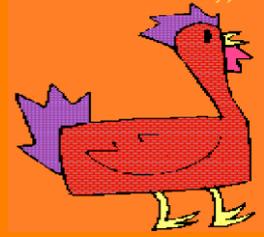


# The Red Hen Project Annual Report and Accounts

2014 - 2015



LOTTERY FUNDED

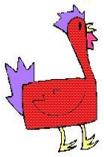


The Grove  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



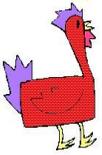
Arbury  
Primary School





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## Vice-Chair's report

Last year's report began by saying "This has been a year of significant change for the project on almost every front."

I have to say ditto and there are many more significant changes just around the corner.

We continue to work with five primary schools north of the River in Cambridge with two home-school workers supporting families in the most practical of ways often where more obvious agencies have proved inaccessible, inappropriate or ineffective.

The project was in the safe hands of an Executive Committee for much of the year, made up of the Head Teachers of the five schools. They oversaw the actual running of the project and fed back to Trustees at regular meetings. I am delighted to report that, with the employment of our very own Project Manager, we have been able to make this tier of management redundant and the Heads have taken up their positions as Trustees once more.

One of our schools is undertaking a large new build and expansion. Next year this will house Red Hen staff in a new office having had a time of camping out and delivering various activities in various places.

Alongside this will come a new 'branding' of the project and the Trustees will be choosing a new logo to present a fresh face to the community.

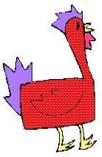
Fundraising is of course a continuing challenge. National Lottery funding is in place for now and we do receive some regular and some surprise donation from the local community but are always open to new ideas and suggestions.

Offices, logos, management and meetings aside it is the Red Hen home-school workers who continue to deliver exceptional support to families in crisis. They manage large caseloads, difficult situations, huge demands on their time and they do it with patience, skill and empathy. Now with admin and management support from an efficient and innovative Manager I am sure the project is in very good shape to face the coming year.

I would like to extend my thanks to our staff, my fellow Trustees, new and old and all who support the project in any way.

Do keep in touch, follow us on social media and spread the word about this unique and special charity.

Lesley Ford



## Our vision, aims and what we do

### Our Vision

*'Our vision is to develop an outstanding, pioneering way of working with young children and their families that bridges the school setting and the local community; a way of working which will be held up as excellent practice.'*

### Our Aims

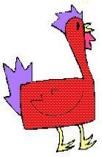
- Support vulnerable families and children
- Support the development of more positive relationships between schools and their communities
- Develop interagency liaison and co-operation
- Support the development of positive parenting
- Develop links with other voluntary bodies in the community
- Support the development of pro-active work at an early stage

### In order to achieve these aims we will:

- Promote the project
- Raise funds from charitable and statutory sources
- Co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities
- Develop and exploit existing networks
- Pay for and use the services of an Home School Worker or Workers

### Our values:

- We are committed to our local community
- We believe in early intervention to prevent initial difficulties a child or a family may experience developing into significant problems
- We believe in the benefits of working with other agencies in a pro-active way
- We respect the families and children with whom we work and seek to empower them to resolve the difficulties they may be experiencing
- We are committed to continuous development
- We will maintain and respect the confidentiality of the families and children with whom we work



## Our work

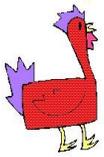
Red Hen operates a family support home school liaison programme through the work of a full time project worker in the socially and economically disadvantaged areas of Arbury, Kings Hedges, Chesterton, and Orchard Park.

We work with children and families in five primary schools, Arbury, King's Hedges, The Grove, Shirley, and Orchard Park, concentrating on children who are displaying emotional and behavioural difficulties. When required, we also work with siblings of these children, even if they do not attend any of the five schools. We work within a multi-disciplinary framework and adopt a range of approaches as necessary. The objectives of the support include improved educational performance, attendance, reduce numbers of children displaying emotional and behavioural difficulties and increase empowerment and levels of participation of "difficult to engage" parents and families.

Red Hen operates from an office base at Arbury Primary School, but works flexibly across all five schools, and the local Church Hall.

