



**2021/22**

# Impact Report

Bringing colour to the lives of  
people with learning disabilities

# About us

**Kangaroos has a responsibility to regularly measure the value of our work and evaluate the effectiveness of the services that we offer. Our 2021/22 Impact report provides an overview of our key achievements over the past 12 months.**

## Who?

Established in 1994, Kangaroos is a registered charity based in Mid Sussex providing a range of fun, social and recreational activities, clubs and outings in the local community for children and adults with learning disabilities, additional physical, sensory and medical needs and extreme behavioural difficulties.

Kangaroos enables people with learning disabilities to gain independence, build confidence and have an enriched social life with their peers.

Kangaroos offers life-long support to people with learning disabilities and their families through a range of support groups, activity clubs and residential trips.

## Why?

People with learning disabilities have less opportunities to socialise outside of school or college and on average spend more time with parents or carers than able-bodied people. It can be difficult for people with learning disabilities to maintain friendships, which can easily lead to social isolation and feeling marginalised from their local community.

## How?

Kangaroos provides opportunities for people with learning disabilities to engage in a wide range of activities away from an educational or home setting. Kangaroos focus is on friendship, inclusion, self-worth, independence and increased confidence in social and community settings.

We offer age specific clubs to over 300 children and adults with learning disabilities. Our eldest member is currently 42, but we welcome people to join Kangaroos who are of any age. Activities are tailored to the ages and abilities of each group

## Our Vision

*Our vision is that people with learning disabilities can exercise their right to leisure, play and recreational activity in a safe and supported environment.*

## Our Values

- **Family centred**
- **Fun and friendship**
- **Safe and supported**
- **Pushing boundaries**
- **Building independence, confidence and self-esteem**

and vary from craft sessions or game nights to days out and residential stays across the country, and sometimes beyond!





# What we achieved during the financial year 2021/22



## Would you recommend to other families?

*We have conducted several questionnaires for members for each of our clubs. The results have been extremely positive with a 100% response to enjoying the activities and to building friendships. 100% have also told us that they would recommend Kangaroos to other SEND families.*

# Family Support

This year our family support programme has expanded to provide catered support for parent/carers and siblings of people with learning disabilities as well as activities for the whole family to enjoy together.

## Parent/Carers

In 2021, we launched our parent and carer coffee mornings. Once a month, we take over the Kangaroos hub, provide refreshments and welcome anyone who is a parent or carer to someone with learning disabilities to join us. This group has provided Parents and carers with a space to share experiences, lend advice, or just simply have a chat with other people that get it!

## Siblings

We offer several services to siblings of people with learning disabilities. Some activity trips focus on siblings spending quality time with their disabled

