



Supporting children,
young people and families

Annual Review

2020/2021

**Responding to the Covid-19
Pandemic**

Chair's Report 2020/2021

Over 82 years of FSN's history, the charity has prided itself in adapting services in response to the needs of the community in which it serves, using the learning to improve everything we do.

In the last year, the pandemic and associated restrictions impacted significantly across all areas of service delivery, from referring agencies to being able to offer face to face support in our nurseries and projects.



During the year, FSN staff developed innovative initiatives, and with the support of emergency COVID funding, were able to introduce delivery of services in new ways. This included a mobile Pantry, delivering food, books and educational resources to families self-isolating due to health reasons, and those struggling to feed their children and young people. Emergency funding was also used to purchase resources to enable families to participate in and access online support.

Communication was key during the lockdowns, to keep staff and volunteers updated and to check in with parents/carers and their families. Social media platforms were utilised with fun and educational activities posted to support home learning for our nursery children. Online platforms and telephones were also used to offer focused support and adult learning.

We were really delighted to hear that our application to the National Lottery Community Fund to deliver support for families living in Temporary Accommodation was successful. This project will be launched in the coming year.

Myself and Trustees are really proud of the work of staff and volunteers during what has been one of the most challenging years in our history, continuing to work on the front line, supporting our most vulnerable and keywork families, whilst maintaining contact with families suffering the effects of the pandemic. We will continue to develop what we do in response to the changing picture in our communities, ensuring that FSN continues to remain at the forefront in supporting children, young people and families.

Finally, a big thank you to all our supporters, volunteers and staff for all that they have done throughout this period to maintain the essential work of our charity.

Peter Carcas, Chair

Treasurer's Report 2020/2021

2020-21 was a year like no other but one where, with government support, and the generosity of funders FSN finished the year in a satisfactory financial position.

Last year expenditure amounted to £1,195,264 whilst income was £1,542,349 giving rise to a surplus on the year of £347,085, to which a gain on investments of £7,444 is added. This resulted in a net contribution to funds of £354,529 on the year. Altogether a pleasing position when the events of the year are taken into account. However, it should be noted that of this sum a large proportion, £264,829, relates to restricted activities which means the funds can only be spent for the purposes to which they were given.

Our balance sheet at 31 March 2021 remained healthy with fixed assets valued at £1,764,992 and net current assets of £702,014. General reserves are considered to be sufficient to meet any unforeseen events.

Although no significant capital expenditure occurred during the year there are plans to remove the old fire escape, undertake internal alterations and repair and redecorate the outside of the London Road premises. This is expected to cost up to £100,000 in the current year.

FSN continued to successfully attract grant funding and maintain strong partnership links with other bodies with similar aims to ourselves. The young people's project with St Andrews Trust in Bexhill has successfully commenced. Continued support has been given towards the Pantry scheme and to Dragonflies, whilst significant grants were received towards the other family support projects.

My thanks go to all the staff of FSN who continue to make the organisation such an important part of the local voluntary sector. The Board believe we have the ability to remain a strong viable organisation for the foreseeable future.

Dave Froude, Hon Treasurer

FSN Year in Figures

- **326** children accessed nursery provision
- **200** welfare calls made to families
- **188** children and young people supported by Dragonflies
- **62** children and young people supported face to face by My Time and a further **164** received telephone support
- **57** people achieved an accredited qualification
- **32** people went into employment
- **19** accredited adult learning courses

Projects and Services:

Dragonflies Bereavement Project

A bereavement and pre-bereavement service which offers support, peer led activity and counselling from early years to the age of 18

My Time/Time To Be

Mental health peer support services for children and young people aged 5-19 years

ROVTE - Rural Outreach Volunteering Training and Empowerment

Delivering courses and workshops across venues in Rural Rother, Wealden and Eastbourne

Health and Wellbeing Hubs

Peer support activities and personal development courses to support mental health, along with volunteering opportunities

Nurseries

Providing the best early start to children's learning, with high quality care and education

Live, Work, Thrive

Partnership project supporting people living in temporary accommodation or at risk of homelessness to access training and work opportunities

Working to Capacity

Partnership project to develop the capacity of local adult learning providers and support the engagement and progression of learners



By creating a YouTube channel, staff and volunteers have been able to access the monthly newsletter as a podcast.

Furthermore, nurseries and projects have been creating videos to give more insight into their work.



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Baroness Fookes of Plymouth DBE, DL

The Right Reverend Dr Martin Warner MA PhD

Sara Stonor DL, Vice Lord Lieutenant, East Sussex

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Registered Company No. 371615

www.fsncharity.co.uk

Twitter: #FSNHastings

The Pantry

The Pantry and Baby Pantry became a vital service for families and FSN was able to offer a mobile delivery service to support people unable to leave their homes. In the last year, 600 people benefitted from the services of the Pantry and 22,000 meals were distributed. Together with food, the mobile service delivered educational activity packs for families as well as 360 books for children and adults. Christmas was a particularly difficult time for families but with business support, FSN was able to deliver Christmas and New Year hampers to 288 individuals as well as gifts for the children and young people.

