THE RED HEN PROJECT

LOTTERY FUNDED

The Grove PRIMARY SCHOOL

SHIRLEY SCHOOL
Determined to Succeed

Arbury Primary School

ORCHARD PARK COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

KING'S HEDGES SCHOOL

Annual Report and Accounts

2016 - 2017

THE RED HEN PROJECT

Contents

1. Chair's Report.

2. Our vision, aims and what we do.

3. Project Manager's report.

4. Comments & feedback from service users.

5. Analysis of our work.

6. Treasurers report.

7. Audited Accounts.

8. Donations – Thank you

9. Trustees

Chair's report

It has been another very busy year for Red Hen working with our five north of the river schools in Cambridge.

Please do read about our vision and our aims and how we support our families elsewhere in this report.

Red Hen has always been fundamentally about barriers to learning and working to forge good relationships with home and school. We believe that education matters and is crucial in breaking the cycle of poverty that can exist in the socially deprived areas that we serve.

Our hope is that by focusing on breaking down barriers to education and encouraging peer support through coffee mornings, courses and social activities our families and the community will grow to learn from one another and build support networks that will make a real difference for children and their families.

It is no secret that there is a great deal of pressure on all of our social care system so we hope to provide an additional way in for families to find the support and help they need when in times of crisis.

Red Hen is needed more than ever for the fast and accessible help that it can provide and our schools can make referrals knowing that practical assistance and expert advice will be available quickly and delivered with sensitivity and understanding.

The project is now fully settled into the new office at King's Hedges and there are plans for a new website, a more active social media presence and long-term funding.

The real strength of the project of course lies in its staff.

Our two home-school workers manage large and ever-changing caseloads and deal with more and more complex issues as families face such difficult and uncertain times. And they do it with humour, warmth and genuine care.

Our Project Manager continues to make an enormous difference to Trustees and workers and therefore to families. I can say with confidence that Red Hen is efficient, well-managed and professional and the face we show to the world is one of a necessary and effective local charity doing important and vital work really well.

Many thanks to all of you who support us – my fellow Trustees in particular and I do hope that you will keep in touch and help us raise awareness of who we are, what we do and how people can help.

Lesley Ford, Chair

Our vision and aims

Our vision is to improve life chances and support families from dependence to independence.

The aim of the project is “To advance the education of children and their families living in the catchment area of the five named primary schools. Particularly by helping them to overcome barriers to learning through the development of positive relationships between the home and school. To help improve social integration, access and participation."

- To support vulnerable families and children.
- To build more positive relationships between schools and their communities.
- To develop interagency liaison and co-operation.
- To support the development of positive parenting skills.
- To encourage and foster parental involvement in their children’s learning.
- To prevent truancy.
- To prevent exclusions.
- To support vulnerable families in seeking appropriate support from other agencies.
- To co-ordinate that support in a focused way.
- To encourage a more positive attitude towards schools and education.

In order to achieve these aims we will:

- Deliver our services in the hub of the community, and with the support of the community.
- Promote and raise awareness of the project.
- Raise funds from charitable and statutory sources.
- Co-operate and collaborate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities.
- Develop and exploit existing networks.
- Pay for and use the services of Home School 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, activities and outcomes

Red Hen operates a family support home school liaison programme through the work of 2 full time project workers 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.

The Red Hen approach is a family centred model. This model is a tried and tested approach in both Social Care and Health. Our approach has been informed by current research and philosophy on this topic. We aim to deliver frontline services that can help families, children and young people by focusing on their needs. This approach, and the use of the 'Early Help Assessment' (formerly 'Common Assessment Framework') can be used to give an effective early intervention program, which identifies additional needs across universal services.

We also adopt the principles of the Children and Families Act 2014 (formerly 'Every Child Matters'), as we feel that these themes are still more relevant than ever, and focus on positive outcomes.

- Stay safe
- Be healthy
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

Red Hen operated from an office base at King's Hedges Educational Federation, 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.

Activities

The Red Hen Project supports families to enable them to develop independent support strategies including; improved parenting and life skills, confidence, reduced isolation and positive engagement with education, giving the community the capacity and resilience to tackle the roots of social problems at the earliest opportunity.