We work closely with all five schools and with our trustees, and meet regularly with key personnel to ensure consistency and to ensure that our objectives are being met.

We run parenting support coffee mornings at the Church Hall, and other groups and trips for families involved in the project.



## Home school worker annual report

Another busy year at The Project supporting children and families from Arbury, The Grove, King's Hedges, Orchard Park and The Shirley schools.

As well as doing tailored support for individual families and children we have offered the weekly coffee morning serving tea and coffee, bacon sandwiches, fruit, advice and much appreciated peer support for families. The group met on Wednesday mornings at Red Hen House up until the end of the summer term 2014 and from September 2014 on Monday mornings at The Church of The Good Shepherd Hall. The group has gone from strength to strength with numbers sometimes up to 25 people attending including both mums and dads as well as preschool children.

The cooking group, run at Red Hen House for many years, finished after the session on 14<sup>th</sup> July with the children all going away with essential skills for life and their own cookery book to practice on their families with. We ran some individual parent/child cooking and art sessions at the bungalow which were very popular and good at engaging parents with their children in learning and fun activities.

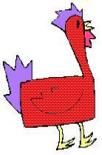
In June 2014 we ran a 4 week parenting group at the bungalow which was attended by parents from various schools.

We still hold link meetings in all 5 schools to update each other and to ensure children don't fall through the net. These meetings are attended by the project, school heads/deputy heads/ SENCo's and Blue Smile. I attended the 3 stay and play sessions at Arbury School for new reception children in the summer term and met with some parents who had requested support with their children as well as children and families who had been identified by their preschool settings as in need of support once they transition into primary school. I attended my 2 day first aid training update on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2014 and the Masonic Hall presentation evening to pick up their kind donation.

We ran a tombola stall at the Arbury Carnival and enjoyed meeting friends old and new and updating them on where we would be once the bungalow was demolished. There was concern that we were going to disappear but they were reassured by seeing us there.

After a lot of sorting, moving and hard work, with the help of John from Arbury and David from the church we were able to empty the bungalow and I handed over the keys on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2014. This was with some sadness after being at the bungalow for my entire time with the project but we knew we would be in good hands at Arbury and at the church for the coffee morning.

During the summer we ran 2 very well attended trips: on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014 we went to Wickstead Park and on 27<sup>th</sup> August we went to Hunstanton (it wasn't quite sunny Hunny but everyone had a great day). We had some very good feedback from the families attending and for some it was their only outing of the holidays.



## Red Hen Charity



In October 2014 I spoke to Mandy Dowler who had recently sadly lost her husband Barry; Mandy wanted to know about the project to decide if she would like the collection at Barry's funeral to be donated to the project. I gave Mandy information about our work and the families we support and she very kindly agreed to have us as the named charity. Following the funeral, I met with Mandy and she handed us the collection made on the day but in the many weeks to follow we received very many donations through the post all with kind words and memories of Barry. I never had the privilege of meeting Barry but I got a feel of the sort of man he was from all the letters; it was very moving and we are very grateful to Barry and Mandy for the financial benefit to the project and the families we support and we have ensured that we spend the money carefully to benefit the people who need it most.

I attended coffee mornings at Orchard Park School on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015 to promote the project and introduce myself to parents.

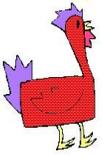
During the lead up to Christmas in December 2014, we were lucky enough to have both the Besom Project and The Church of The Good Shepherd provide Christmas gifts and food to our most financially stretched families and I was also able to deliver a lot of toys donated to us by the locality team. All of these things help to make Christmas special even for those who have very little.

I attended the Arbury School annual trip to the pantomime and was able to spend some time with a couple of children I was working with.

I am looking forward to another year of challenges, new people to meet and support and families to see move on hopefully with new skills and improved family lives for their time spent with us.

Chris O'Reilly

Home School Worker.