*Pantry User **"Myself and my family are very grateful for the help of the food pantry. We wouldn't have had a Christmas if it wasn't for the food hamper... I was panicking not having much money... and no Christmas food in. The day of the delivery I couldn't believe what we had. My family had an amazing Christmas dinner, all because of the FSN food pantry"***



Some of the food ready to be packed into the Christmas hampers



The Mobile Pantry has given us a new way to supply food to Pantry Users, especially to families who were shielding

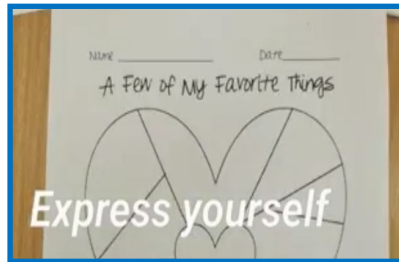
Increased amount of fresh fruit and vegetables for Pantry Users



Digital

FSN's strategy to improve and develop its IT and digital infrastructure had to be rapidly progressed in response to the pandemic lockdowns to enable ongoing communication with families. With the support of external funding opportunities, FSN was able to not only adapt the service delivery, but also provide the resources to families to be able to access online support, helping to reduce the feelings of isolation. Practice sessions for accessing online platforms were offered as groups or 1:1 to build confidence and where people did not feel comfortable about using social media or online platforms, telephone calls were offered to keep in touch.

The adaptations to FSN's adult learning provision were made rapidly to ensure courses could continue. All courses moved to online delivery and following feedback, delivery times were changed to allow for home schooling and 1:1 support outside of the sessions was arranged. Moving to online delivery meant that more people could take part as travel was not a barrier to learning.



Taken from a video made during lockdown by the My Time Project

Course attendee “Grateful for being given the opportunity to do this course. The support was amazing during the lockdown and I can now begin to seek work that I’ve always wanted to do. Thank you for everything” Course participant L2 Award in Work in Schools

Nurseries

- Uploaded 800 Facebook posts to encourage home learning

My Time

- Social media engagement increased by 70% as activities and strategies were posted online

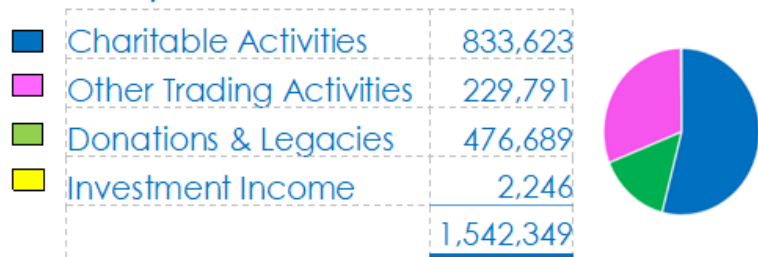


Getting ready to record an activity for the children to do at home

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

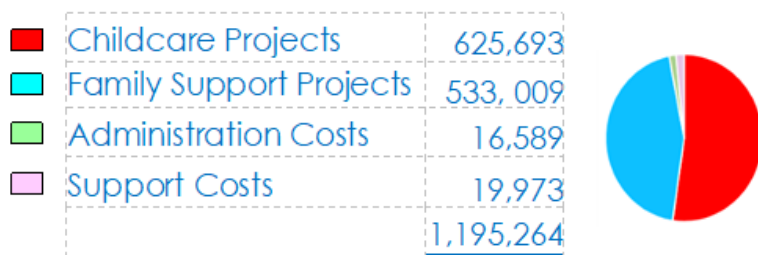
Where does the money come from?

2020/2021



Where does the money go?

2020/2021



Full audited accounts are available for viewing on our website www.fsncharity.co.uk or by appointment at St. Nicholas Centre, 66 London Road, St. Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TN37 6AS Tel: 01424 423683

A BIG THANK YOU to all the individuals, charities, companies and other organisations who have supported our work in the past year

This includes contributions from:

Isabel Blackman Foundation; Hastings & St Leonards Muffin Club;
Francis & Eric Ford Charity Trust; Royal Warrant Holders Association;
Rokill Ltd; United Reformed Church, St Marks; AB Fire & Security;
St Augustine's Mothers' Union; Magdalen and Lasher Charity; The Paragon Trust;
Garfield Weston Trust; Dallington Primary School;
St Johns Church, Crowhurst; Mountfield, Brightling, Netherfield Churches;
Hastings Winkle Club; Saga Group; ASDA Foundation;
St Alban Great Ilford Trust; Westfield WI; Homeland Charitable Trust;
Battle Methodist Church; Chalk Cliff Trust; BMR Construction; Barclays Bank;
Rotary Club of Hastings; Brede Carol Singers; Battle Abbey School;
HBC Cemetery & Crematorium; Sainsbury's; Kings Church, Hastings;
Bexhill Lions Club; Little Darby's; Out of The Blue; Julia & Hans Rausing Trust;
Sussex Community Foundation; Three Oaks Trust; East Sussex County Council;
St Andrews Trust; The Clothworker's Foundation; Tesco

Thank You