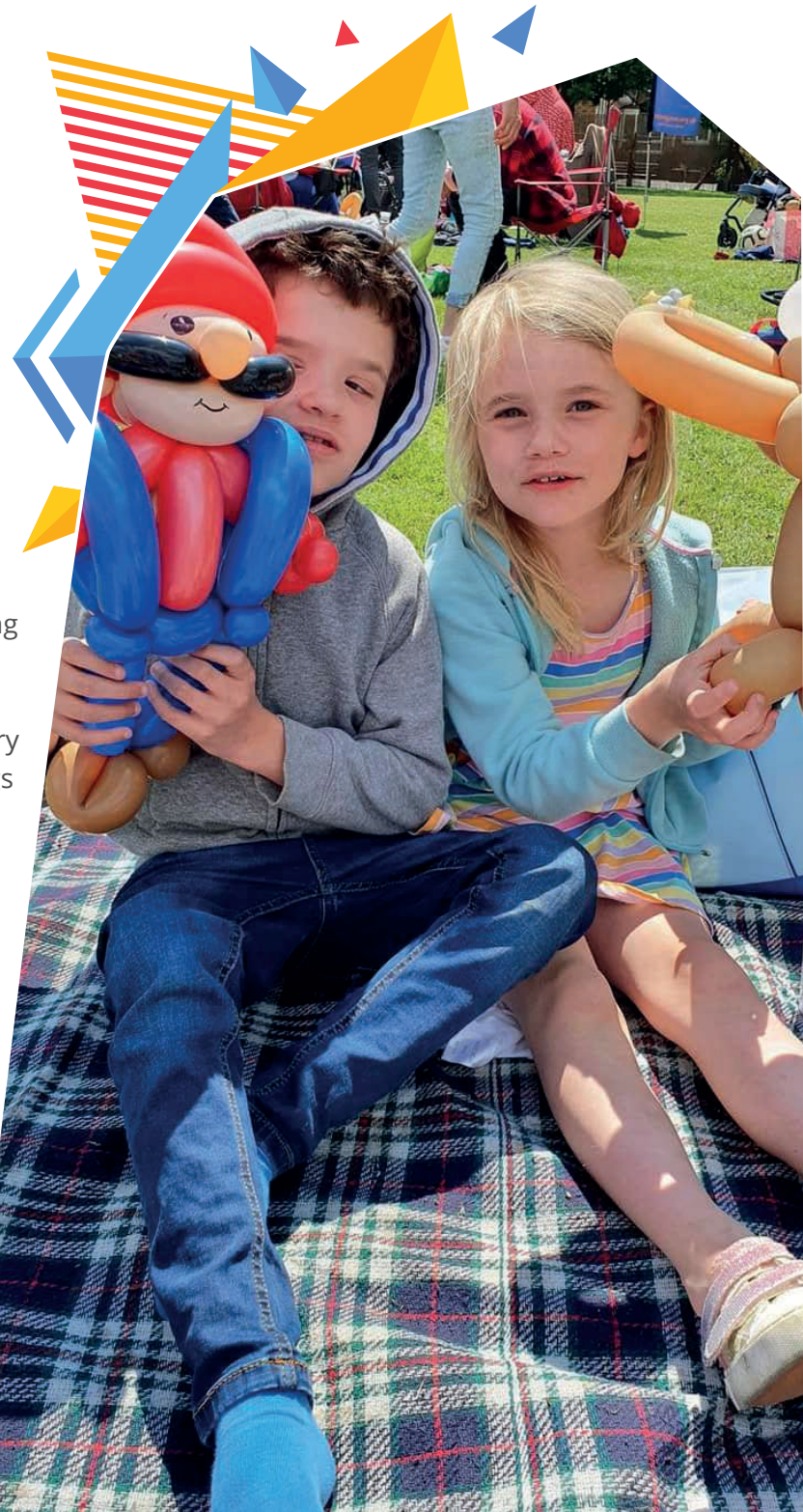
brother or sister, whilst other days out give siblings independence from their family, and time with other young people in a similar situation to them.

## Family Days

Our Family days continue to be a pillar of our activity calendar. Each quarter we aim to host at least one family event that's focus is to bring parents, carers, siblings and people with learning disabilities together in one space to spend quality time together. Recent family days have included a day out at Fishers farm, a trip to Harry Potter Studios, and a Family Fun day at the Kings Centre in Burgess Hill with bouncy castles, animal encounters, anything goes art, sensory play equipment, and meet and greets with fairytale characters.

## 0-5 years (Play and Stay)

Our 0-5 years stay and play sessions have grown in popularity over the past few years. These monthly morning meet-ups give parents and carers, and babies and toddlers the opportunity to socialise and play in a safe and sensory stimulating environment.







“

*Amazing special needs family picnic organised by Kangaroos We've never felt so comfortable and at ease somewhere... Safe and not judged because we are all in the same boat (or on the same rollercoaster as I like to say). Lovely to meet another family with a child with PhelanMcDermid Syndrome too!*



# Complex Needs

## STARS

**In 2016 we extended our services to include support, clubs and day trips for young people with complex medical needs and limited mobility. STARS is the result – a weekend and Holiday Club with dedicated equipment and activities to meet the needs of young people who are all wheelchair users with disabilities including epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy, visual and hearing impairments, gastrostomy feeds, catheterisation and complex feeding needs.**

We offer an extremely safe and structured environment with activities tailored to the young people's complex needs. Equipment is suited and adapted to our Members needs, including toys, musical instruments and cooking equipment which are all switch adapted, sensory equipment, and specialist seating, as well as a range of computer equipment and iPads with tailored software and hardware. We also have other equipment to meet specialist care needs, such as hoists, changing tables and specialist toilet seating.

Sessions, which run throughout the year at the Ashenground Centre in Haywards Heath, are carefully planned to enhance the experience of the children and young people.