## What our service users say about us

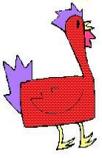
In order to help us improve our service, we seek feedback from the children, parents and teachers, grading individual aspects, when we close individual cases. The responses have all been positive. We also ask for comments, a sample of those received are shown below:

### Children;

- Chris sees me sometimes at school.
- It was pleasant working with Chris. Everything made me feel better. School is better now, I am more confident and I learned to hug my mum.
- It was scary, but fun. I feel better, and I play more games.
- Chris was nice, I liked talking to her.
- I liked Chris coming round.
- It was great seeing Chris

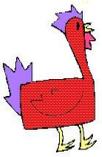
### Parents;

- She stood by me when no-one else was interested. She has done a great job. There were certain targets we could not meet before she stood by me.
- Have been able to work together to stay on track.
- I have more confidence speaking out and dealing with the children.
- Discussing issues and strategies has helped a lot. Relationship with school has always been very good
- Chris helped to support us through a difficult time when my child's confidence was at a low because she had been ill and so had her grandfather and it was stressful at home and school for her.
- I am now better at listening to my children, not shouting so much at them, implementing strategies to deal with my children better. Someone to talk to for advice.
- Good at home and at school now
- Confidence building, understanding my emotions and the children's.
- She helped me be more confident. It was so difficult, you visited me, we made some changes and it was like magic.



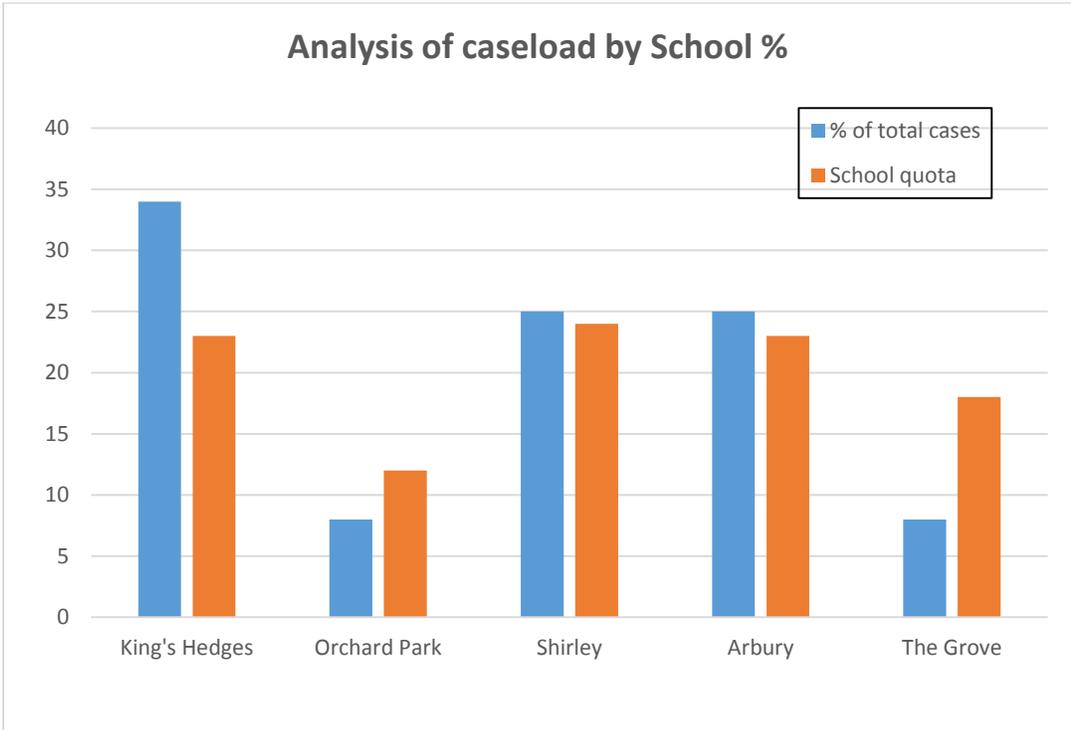
## Schools;

- Some improvements in behaviour. She can tell tales and gets distracted but generally better.
- Lots of things that were causing this child anxiety; on top of personality, anxieties, however mum has been supported to access further help for ongoing issues.
- Issues purely based around the home, none of concerns seen at school so ticks all in N/A boxes.
- Contact with school always good anyway.
- Supportive arrangement that worked well.
- The issues were home issues and school attendance. Both have improved.
- Red Hen worked tirelessly to support D and his family but unfortunately due to circumstances, such as housing, it has not been possible to achieve all the desired outcomes.
- Red Hen have really supported M and her family and have really helped to establish better communication between home and school. In addition to this M's attendance has improved and her behaviour at home is far more manageable.
- Concerns for this child were all linked to home, not school. Mum has implemented strategies recommended effectively and consistently.
- Parents appreciated support and improved behaviour at school. Teacher & parents regularly talk about behaviour linking into behaviour chart at home.