The red hen Project focuses on the individual needs of each child and their families, there is no 'one size fits all' approach. We prioritise one-to-one support, complemented by peer support, and help families to become independent. This may include addressing behaviour difficulties, reluctance to attend school, routines, accessing out of school activities, problems with housing, benefits, debts, relationship breakdown, domestic violence, or anything else that is making life difficult for children and parents.

The Red Hen Project operates in an area where there is a reliance on education welfare and social care, which perpetuates the cycle for many families in our community; creating a 'poverty trap' for future generations. We aim to break this cycle, by encouraging and supporting families from dependence to independence, through a range of strategies and activities;

Intensive one-one support – Around 6 months for each family. We work together at home and in the community to improve family life and relationships. Food poverty is a recurring issue. We are authorised to refer to the foodbank, have a partnership with Fare Share to redistribute surplus food, and hold our own emergency fund (from fundraising activity) to support families in crisis. We have collaborated with the county council on their 'Children's Change' programme, which has led to us identifying greater needs in our community.

Support through social groups and trips – These are crucial in developing relationships and reducing isolation. We provide a comfortable, supportive non-threatening environment for isolated families, providing advice, guidance & signposting. The weekly groups are a powerful tool for engaging hard to reach families; they are able to gradually build relationships on their own timetable. The groups are instrumental in fostering peer-to-peer support. The day trips enable families to spend time together and build friendships through peer support, removing barriers such as; lack of finance or transport, lack of confidence, language or disability.

Building skills through workshops/courses – We have identified through our referrals, a need for effective parenting strategies. We run a mixture of one off workshops and 8 week accredited courses, allowing inclusive participation. The proven impact of these strategies is; a calmer home life, better family communication, greater attainment and attendance at school and other community events. Each cookery course gives around 8 families the skills and confidence to cook healthy family meals on a budget.

Outcomes

Our 4 main outcomes are;

1. Children experiencing trauma, crisis or challenging behaviour to have improved emotional and physical wellbeing and improved engagement with their education.

2. Parents facing family crisis to increase their parenting skills, confidence and emotional wellbeing.

3. Schools, support agencies and statutory bodies to be better coordinated to meet local needs, and reducing isolation for families.

4. Families to have improved links with others in their communities and are better able to support others with similar problems.

Progress against these outcomes leads to an overall outcome of **'families in the community being happy and fulfilled, and able to make positive contributions to society'**, leading to self-efficacy in our communities.

Red Hen Project Manager's annual report

Another busy year at The Project supporting over 400 children and families (over 80 families through intensive support, and over 300 through our outreach activities) from Arbury, The Grove, King's Hedges, Orchard Park and The Shirley schools.

As well as providing tailored intensive support for individual families and children we have offered the weekly coffee morning at The Church of the Good Shepherd, serving tea and coffee, bacon sandwiches, fruit, advice and much appreciated peer support for families. The group continues to be well attended and supported with numbers sometimes in excess of 30 people attending including both mums and dads as well as preschool children, and extended family.

We hold regular link meetings in all 5 schools, with school heads/SENCo's and other stakeholders (e.g. Blue Smile) to ensure a joined up effective approach and review of progress.

During this year we had the following outcomes;

- 88% of children had improved emotional & physical wellbeing and improved engagement with their education.
- 90% of families increased their parenting skills, confidence and emotional wellbeing.
- 97% of families felt less isolated and frustrated in accessing statutory services.
- 84% of families have improved links in their community and feel better able to support others with similar issues.
- Schools also reported over 80% improvement in; relationships with schools/families, behaviour in school, confidence/self-esteem, emotional/physical wellbeing, and attendance, following support from Red Hen.

2016/17 Timeline;

Spring 2016

- We grew our Trustees Board from 12 to 19 members, to be more representative of our schools, and families. We welcomed 2 parents to the Trustees board.
- We collaborated with So To Speak Nursery to deliver sessions for parents on good bedtime routines, and behaviour management.
- We collaborated with Cambridge Frugal Cookery, to deliver a hands on (and delicious!) 'Cooking on a budget' 6 week course, with 8 parents.