We hold our mission to push boundaries close to our hearts and offer trips that challenge our

young people and are outside of their usual experience. This year the young people have experienced different trips and activities including fully accessible outward bound days, wheelchair ice skating and dancing, wheelchair-friendly speedboat rides and watersports and visits to accessible playgrounds. We want our members to enjoy all of the recreational activities anyone of their age would enjoy.







## Meet Katy

Katy aged 7 has attended STARS since 2020. She has a diagnosis of Pyruvate Dehydrogenase Deficiency, a metabolic condition which causes brain damage. This has resulted in Katy having limited physical skills and needing support with all aspects of her life.

“

*We wanted our daughter Katy to have a bit more variety in her daily life, to get some new experiences and to experience a bit of adventure. She has profound and multiple learning disabilities and the social circle of children like this can be very small. Kangaroos offered day trips that would challenge Katy intellectually and shake up her routine a bit.*

“

*Katy has definitely got used to being away from home more, and nowadays she always seems to be up for a trip out! She knows her fellow Kangaroos and the main helpers. We can tell by how tired she is after the Kangaroos trips that she has been challenged, and she certainly looks like she's having fun in the photos! She has started to get invited to the birthday parties of other children.*





# Pre-teen Clubs

## PALS

For children aged 6 to 12, PALS is a Saturdays and Holiday playscheme run at the Ashenground Community Centre in Haywards Heath. At PALS we support children with a vast range of disabilities, providing 1:1 or 2:1 support as required. As well as participating in lots of in-house activities, our members enjoy day trips out, and activities they wouldn't normally get the chance to partake in, including overnight stays at outward bound centres and other venues. This past year, PALS trips have included: A trip to Eastbourne to see Elf the Musical, Water sports on Cuckmere Haven, days out at Blackberry Farm and Discos to celebrate Christmas, Valentines Day and Halloween!

## Champions

Champions, a club run on Thursdays after school at the Kangaroos Hub for children aged 6 to 12. Champions offers a range of activities from crafts to cooking, as well as trips out. Our young people particularly enjoyed decorating the Hub windows, conducting science experiments and celebrating Chinese New Year!

## Allsorts (new for 2021)

Allsorts is our new term-time club for ages 8-14. The weekly sessions vary in activity and have included trying different art styles and learning about cultures around the world. Most recently, the Allsorts group have been attending Funabounds Trampoline Centre in Uckfield where they have had fun jumping in the foam pit and learning new moves! We've had great attendance since we started this group, and are looking forward to expanding the repertoire of activities.







## Meet Austin

Ten year old Austin has Pten Hamartoma Tumour Syndrome, is non verbal and has Autism. He has attended PALS for six years.

His parents chose Kangaroos as they wanted him to make friends and be surrounded by other children who were similar to himself. They wanted him to be able to access services and events that were appropriate for him.

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*Kangaroos provides much needed respite for the family. It allows us to have the odd afternoon with our other son, so he can enjoy different activities that Austin unfortunately can not do (like the cinema). It also gives Austin time away from just being with this family all of the time which is important. It has helped Austin to do his first night away from home last summer, which was a very big milestone. It has also meant that we have had the opportunity to meet other families in a similar situation which has been invaluable.*





# Teen Clubs

## BreakAway

BreakAway is a Weekend and holiday activity club for people with learning disabilities aged 12-18. With this group, we ask the young people what trips they would like to do, which has led to an amazing variety of activities over the course of the year. From trips to the Natural History Museum to Out of Bounds adventure activities and even exploring the enchanted forest at Groombridge Place, BreakAway promises to provide its members with fun and interesting days out!

## TeenScene

TeenScene is a youth club for teenagers aged 12 to 18 held weekly. This group is kept relatively small and consistent to help the young people settle and grow in confidence. The approach is to help the young people be as independent as possible, while staff support them to make friendships within the group. Activities are designed to encourage the young people to bond and to help individual personalities shine. Each week, every member is encouraged to share what they have been up to with the rest of the group to build their public speaking confidence. TeenScene is often visited by guest speakers from local businesses or organisations. So far in 2022, we've

had visits from RNLI and Animal Encounters. On other weeks, TeenScene acts more as a traditional youth club with games, arts and crafts, wii and karaoke on offer for the young people to enjoy.

## Transition

In 2017 we set up a new group to help our young people transition from teenage to adult clubs. This group was founded after our members fed back to us that they felt anxious about moving up to our adults group, No Limits. The Transition group is for ages 17-21 and aims to support our young people to develop life skills, become more independent and feel confident with social integration before they move into the adult clubs. It has helped many of our members transition to our adult group in the last 4 years.