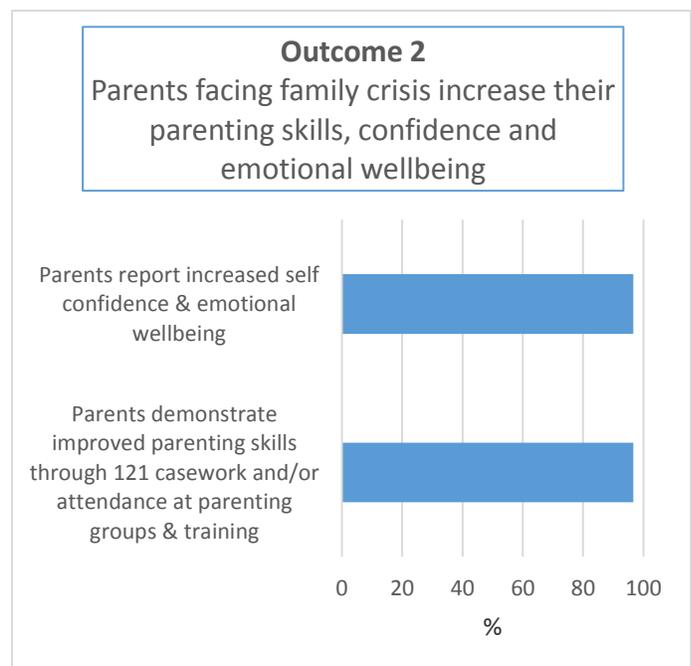
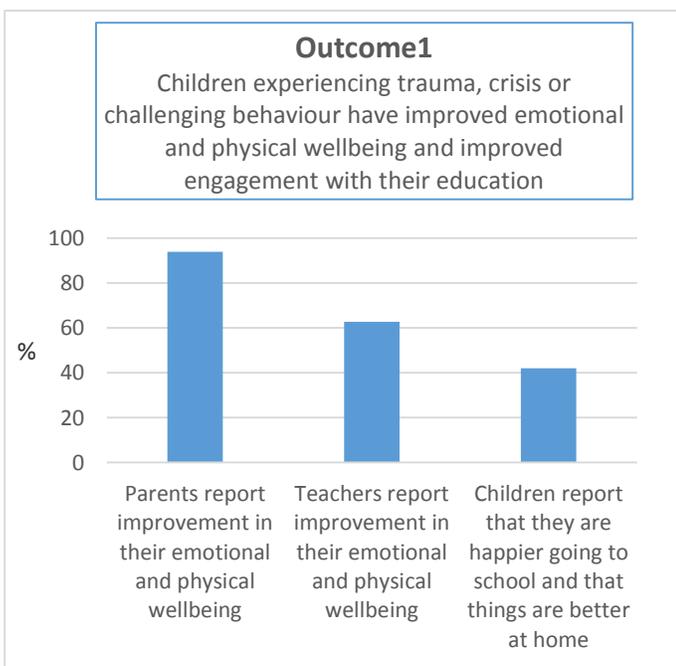


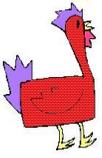
# Analysis of our work and outcomes

During 2014/15, we supported over 150 families in our communities, through individual support, support in school, coffee mornings, group outings, and parenting and other groups.