Summer 2016

- We delivered a successful 8 week 'Raising Children' course for parents.
- We delivered a successful 5 week 'Sleep Tight' course for parents.
- We ran a stall at the annual Arbury Carnival to raise funds for our crisis fund to support families. We ran a tombola and enjoyed meeting friends old and new, and raising awareness of the project in the local community.
- We ran 2 summer day trips; to Wicksteed Park, and Thetford Forest.
- Our Project Manager walked 50k as part of the Ultra Challenge, raising £800 for the project.

Autumn 2016

- We developed a partnership with Kettle's Yard, as part of their Open House project, and delivered free family art workshops to families during October half term.
- We developed a partnership with Fare Share and Tesco, to collect surplus food on a weekly basis, and re-distribute it to families in need.
- We received donations of Christmas gifts and food from The Besom Project, and the Locality team to deliver to families in need.
- We ran a family day trip to watch the pantomime 'Aladdin' in Ely for families.

Spring 2017

- We started to review our website, and put together plans for a new, more user friendly, and easier to navigate website, which will go live this year.
- Our Reaching Communities Lottery funding ends in August 2017. We have submitted a new bid to The Big Lottery Fund for another 4 years; we hope to hear if we have been successful in reaching stage 2, by the end of April 2017. We are also investigating other funding opportunities to ensure The Red Hen Project is financially sustainable in the community.

We are looking forward to another year of challenges, forming new partnerships and collaborations and 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.

Liz Wright
Project Manager

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 was patient to listen and helped to solve my problems.
- I liked playing games, they helped improve my relationship with my parents
- I am more confident with Chris helping me.
- Chris took me to the hospital and I went in the scanner - it was fun. We got Christmas presents and food.
- I remember to do charts and after school I tick them. I like to play football games with Chris.
- I liked playing with the little Lego, it was the best
- Chris helped Mummy and Daddy stop worrying, this made us happy.
- It was really good and I liked Chris very much - she helped me feel calmer. I wish Chris could still come round.
- I had lots of fun. I loved going to the panto. My rules helped.
- Maria has done so much to help us. I would like to thank her for all the kindness she showed towards helping us.
- Chris is nice, she listened, stopped me being so angry and helped me and Mummy to stop shouting. I'm so much happier now and so is Mum.
- I enjoyed fun games and playing more at home.
- Mum and dad are happier with me. I loved the trip to the Dinosaur Park. I am happier doing my work. I am staying calmer.
- Maria was very helpful because she's really nice and easy to talk to. She's helped me to make speaking to my Mum and mostly my Dad easier. Maria is the best listener I know, and has given me many suggestions to help with my problems.
- Maria was fun and the sessions were inspirational.

Parents;

- Red Hen helped me to improve my confidence as a parent. The support I had made my relationship with my son stronger and positive. It helped me set up rules which we should follow to manage negative behaviours, and it works!

- Going above and beyond to get us places we wouldn't have been able to attend without.

- Going out of her way to help with food parcels and emotionally supporting us with no judgement.

- Red Hen helped so much just gave us a better understanding of how our son feels which helped us cope better and deal with his behaviour in a more effective way.

- Maria has been an emotional support and a point of contact for me with regard to school activities, support groups. She has helped me in dealing with my autistic son at home through advice and visual charts as in school.

- Giving me support when I needed most. Chris has been very friendly and supportive, had a good time during coffee mornings.

- Maria was helpful in liaising between myself and school inclusion mentor to make an easier relationship regarding my son's issues. She also helped clarify the purpose of completing a CAF form and made my husband and I feel more at ease about doing this. She helped pave the way for a better relationship with the school support team.

- It used to feel hard to communicate with school, but Chris was brilliant and really helpful. She was the middle person between me and school, which helped to improve home-school relationships.

- Taught me different techniques to deal with my son's difficult behaviour.

Schools;

- It was great to meet with Maria and C's Mum to discuss things we were all noticing and to ensure we were all consistent in our approach when sorting things out. Maria was very approachable and keen to communicate and set up meetings. Maria was supportive when I shared concerns about C and keen to feed them into her work.