## Meet Bastian

This is Bastian, Bastian attends TeenScene and BreakAway. Bastian had not had any contact with anyone outside of family and school prior to attending Kangaroos. We had been completely isolated due to Covid. We wanted to give him opportunities to meet other people and make friends, get some independence from us.

“

*Bastian loves Kangaroos. He has the blue top and he associates putting the top on with going somewhere fun. His faces always lights up when he puts the blue top on. Bastian is happy to separate from us. We know he is safe and happy. He always joins in with the activities.*

*Bastian is learning skills to be more independent and learning social communication skills.*

“

*Kangaroos has been life changing for Bastian and our family. We are very isolated with little support from friends and family. Having access to Kangaroos is so special for Bastian. We appreciate it more than words could ever describe.*



# Adult Clubs

## No Limits

No Limits is our social and recreational programme for adults with learning disabilities. No Limits has Members aged 18-42, but welcomes adults of all ages. No Limits enjoy a range of activities with their friends in a supported environment. The sessions, which run in the evenings, holidays and at weekends offer activities and outings many of their age group take for granted.

We organise fitness session, pamper evenings, discos and trips to local pubs, restaurants and the theatre. All activities aim to help Members with their social and life skills, and give them confidence and independence in the local community. Standout trips from this year include visiting the Bluebell Railway at Christmas, watching the Veteran Car Run. Our youth forum gives all of our young people the opportunity to input their ideas and choose activities for the forthcoming programmes.





# Youth Club and Social Club

Our Youth Club (18 and above) and our Social Club (25 and above) are held on alternate weeks in the evenings. These club nights are a chance for members to catch up with their friends in a chilled and relaxed environment. We put on optional activities, such as film nights, craft tables and bingo each week which our adults are able to join in with if they wish.



“

*My son is very happy to attend No Limits, living an isolated life at home. He is delighted to see his friends in social settings. He opens up, his communication skills improve and it's great for his mental health.*

## Meet Max

**19 year old Max has Down's Syndrome and Autism and has attended Kangaroos for over 12 years. He joined No Limits last year, enjoys coming and has made some new friends. "The only time I get to see and socialise with my peers outside of educational setting"**

Since attending his confidence has grown with his peers and other adults, in shops, restaurants and out in the community and he

feels more independent. "We get out into the community to take part in activities. We are not hidden away behind closed doors. No Limits do not take easy options, they do what's best for us socially."

He has tried new activities and experiences with No Limits. "Went on residential to Hindleap Warren, independently from Mum and Dad, was really grown up."



# Hindleap Warren

**Our highlight trip of the year for 2021/22 is without a doubt our residential stay at Hindleap Warren. 73 Kangaroos members of all ages and abilities had a fantastic adventure in the Ashdown Forest, taking on a wide range of outward bound activities, singing by the campfire and enjoying much missed companionship.**

Activities at the centre were fully inclusive so everyone, whatever their ability, got a chance to enjoy the different sessions. Activities that Kangaroos took part in included zipwire, archery, swimming, pool boarding, bushcraft, team building, orienteering, nature walks, obstacle courses, and high ropes. Staff were really impressed by how so many members pushed themselves out of their comfort zones, overcame their fears and supported each other to achieve their goals.

Some of the activities, like the high ropes, were really challenging, and it was fantastic to see everyone giving it a go and growing confident so high off the ground. Some members even completed the high ropes course blindfolded! Parts of the obstacle courses were also quite challenging. Some young people braved the underground tunnels, courageously crawling

through tight spaces in the dark! Others braved the muddy obstacles, getting mucky in the process! They also took part in team games and bushcraft where the young people had to work together to complete the tasks and learnt how to start a campfire.

Evenings were just as fun-packed with campfire sessions and evening walks, followed by movie nights and trips to the tuck shop. Evening campfires were a firm favourite across the groups. They all loved toasting marshmallows, singing songs, telling stories around the fire, and talking about all the activities of the day.

## Accommodation

Staff and members stayed in dorms at the activity centre. It was great fun for everyone to settle in with their roommates and hang out together. The rooms were set up to meet the needs of each member, including hoists and changing tables, and staff were on hand at all times to make sure that everyone was comfortable and happy.