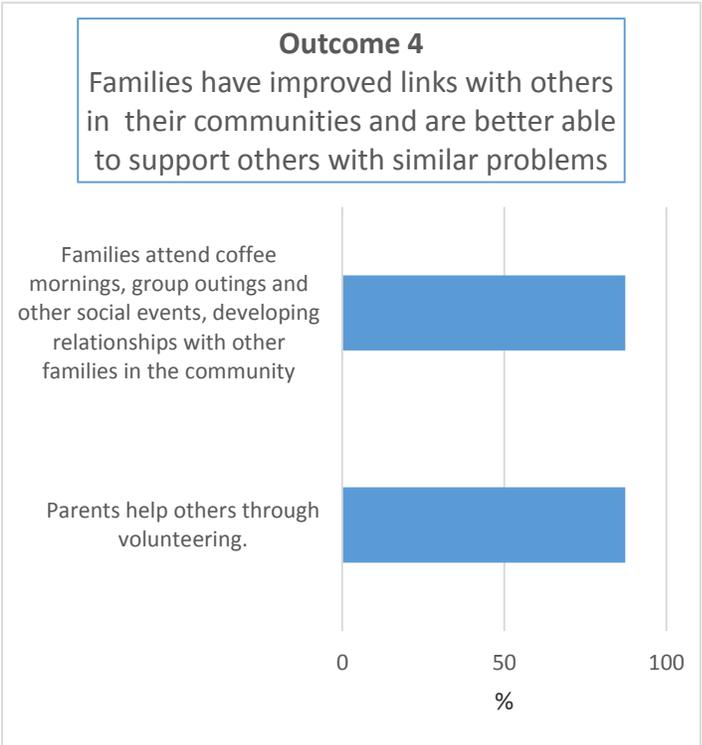
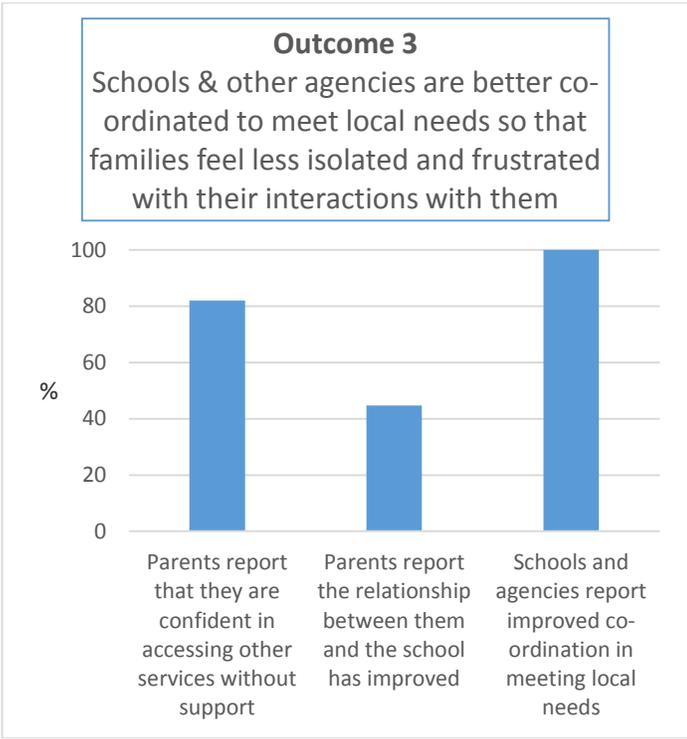


## Outcomes





# Red Hen Charity



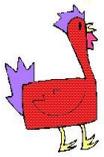
## Looking forward.....

During 2015/16, we are making some changes to the project, these include;

- The appointment of a Project Manager to develop and lead the project, raising our profile in the community and liaise with our funders.
- The appointment of a new full time Home School Worker to work alongside Chris O Reilly in our communities
- A consultancy review to; identify key strengths, streamline processes and develop & build the project to exceed outcomes and expectations, in preparation for a 2<sup>nd</sup> bid to the Big Lottery fund as our funding runs out during the financial year 2016/17.
- A move back to the newly refurbished King’s Hedges Educational Federation, where we will have a purpose built office, and use of a community room.
- Training our staff to run and deliver parenting courses across our five schools, one per term.

We will continue to carry out the much needed work in the community that we have been doing, including;

- Working with families in their own homes
- Working with children in school
- Working with and in partnership with our five schools, and other agencies.
- Running coffee mornings at the Church of the Good Shepherd each week.
- Our annual summer outings.
- Other support groups, e.g. cooking and other groups



## Treasurer's report

We ended the financial year 2014/2015 with a carry forward of £72,444. For the financial year 2015/2016 we set a deficit budget of £35,782, with the previous year's carry forward we started the year with credit balance of £37,166.