- S's aggressive behaviour has improved, particularly in last couple of weeks. He still has days where he is incredibly sensitive. He is beginning to play with more children and has identified more children that he enjoys playing with in class and at after school club. At times, others are wary of approaching him as he can get frustrated and lash out. His key targets are to listen to an adult and do as they have asked, to go to the toilet independently. He is responding to his chart and likes getting stamps for good listening and remembering to go to the toilet.

- This was a challenging case for Maria - unfortunately E was in a difficult situation, too many things happening at home, very difficult for him to process. Maria worked hard, liaison with school was fantastic and she worked diligently trying out new strategies.

- F will be able to attend punctually and participate in after school activities which will hopefully lead to improved confidence and better relationships with peers. His behaviour at school improved and his emotional outbursts have been fewer since receiving this support.

- It was great to see 'I' confidently perform in the end of year performance and to see how thrilled his Mum was. Information regarding 'I''s difficulties have been passed on to secondary school.

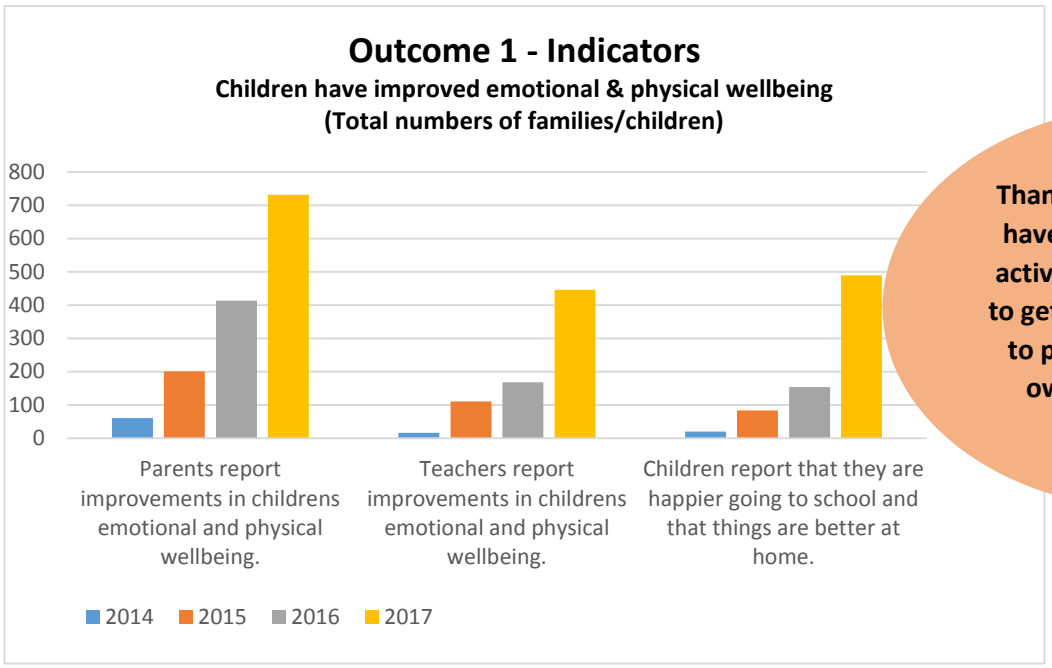
- R has made huge progress in relation to his emotions and behaviour during the time Chris has been supporting the family. Chris's input has been invaluable. R is still 'wobbly' with regard to his emotions and behaviour but school remains consistent and now home is a more consistent place, so his wobbles rarely escalate into anything more extreme now.

- A's behaviour has drastically improved, combined with moving classes in school. When meeting with Mum, she said A's behaviour at home has improved. A will apologise for any poor behaviour. He does always complete tasks in lessons and is keen to complete his work and is making good progress.

