

FUN IN ACTION FOR CHILDREN

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
for the year ended 30 September 2013

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 Donohoe 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 ending the 30th September 2013.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

Fun in Action for Children recruits, assesses, trains and supports adult volunteers to befriend children from disadvantaged lone parent families living in the city of Brighton and Hove in East Sussex. Children are referred by teachers, social workers, mental health care professionals, parents and other voluntary agencies.

The charity works exclusively with lone parent families and to be accepted on the scheme children must be experiencing problems in at least two of four identified areas. These include difficulties in relationships with others, lack of confidence and self-esteem, problems in attendance and attitude to school and a need for opportunities to develop their interests and talents. The charity is oversubscribed with around 47% more children being referred every year than we are able to support. Last year 35 children were referred and we matched 18 children with volunteers.

Parental unemployment poor housing, social isolation and a lack of family or friendship support networks are common stressors for all families referred to the charity for help. Individual families also struggle with other problems including:

- 73% with a lone parent who has a disability and /or a chronic debilitating illness
- 45% with a lone parent who has ongoing mental health problems
- 36% who have experienced past domestic violence
- 23% with children who have a disability
- 18% with children who carry a significant caring role as a 'Young Carer' to a disabled lone parent

In families where there is no relief or support from everyday pressures these build up and the mental health and wellbeing of all families members suffers. 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. Often just the additional help provided by the befriender will be enough for the family to find a new momentum and move forward in a more positive way.

The charity is very aware of its responsibilities to provide safe and effective support to children and parents. All volunteers are rigorously assessed over a 5 stage process including an enhanced police check and taking up 3 full references. In addition all volunteers must attend 3 full days preparatory training, complete 2 in-depth interviews with charity staff and undergo a home safety check. Police background checks are repeated every two years. Through the thoroughness of the assessment process the charity seeks at all times to ensure the volunteers accepted on the scheme are trustworthy and demonstrate high levels of maturity so that their presence in the family adds benefit in a non-threatening and cooperative way. At times the children's behaviour can be challenging as they grapple with problems and test out the reliability and commitment of their befrienders. Many volunteers bring valuable skills and life experiences to the role which helps them get through these difficult times, and we also provide one to one caseworker support for each individual befriender and child for the length of the friendship. Most friendship last in excess of 2 years and some for life. The average length of our current 56 friendships is 3 years 2 months.

The charity forms respectful long term partnerships with families and "works with people to craft a common story of what went wrong and how things can be better" *. And although we cannot eliminate all the pressures bearing on children, the supportive close friendship each child

develops with their 'befriender' makes a huge positive difference to their lives, their parents' lives and often to the lives of the volunteer as well. Because befriending is long term, benefits that do accrue tend to become part of the fabric of each child's life and are sustained into adulthood. Befrienders also bring the benefits of education and employment to the consciousness of the child, encouraging them to aim high and fulfil their potential.

** Lord Maurice Glasman speaking at the Labour Party Conference on 26th September 2013.*

REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

This was the fourteenth year of operation for Fun in Action for Children. The Trustees are grateful to all whose support enabled the charity to continue providing our much needed service. The Trustees would particularly like to thank the organisation's committed staff who continue to deliver a service of quality and compassion in a challenging 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 each working a three day contract. These include a Project Manager and two Senior Caseworkers who together managed and supported 65 adult/child friendships during the year. Of these 9 friendships came to an end (with an average length of 2.8 years) and 18 new friendships were made leaving the charity with 56 adult/ child friendship in place at the year end. Unfortunately 2 of our fully assessed volunteers had to pull out just prior to being matched with a child because of family illness and bereavement. This left us slightly short of our target for the year of 18 new friendships. We are hopeful these volunteers will return to us at some time in the future.

With 56 ongoing friendships we provide an average of 224 hours of one-to-one attention to needy children each weekend. We were also supporting 49 "Lifelong Friends" (ongoing open ended relationships between volunteers and children which we encourage and support when the more formal befriending has ended).

An additional and vital element of our work is bringing people together to celebrate community and break down some of the crushing isolation experienced by lone parents and their children. In the year to September 2013 we organized and ran 3 very popular and well attended group outings with an overall attendance of 265 people.

All staff are qualified professionally and skilled and experienced at placing safe and effective volunteers in vulnerable families. Their success is evidenced by the many positive outcomes outlined in the table below. The feedback shown below was taken from reports completed entirely independently by befriended children and their parents.

	1.Improved Relationships	2. Increased Confidence	3. Expanded Horizons	4. School Progress
2010	82%	78%	91%	77%
2011	85%	96%	96%	77%
2012	86%	80%	92%	82%
2013	85%	80%	89%	76%
Average	85%	83%	92%	78%

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 manages 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. The Trustees are grateful to the staff for their work in what is a very challenging climate. A key objective for 2014 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.

Trustees are continuing their attempts to diversify the charity's fundraising strategy. Exploring the possibility of opening up a charity shop in Brighton remains a high priority. Trustees are making good progress in taking this forward and are actively seeking funding to underpin a first year of operation.

The staff and Trustees spent time in the year exploring a possible name and logo change for the charity. Parents and children did not overall support a name change and so this has been dropped. A change of logo was agreed and this will be implemented shortly.