The charity continues to be funded by the Big Lottery. For 2014/2015 we received £67,815 this is to part fund salary costs for the home school workers and general running costs.

During the year we received further income of £21,087.

We would like to thank the following for their donations and grants:-

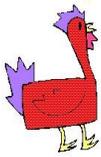
Big Lottery Fund  
Cambridge City Council,  
CAB,  
Charities Trust,  
Colleges Nursery,  
Fenstanton Primary School,  
Trinity Hall,  
Cambridge United Charities  
The Church of the Good Shepherd  
Mrs Knights, J Brewer, A Heliur and those using easy fundraising.

We would like to thank those that attended the Arbury carnival, this raised £186. Also the church lunch, this raised £207.

Also we would like to thank the following primary schools for their donations:-

Arbury School  
Kings Hedges Educations Federation,  
The Grove,  
The Shirley  
Orchard Park

Accounts for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2015 are available for inspection.



# Red Hen Charity



The Red Hen Project  
Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015

Charity Number 1072190

## Receipts and payments account

			2015		2014
		Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
			£	£	£
Receipts	Grants	1	0	68,575	68,575
	Donations	2	7,548	0	7,548
	Fundraising		288	0	288
	Interest received		12	0	12
	Room hire and charges		93	0	93
	School contributions		0	12,378	12,378
			-----	-----	-----
			7,941	80,953	88,894
			-----	-----	-----
Payments	Fundraising		0	0	0
	Insurance		696	0	696
	Miscellaneous		137	513	650
	Office equipment		755	0	755
	Premises		766	154	920
	Salaries		0	63,526	63,526
	School activities		2,344	471	2,815
	Stationery and postage		52	252	304
	Training and recruitment		240	455	695
	Telephones		473	439	912
	Travel		97	354	451
			-----	-----	-----
			5,560	66,164	71,724
			-----	-----	-----
Net surplus for the year			2,381	14,789	17,170
Accumulated reserves brought forward			53,314	1,960	55,274
			-----	-----	-----
Accumulated reserves carried forward			55,695	16,749	72,444
			-----	-----	-----

## Balance Sheet

			2015	2014
			£	£
Lloyds TSB	Treasurer's account	Bank statement	54,095	31,217
		Cheques issued before 31 March but not cashed	11,812	6,092
			-----	-----
			42,283	25,125
	Business account	Bank statement	30,161	30,149
			-----	-----
			72,444	55,274
			-----	-----

The accounts were approved by the trustees on behalf.

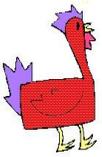
4<sup>th</sup> December 2015

and signed on their

CHAIRMAN

TREASURER

*Tracey Miller*



## Thank you for your donations

We would like to thank the following for their donations and grants:-

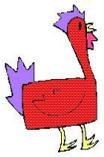
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Mrs Knights, J Brewer, A Heliur and those using easy fundraising.

Arbury Primary School  
Kings Hedges Educations Federation,  
The Grove Primary School  
Shirley Community Nursery and Primary School  
Orchard Park Primary School

### **Barry Dowler**

We received £1451.10 in donations in memory of Barry Dowler, who was a Head Teacher, School Improvement Partner, and Education Consultant in our community, and was a keen supporter of the Red Hen Project.

Barry sadly passed away in the summer of 2014.



## **Red Hen Trustees April 2014 – March 2015**

### **Chairperson**

Vacant

### **Vice Chairperson**

Lesley Ford (co-opted)

### **Secretary Vacant**

### **Treasurer**

Tracey Miller (co-opted)

Jo Angel (ex-officio)

Karen Martin (ex-officio)

Ben Tull (ex-officio)

Paul Connelly (co-opted)

Christine Cowling-Jones (co-opted)

Lesley Ford (co-opted)

Helen Geall (co-opted)

Claire Schofield (co-opted)

Rev David Maher (ex-officio)

### **Home School Project Workers**

Christine O'Reilly

Rebecca Impey

### **Administrative Support Assistant**

Lisa Peat

### **Project Manager (appointed from May 2015)**

Liz wright