- Maria helped Mum introduce routines and boundaries at home with J. J's Dad became involved and Maria and I met weekly with both parents for a term to review his behaviour and part time timetable. Maria was instrumental in organising visiting arrangements with both Mum and Dad, as at the time, their relationship was fairly tumultuous. She supported Mum seeking medical and welfare advice for herself and J. Maria persisted in breaking down the barriers Mum had initially put up and helping her to see what long term changes needed to occur for J to be successful at school and at home for her. Many of these routines are still in place and Mum's engagement with school is much more positive.

Analysis of our work and outcomes

During 2016/17, we supported over 400 families in our communities, through individual support, support in school, coffee mornings, group outings, and parenting and other groups.

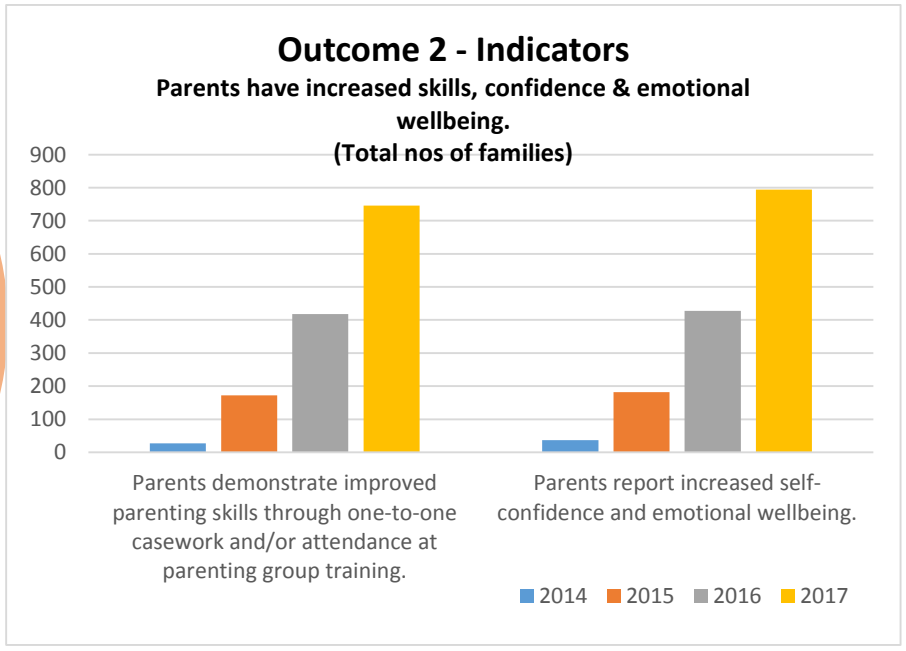


Thanks to the confidence I have got though Red Hen activities, I have been able to get together with friends to plan and organise our own local family trips

Parent A

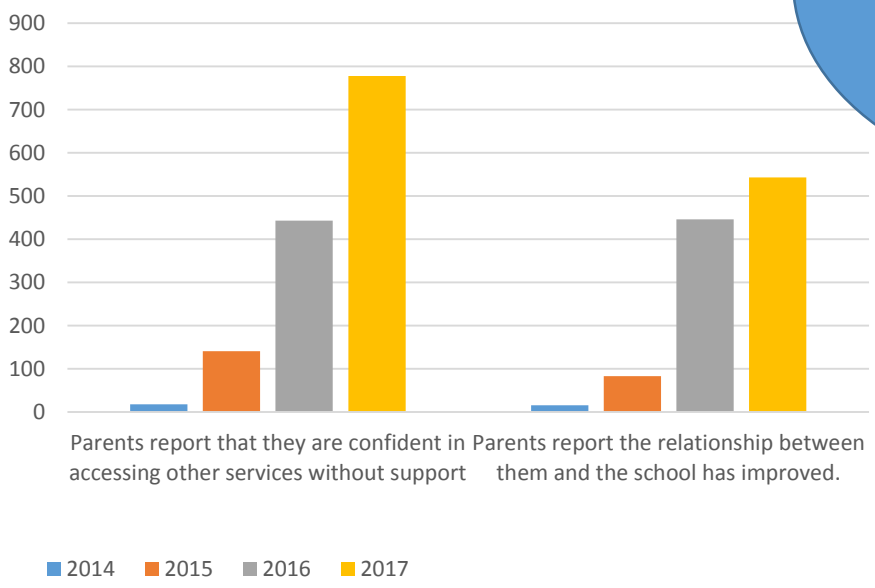
In many households the family is at serious risk of referral to statutory agencies, such as, Social Care and CAMHS. By working at a local level and in family homes the project regularly raises the level of confidence and skills of parents enabling them to reclaim authority over their own lives.