ORGANISATION

The Trustees reviewed the ongoing finances of the charity through access to regular updated budgets, 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 minimise 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 10th April 2013 when the Financial Year Ending Accounts to the 30th September 2012 were presented and reviewed by the charities accountant, Paul Stammer. A detailed summary and statistical report for casework completed in the year was then presented by the Project Manager and reviewed by 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 Trustees for the charitable company. The Directors of the Charitable Company during the year were as follows:

Jonathan Carr Chair

Ralph Crane
Becky Donohoe
Paul Stammer
Joy Constantin

No new Trustees joined the committee and no Trustees resigned in the year. The charity is fortunate in having Trustees on the Board who have each been with the charity for more than 6 years. These include the parent of two children who have benefitted from the scheme.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Fundraising generated £78,010 in grants and donations during the year. The year ended with a deficit of £262 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 £24,413 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 1E

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 2013 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 2013

1. SUMMARY OF FUNDS	2013			2013
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources	36,522	41,488	78,010	85,219
Resources expended	36,784	41,488	78,272	78,179
Surplus / Deficit for the year	-262	0	-262	7,040
Total funds brought forward	24,705	0	24,705	17,665
Total funds carried forward	24,443	0	24,443	24,705

2. THE FIGURES IN DETAIL

Incoming resources

Grants, Donations and Other Income - see **Note 9**

£	£
78,010	85,219

How resources were used

Working with Children

	£	£
Outings and events	2,194	
Volunteers' expenses	7,378	
Volunteer recruitment	358	
Volunteer training	145	
Staff salaries	37,395	
Staff training and supervision	0	
Staff travel	105	
Telephone	753	
Membership fees	360	
Insurance (Volunteers, Trustees and Staff)	1,067	49,755

£	£
647	
6,997	
113	
92	
37,502	
830	
192	
762	
470	
1,037	48,642

Fundraising

Advertising and publicity	161	
Membership fees	338	
Staff salaries	8,013	
Sundries	71	8,583

888	
443	
8,036	
216	9,583

Administration

Premises costs	8,585	
Insurance (Building)	354	
Stationery, postage and printing	2,072	
Telephone	189	
Small equipment	37	
I.T. Consultancy	256	
Depreciation	201	
Staff salaries	8,013	
Management committee expenses	98	
Membership fees	9	
Accountancy	48	
Sundries	72	19,934

8,399	
305	
1,955	
190	
46	
260	
432	
8,036	
55	
12	
48	
216	19,954

Total expenditure

78,272	78,179
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(Deficit) / Surplus for the year

-262	7,040
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Total funds brought forward

24,705	17,665
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Total funds carried forward

24,443	24,705
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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 2013

	Notes	£	2013 £	£	2012 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	3		185		386
Current assets					
Debtors and prepayments	4	4,185		3,865	
Cash in hand and bank balance		35,804		39,046	
		39,989		42,911	
Less: Deferred income					
Funds received which relate to next year	9	14,472		17,299	
		25,517		25,612	
Less: Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	1,259	24,258	1,293	24,319
Net assets			24,443		24,705
The net assets are represented by:			£		£
Unrestricted funds			24,443		24,705
Restricted funds			0		0
Total funds			24,443		24,705

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:.....

FUN IN ACTION FOR CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for the year ended 30 September 2013

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 2012 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:

	2013 - £	2012 - £
Depreciation of fixed assets	201	432
Reporting accountants fees	48	48

FUN IN ACTION FOR CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for the year ended 30 September 2013 (cont.)

3. Tangible fixed assets - Office Equipment

Cost	£
Brought forward at 1 October 2012	6,281
Additions during the year	0
Carried forward at 30 September 2013	<u>6,281</u>
 Depreciation	
Brought forward at 1 October 2012	5,895
Charge for the year	201
Carried forward at 30 September 2013	<u>6,096</u>
 Net book value	
At 30 September 2013	<u>185</u>
At 1 October 2012	<u>386</u>

4. Debtors and prepayments

	2013 - £	2012 - £
Rent deposit (see also Note 6.)	1,875	1,875
Tax refundable under Gift Aid scheme	580	237
Stock of stationery	753	728
Prepayments	977	1,025
	<u>4,185</u>	<u>3,865</u>

5. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2013 - £	2012 - £
Accruals	259	293
Provision for redecoration of premises	1,000	1,000
	<u>1,259</u>	<u>1,293</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 2013 (cont.)

9. Analysis of income

Income consisted of:

Restricted funds	£
	41,488
Unrestricted funds	36,522
Total per Statement of Financial Activities	78,010

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	9,189	9,189	0	9,189
Henry Smith Charity	10,000	20,000	30,000	10,000	20,000
Barbara Ward Children's Foundation	4,472	4,472	8,944	4,472	4,472
Sussex Community Foundation	2,827	5,000	7,827	0	7,827
	17,299	38,661	55,960	14,472	41,488

How these restricted funds were used:

	£
Staff salaries	41,488
Outings and events	0
	41,488

The unrestricted funds consisted of:

	£
Grants	28,800
Donations etc.	6,991
	35,791
Tax refundable under Gift Aid scheme	707
Interest receivable	24
	36,522

FUN IN ACTION FOR CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for the year ended 30 September 2013 (cont.)

9. Analysis of income (cont.)

Unrestricted grants and donations were received from:	£
Alchemy Foundation	500
Brighton and Hove City Council	10,000
Essex Fairway Charitable Trust	8,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	7,500
Hale Trust	800
Souter Charitable Trust	2,000
Other	6,991
	<u>35,791</u>

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.