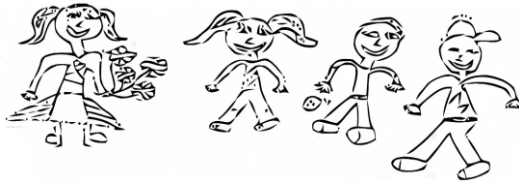


The Bowley Charity



For Watford and Three Rivers Children

Annual Report 2015-16

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The Bowley Charity
For Watford and Three Rivers Children
Chair of Trustees: Jan Sherlock
Registered Charity No. 212187

Chair's Report

It has been an uneventful year for the Bowley Charity with no changes to the composition of the board of trustees which remains as follows:

Jan Sherlock	Chair
Kay Rees	Honorary Treasurer
Barbara Summers	Trustee
Kathy Buchanan	Trustee
Pam Hill	Clerk to the Trustees (ex officio)

Sixty two applications were received, up 15% from last year but still below the level prior to 2013. In order to stimulate more referrals we distributed a new information leaflet, raised the Charity's profile at meetings, and contacted agencies who were no longer referring perhaps due to staff changes. The average grant rose by over 15%, reflecting the difficult circumstances of some families and the adequate funds available. Please see the Clerk to the Trustees' report for further information.

Our investments have performed relatively well and proactive fundraising has not been necessary, though we are always very grateful for donations – please see the Treasurer's Report for full financial details.

Two changes have been made to the grant application form. Notes were added to clarify that applicants must either be permanently housed or have evidence of a secure offer of housing in the Watford or Three Rivers districts. This is to deter applications on behalf of people in temporary accommodation who may become housed elsewhere, ensuring that the funds reach residents in line with the Charity's core purpose. We also added a question to ask if delivery of goods is needed.

We continue to maintain our website www.bowleycharity.btck.co.uk, from where the current application form and information leaflet can be downloaded. The website

also has all the deadlines for applications, but referrers are advised to check before making an application as dates can change.

We continue to be mindful of data protection issues and conflicts of interest, and to maintain awareness of other sources of funding or agencies to which we can signpost applicants whose requests do not meet our funding criteria.

Jan Sherlock

Chair

Treasurer's Report

Our income for the year was £9470 (2015: £10050). This in part was made up of £8790 (2015: £8156) from investments and £300 (2015: £1500) from donations.

Our investments were reviewed in May 2016. During the 12 months to 31 March, the holding in M&G funds has fallen by 6.5%, while the 100 Share Index has fallen by 10.4%. "It is satisfactory that the income has increased and the trust looks healthy and is soundly invested".

During the year the Bowley Charity received one donation, this was from Rickmansworth Rotary Club. As always we are very grateful to the charities that support us. This year the trustees have not actively made requests to local charities for funding. This is partly due to our adequate level of investment income, and also the call on our resources not having been overstretched.

Over the last financial year the Charity made grants totalling £11380 (2015: £7890) to some 52 (2015: 42) families.

We have continued to use Argos vouchers to make our grants. This is a scheme that continues to work well for the Charity and our clients. This year we have made a saving of £381 on the vouchers purchased through the Argos Commercial Scheme.

Kay Rees

Honorary Treasurer

Report of the Clerk to the Trustees

This report takes into account applications considered at the quarterly meetings between 1st April 2015 and 31st March 2016. During that period, the Charity received applications in respect of 62 families of which 52 applications were agreed. This is an increase in applications from the previous year although the number of applications received for each meeting did fluctuate with nearly half of the total number of applications being received in one quarter.

Among the items awarded on the successful applications were 17 beds and mattresses (nine being bunk beds), five single mattresses including one specialist mattress, three cot beds, 12 fridge/freezers, eight cookers, five washing machines, two table and chair sets, and three for baby items such as stroller, high chair, play mat and general equipment. Other items awarded included a desk, bedroom furniture and various storage solutions. In some cases more than one item had been requested for the family on the applications which made it necessary for the panel to prioritise items of most benefit, keeping the Charity's criteria of improving the quality of life for children and young people living in the Three Rivers and Watford area at the heart of the decisions, if unable to fully fund the application.

Geographically, the ratio of applications received from the respective areas remained broadly the same as last year with 71% of the applications being received from the Watford area and 28% from Three Rivers. We also received one application which was rejected for being outside of our geographical area.

Not all of the applications were successful, and of the 62 received, ten were refused. If the panel refused the application or was unable to fully fund items, other sources of funding/items were suggested where possible.

One successful applicant returned the vouchers due to a change in family circumstances which meant the family could not make an immediate purchase and the family subsequently moved out of the area.

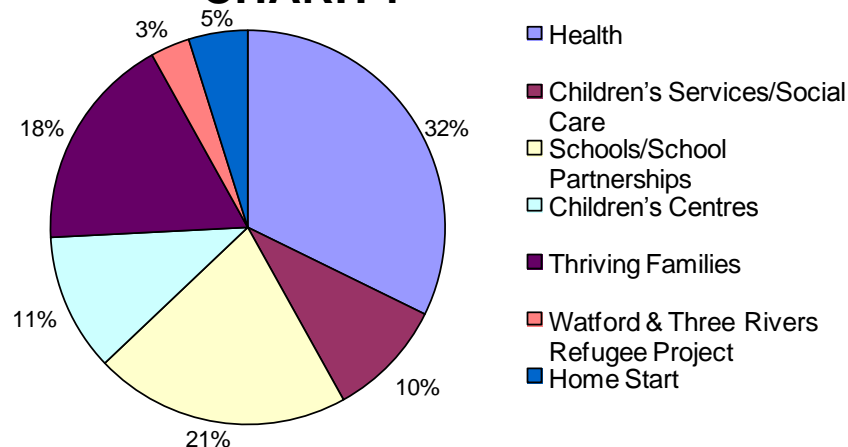
The reasons funding was refused were:

- Criteria not met, e.g. item for the benefit of the adult not the child; the family had sufficient income to fund items; did not live in the catchment area.
- There was insufficient information on the application form
- The applicant withdrew the application prior to the panel meeting
- The family had already been funded by Bowley within the last 12 months
- The family was in temporary accommodation and the panel was unable to determine whether they would be permanently housed in the catchment area
- Access to the item requested was readily available from alternative sources

Applications were received from a range of agencies, as shown below:

- Health 20
- Schools/School Partnerships 13
- Thriving Families 11
- Children's Centres 7
- Children's Services/Social Care 6
- Home-Start 3
- Watford & Three Rivers Refugee Project 2

AGENCIES REFERRING TO BOWLEY CHARITY



Pam Hill

Clerk to the Trustees (ex officio)

Accounts and Financial Statement for the year ended 30 April 2016

Cash Account £	2015	2016
Balances brought forward as at 1 May 2015		
Current a/c Barclays Watford	4858	5608
Deposit in COIF Charities Deposit Fund	5000	5000
Stock of Store Vouchers	1220	2524
Total	11078	13132
Income £		
Dividends Charibond Unicom Units	7532	7814
Charibond Fixed Common Shares	602	952
Interest COIF Charities Deposit Fund	22	23
Donations	1500	300
Cheques not cashed		
Voucher discount	394	381
Returned vouchers	14	301
Sale of Chainco Investment	20380	
Total	30444	9771
Expenditure £		
Grants made (52) (2015:42) (2014:41)	7890	11450
Share Purchase (Charibond Investment Fund)	20500	
Total	-28390	-11450
Closing Balances £ as at 30 April 2016		
Current a/c Barclays bank	5608	6188
Deposit in COIF Charities Deposit Fund	5000	5000
Stock of store vouchers	2524	265
Total	13132	11453