NHS Family Therapist



Outcome 3 - Indicators

Families are less isolated & agencies better able to meet need
(Total nos of families)



It used to feel hard to communicate with school, but Chris was brilliant and really helpful. She was the middle person between me and school, which helped to improve home-school relationships.

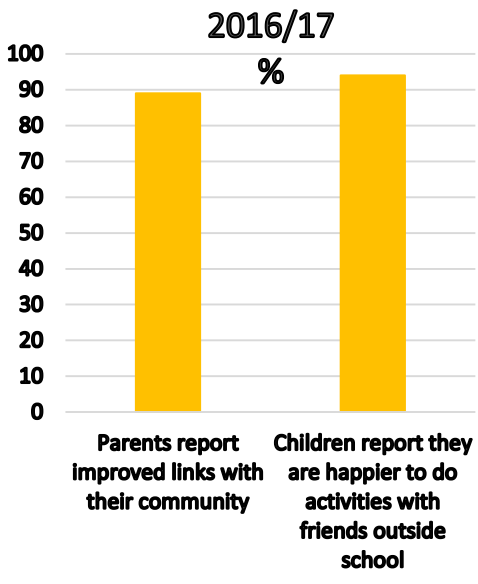
Parent

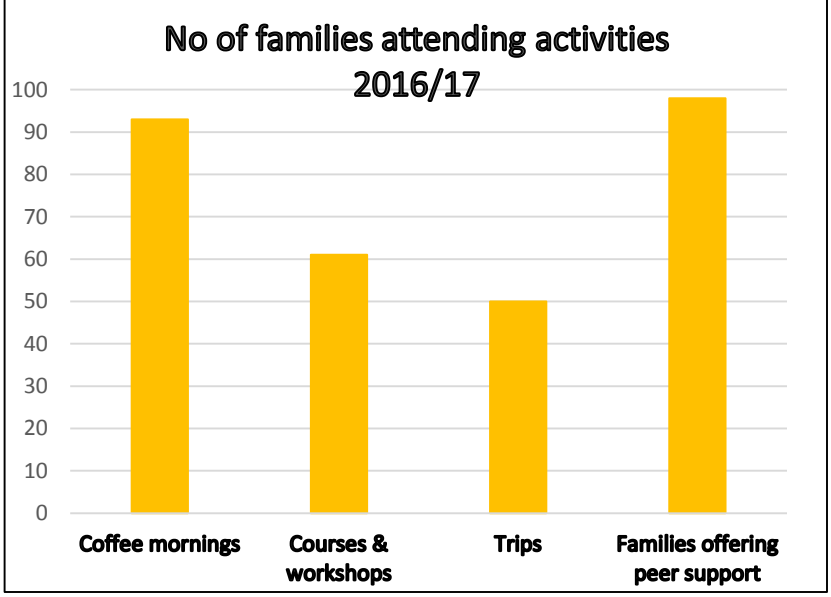
Banham Zoo trip
Without this sort of social outing families like us would be left out.

Parent

Outcome 4

Families have improved links with others in their communities and are better able to support others with similar problems.





Looking forward…..

During 2017/18, we are developing the project through;

- Working hard to secure our long term funding, through our bid to The Big Lottery Reaching Communities fund, and other fundraising activities. Our current Big Lottery Funding ends in August 2017.
- Developing our collaborations and partnerships in the community, e.g; Kettle's Yard, Fare Share, Cambridgeshire Time Credits, So To Speak Nursery, Cambridge Frugal Cookery, and of course, our partner schools.
- Developing our volunteer and peer mentor programme, which we hope will help many families to independence, and less reliance on statutory services.
- Building a brand new website, and improving our interactions through social media; Facebook, and Twitter.