For many of the children and young people, this was the first time that they had spent a night away from home without their families and for almost all this was certainly their first opportunity for eighteen months!! They benefited considerably

by having some independence from their families and enjoying fun and challenging activities with their peers. Their confidence was increased by trying and succeeding at some new activities, cheered on by their friends. Perhaps the biggest benefit was giving them the opportunity to once again spend time with other members, re-establishing and making new friendships.





# Parental Feedback

“

*S had an amazing time at Hindleap, thanks to everyone. So delighted he made a friend with J and seemed to really love it!*

“

*I just wanted to say thank you to Kangaroos and all the staff and volunteers who have just provided a wonderful weekend at Hindleap. I picked my son up today and found myself totally in awe of an organisation that can provide an incredible experience to such a large number of diverse young people across all ages and special needs. I was truly impressed at such a magnificent achievement. Well done to you all. My son had a brilliant time. Thank you again.*

“

*Huge thank you to all the staff for making such a fantastic break full of fun and excitement! E had a fantastic time!*

“

*Thanks. I've done lots of residential trips over the yrs with secondary school students. That has enough responsibility! You then have very vulnerable children in your care. I do not underestimate the responsibility, hence total respect and massive thanks.*

“

*You are all amazing, thank you for looking after our children and giving them the opportunity to do so many activities and for giving us parents a chance for some time out. Thank you Kangaroos.*





# Staff and Volunteers



## Meet Kaytlin

**A Sessional Staff member who joined the team in 2021.**

“

*I've been provided with the opportunity to further my training and experience whilst working at Kangaroos whilst also having so much fun. Being able to support the children in activities that bring them so much joy, whilst in the knowledge that the young peoples parents/carers are receiving well deserved respite. I am absolutely loving working as a member of staff at Kangaroos and cannot wait for the next adventures we are going to go on.*

“

*We are grateful to our incredible sessional staff and volunteer team for embodying the 'Kangaroos Way' at every session they work. We now have over 50 staff and volunteers who support at our weekly clubs, activity trips and residential stays. Our staff team uphold our values and ethos to ensure that each Kangaroos member is treated with dignity and respect.*





## Strategy

**Our 3 year strategy is well underway and we are pleased to report success in all three elements of the plan:**

- 1 Maintain the quality of our current provision,** growing organically to respond to members' needs. In the past year, we have sustained our high level of support across our clubs. We have welcomed an abundance of new members and grown our staff team accordingly to ensure that members' needs are met.
- 2 Broaden our portfolio of services beyond our current provision.** At Kangaroos we want to be there for the whole family. Having a relation with a learning disability affects each person in a unique way. That's why this year we have seen the introduction of Parent Carer coffee mornings and sibling support trips. These sessions aim to connect people with others in a similar situation to them, help build networks between our families, and offer periods of respite from caring responsibilities.
- 3 Extend our reach,** providing services throughout Mid-Sussex, across all ages. We reach members from across Sussex, Kent and Surrey. With member growth, comes responsibility to be able to provide

support for all those who need it. To do this, we have recognised the need for more provisions in North Sussex, which enables members coming from Kent and Surrey easier accessibility to our services. So far, we have

had 2 family days in East Grinstead at the Jubilee Centre with a fantastic turn out. We are looking to increase our presence in the area as the 22/23 year progresses.



## Meet Zoe

**This year we welcomed Zoe Pizzie, our new COO to Kangaroos.**

*“It has been a real pleasure to join Kangaroos back in sept 2021 and work with such a well established and respected charity. There have clearly been challenges over the last few years with delivering our activities due to the global pandemic but I have been so impressed by the amazing effort of every member of the Kangaroos team, from volunteers and sessional staff through to our key office team supporting fundraising and communications and of course our operations team who provide fun filled exciting activities!”*



# Fundraising

## Contracts and Grants

Kangaroos receives substantial and regular funding from West Sussex County Council and trusts and foundations, which have allowed us to expand the range of clubs we offer, and in some cases has enabled us to purchase specialist equipment for our members. However, we are becoming increasingly reliant on the fundraising we receive from community groups, businesses and individuals.

## Individual Giving

A BIG Thank you to Molly and Amanda for sharing why Kangaroos means so much to them for our Christmas campaign. **We managed to raise an amazing £1431** so thank you to each and every one of you that donated or shared our video to your friends and family.

