342	
Volunteer recruitment	113		794	
Volunteer training	92		219	
Staff salaries	37,502		41,552	
Staff training and supervision	830		299	
Staff travel	192		193	
Telephone	762		855	
Membership fees	470		225	
Insurance (Volunteers, Trustees and Staff)	1,037	48,642	1,026	52,220
Fundraising				
Advertising and publicity	888		1,005	
Membership fees	443		212	
Staff salaries	8,036		8,904	
Sundries	216	9,583	29	10,150
Administration				
Premises costs	8,399		8,592	
Insurance (Building)	305		334	
Stationery, postage and printing	1,955		1,953	
Telephone	190		214	
Small equipment	46		0	
I.T. Consultancy	260		0	
Depreciation	432		294	
Staff salaries	8,036		8,904	
Management committee expenses	55		39	
Membership fees	12		6	
Accountancy	48		48	
Sundries	216	19,954	164	20,548
Total expenditure		78,179		82,918
Surplus / Deficit for the year		7,040		-5,517
Total funds brought forward		17,665		23,182
Total funds carried forward		24,705		17,665

All recognised gains and losses are shown above.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

FUN IN ACTION FOR CHILDREN

- Registered charity number: 1077594
 - Company registration number: 3839376

BALANCE SHEET at 30 September 2012

	Notes	2012		2011	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	3		386		265
Current assets					
Debtors and prepayments	4	3,865		5,817	
Cash in hand and bank balance		39,046		27,457	
		42,911		33,274	
Less: Deferred income					
Funds received which relate to next year	9	17,299		14,147	
		25,612		19,127	
Less: Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	1,293	24,319	1,727	17,400
Net assets			24,705		17,665
The net assets are represented by:					
Unrestricted funds			24,705		17,665
Restricted funds			0		0
Total funds			24,705		17,665

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from audit of its accounts under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that the members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with Section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts in accordance with the provisions applicable to the small companies regime.

Jonathan Carr (Director).....

Approved by the board on:.....

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for the year ended 30 September 2012

1. Accounting policies

Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities and all other applicable accounting standards as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales. The company has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No. 1 from the requirements to produce a cash flow statement.

Incoming resources

Incoming resources represents the value of grants, donations and other income received during the period by the company, accounted for on a receivable basis. The details of the major grants received during the year are set out in note 9.

In the opinion of the directors / trustees, none of the income of the company is attributable to geographical markets outside the UK (the corresponding figure for 2011 was nil).

Deferred income

Grants received in advance and specified by the donor as relating to specific accounting periods or alternatively which are subject to conditions which are still to be met are deferred on an accruals basis to the period to which they relate. Such deferrals are shown in the notes to the accounts and the sums involved are shown as creditors in the accounts.

Recognition of liabilities

Liabilities are recognised on the accruals basis in accordance with normal accounting principles, modified where necessary in accordance with the guidance given in Statements of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting issued by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

Depreciation

Fixed assets have been capitalised and are being written off on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful economic life of 3 years.

Funds structure policy

The accounts distinguish between restricted and unrestricted funds. Restricted funds are received from donors subject to restrictions on the purposes for which they may be used. Unrestricted funds are subject to no such restrictions and may be used by the charity for expenditure on its objects or appropriation to reserves for internally designated purposes.

2. Surplus / Deficit for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2012 - £	2011 - £
Depreciation of fixed assets	432	294
Reporting accountants fees	48	48

FUN IN ACTION FOR CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for the year ended 30 September 2012 (cont.)

3. Tangible fixed assets - Office Equipment

Cost	£
Brought forward at 1 October 2011	5,728
Additions during the year	553
Carried forward at 30 September 2012	<u>6,281</u>
Depreciation	
Brought forward at 1 October 2011	5,463
Charge for the year	432
Carried forward at 30 September 2012	<u>5,895</u>
Net book value	
At 1 October 2011	<u>265</u>
At 30 September 2012	<u>386</u>

4. Debtors and prepayments

	2012 - £	2011 - £
Rent deposit (see also Note 6.)	1,875	1,875
Tax refundable under Gift Aid scheme	237	404
Stock of stationery	728	761
Prepayments	1,025	2,777
	<u>3,865</u>	<u>5,817</u>

5. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2012 - £	2011 - £
Accruals	293	727
Provision for redecoration of premises	1,000	1,000
	<u>1,293</u>	<u>1,727</u>

6. Premises costs

The charity's lease on the premises expired on 30 April 2008. The charity has continued to occupy the premises since that date, with the landlord's agreement, and would be entitled to 3 months notice if the landlord wished to terminate that agreement. The rent deposit of £1,875 under the original lease is still held by the landlord. The redecoration of the premises required at April 2008 has yet to be carried out and a provision of £1,000 has been made in the accounts.

7. Trustees' remuneration

No members of the Management Committee nor any person connected with them has received or is due to receive any remuneration directly or indirectly from the charity's funds.

8. Taxation

The company is a registered charity and the directors consider all the funds are used for the purposes of the charity and accordingly no tax liability falls due.

FUN IN ACTION FOR CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for the year ended 30 September 2012 (cont.)

9. Analysis of income

Income consisted of:	£
Restricted funds	37,075
Unrestricted funds	48,144
Total per Statement of Financial Activities	85,219

The restricted funds were from the following sources:

	<i>From last year</i>	<i>Received in this year</i>	<i>Deferred to next year</i>	<i>Used during this year</i>
	£	£	£	£
BBC CIN	0	6,755	6,755	0
Lloyds TSB Foundation	6,000	0	6,000	0
Henry Smith Charity	3,675	20,000	23,675	10,000
Barbara Ward Children's Foundation	4,472	4,472	8,944	4,472
Abel Charitable Trust	0	3,000	3,000	0
Sussex Community Foundation	0	6,000	6,000	2,827
	14,147	40,227	54,374	17,299
				37,075

How these restricted funds were used:

	£
Staff salaries	37,075
Outings and events	0
	37,075

The unrestricted funds consisted of:

	£
Grants	31,000
Donations etc.	16,583
	47,583
Tax refundable under Gift Aid scheme	528
Interest receivable	33
	48,144

FUN IN ACTION FOR CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for the year ended 30 September 2012 (cont.)

9. Analysis of income (cont.)

Unrestricted grants and donations were received from:	£
Alchemy Foundation	500
AJ Wood	480
Bridging Fund Charitable Trust	10,000
Brighton and Hove City Council	10,000
DMH Stallard LLP	2,090
Essex Fairway Charitable Trust	8,000
The Community of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Rottingdean	3,500
Garfield Weston Foundation	7,500
Hale Trust	500
RSA Community Award	500
Souter Charitable Trust	1,000
SM Reed and Co	489
Williams Southern Limited	423
Other	2,601
	<hr/>
	47,583

10. Share capital

The charity is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 and is limited by guarantee, each member having undertaken to contribute such amounts, not exceeding one pound, as may be required in the event of the company being wound-up whilst he or she is still a member or within one year thereafter. Each trustee and member of the management committee is also a member of the charity.