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, behaviour management and other groups, courses, and workshops.

Treasurer's report

We ended the year 2015/16 with a credit balance of £68,742.

Budget 2016/17

Income	(£87,364)
Expenditure	£119,069
We set an in year deficit budget of	£ 31,705
With the carry forward from 2015/16 we aimed to end with a credit balance of	**(£37,037)**

However, due to prudent financial management and fundraising activity, we actually ended the financial year 2016/2017 with a carry forward of £51,427.

The charity continues to be funded by the Big Lottery until August 2017. For 2016/17 we received £73,015 this is to part fund salary costs for the home school workers and general running costs.

During the year we received further income of £21,846.

We would like to thank those that attended the Arbury carnival, this raised £262

Accounts for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2017 are available for inspection.

THE RED HEN PROJECT
CHARITY No: 1072190
Year ended : 31 March 2017

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	2017 Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2016 Total Funds £
RECEIPTS					
Donations	1.	8,370	-	8,370	7,858
Lottery funding		-	73,015	73,015	53,155
Interest received		15	-	15	12
Other income		12	-	12	895
School contributions		-	13,449	13,449	12,672
		8,397	86,464	94,861	74,592
PAYMENTS					
Emergency fund		840		840	544
Insurance		762		762	703
IT support and equipment		555		555	977
Miscellaneous		173		173	358
Office equipment		1,953		1,953	290
Premises		1,200		1,200	1,300
Professional fees		5,406		5,406	-
Promotion and advertising		998		998	-
Salaries		400	91,549	91,949	61,534
School activities		2,802		2,802	3,036
Stationery and postage		140		140	-
Supervision		455		455	455
Training		1,307		1,307	7,597
Telephones		604		604	780
Travel		998		998	720
Workshops and groups		2,034		2,034	-
		20,627	91,549	112,176	78,294
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		**(12,230)**	**(5,085)**	**(17,315)**	**(3,702)**
Accumulated reserves brought forward		46,720	22,022	68,742	72,444
Accumulated reserves carried forward		34,490	16,937	51,427	68,742

BALANCE SHEET

	2017 £	2016 £
Treasurer's account	21,238	38,568
Business account	30,189	30,174
	51,427	68,742

The accounts were approved by the trustees on 17 November 2017 and signed on their behalf by:

Chairperson

Treasurer

Notes

1. Donations

	Unrestricted Funds £	2017 Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2016 Total Funds £
Barnabus Oley Trust	500		500	750
Cambridge Central Aid Society	680		680	-
Cambridge United Charities	2,900		2,900	1,500
Childrens Charity Week	500		500	-
Hobson and Crane	-	-	-	1,250
Masonic Charitable Trust	1,000		1,000	2,000
St James Place	500		500	-
The Church of the Good Shepherd	-	-	-	990
Annoymous and less than £500	2,290	-	2,290	1,368
	8,370	-	8,370	7,858

Thank you for your donations

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

Big Lottery Fund

Cambridge City Council

Charities Trust

Cambridge United Charities

Barnabus Oley Trust

Cambridge Central Aid Charity

Cambridge Children's Charity Week

Masonic Charitable Trust

St James Place

The Haymakers Pub, Chesterton

Cambridge RAG

Waitrose

Individuals and anonymous donors

Arbury Primary School

Kings Hedges Educations Federation,

The Grove Primary School

Shirley Community Nursery and Primary School

Orchard Park Primary School

Red Hen Trustees April 2016 – March 2017

Chairperson

Lesley Ford (co-opted)

Vice Chairperson

Rev David Maher (co-opted)

Secretary

Jo Angel (Ex-Officio)

Treasurer

Tracey Miller (co-opted)

Karen Martin (ex-officio)

Ben Tull (ex-officio)

Stacey Harper (ex-officio)

Angela Leach (ex-officio)

Paul Connelly (co-opted)

Christine Cowling-Jones (co-opted)

Linda Morris (co-opted)

Kevin Price (co-opted)

Clare Smalley (co-opted)

Barbara Stoneman (co-opted)

Project Manager

Liz Wright

Home School Project Workers

Christine O'Reilly

Maria David