2022/23 is looking very promising in terms of opportunities for individual giving. We are excited to see this fundraising stream rebuild and flourish post-pandemic.

## Community and Business Support

Despite all the uncertainty and unsettlement, living and working through a prolonged pandemic, our business and community supporters have

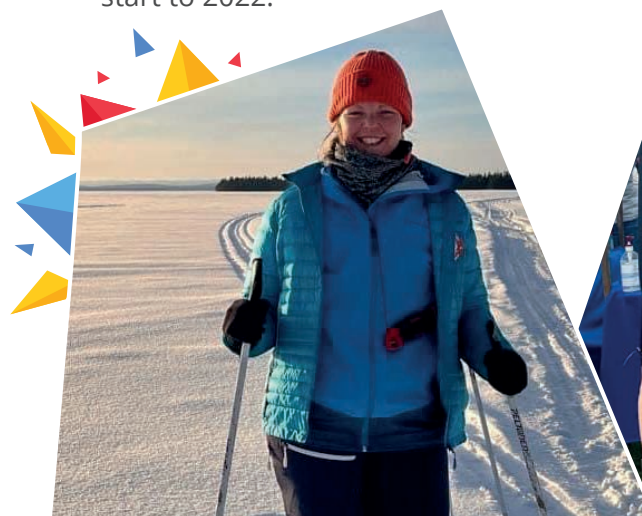
been amazing in what they have achieved during challenging times.

**Some of the highlights of the past financial year including some epic personal challenges were:**

- **A 100 mile hike across the South Downs**, by Jane Todd of Flint and Co Estate Agents
- **An amazing 8 day Arctic trek in Finland** by Maxine Hayes of PPT, Lindfield
- **3 Golf days inc Cuckfield Golf Centre Captains Charity Day**
- **Savannah Golf Day** at Haywards Heath Golf Club and
- **Kangaroos Annual Golf Day** at Cottesmore Hotel Golf and Country club
- **Booze and Roos**, a phenomenal fundraiser initiated by Kangaroos parents Richard and Anna Ball, hosted at the Hairy Dog Brewery which raised over £15,000 – a wonderful start to 2022.

We are looking forward to a busy year ahead with a 24 football challenge at K2 in June, more Golf Days and the return of our Kangaroos Ball in November.

*Thank you to our Kangaheroes!*





# Financial Summary

## 2021/22

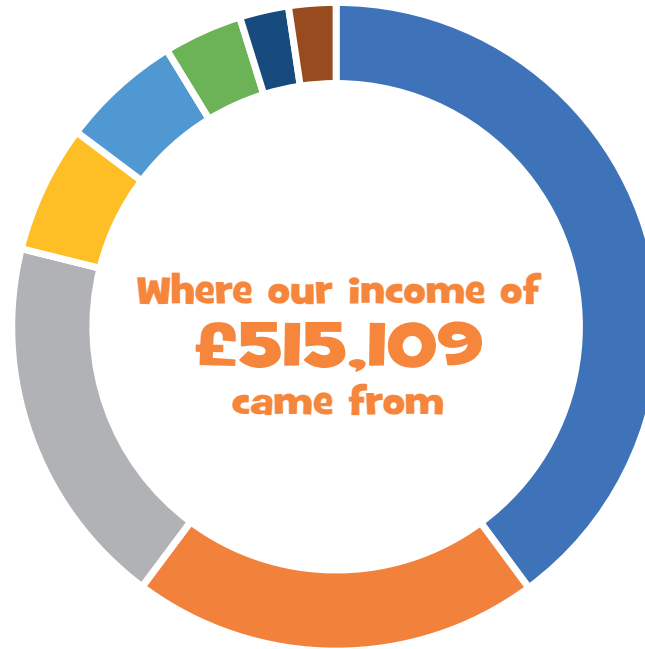
Our fundraising team had another successful year after the record breaking 25th Anniversary celebrations in 2019/20. Our total income of £515,109 in 2021/22.

This enabled us to maintain our healthy reserves which the Trustees believe is vital to ensure the orderly and proper functioning of the charity. Kangaroos receives funds from a diverse range of sources, including the local authority, Trusts and Foundations, individuals, community groups and local companies, as well as from the running of events.

**Of our Expenditure of £540,655 we spent 78% on Charitable Activities.**

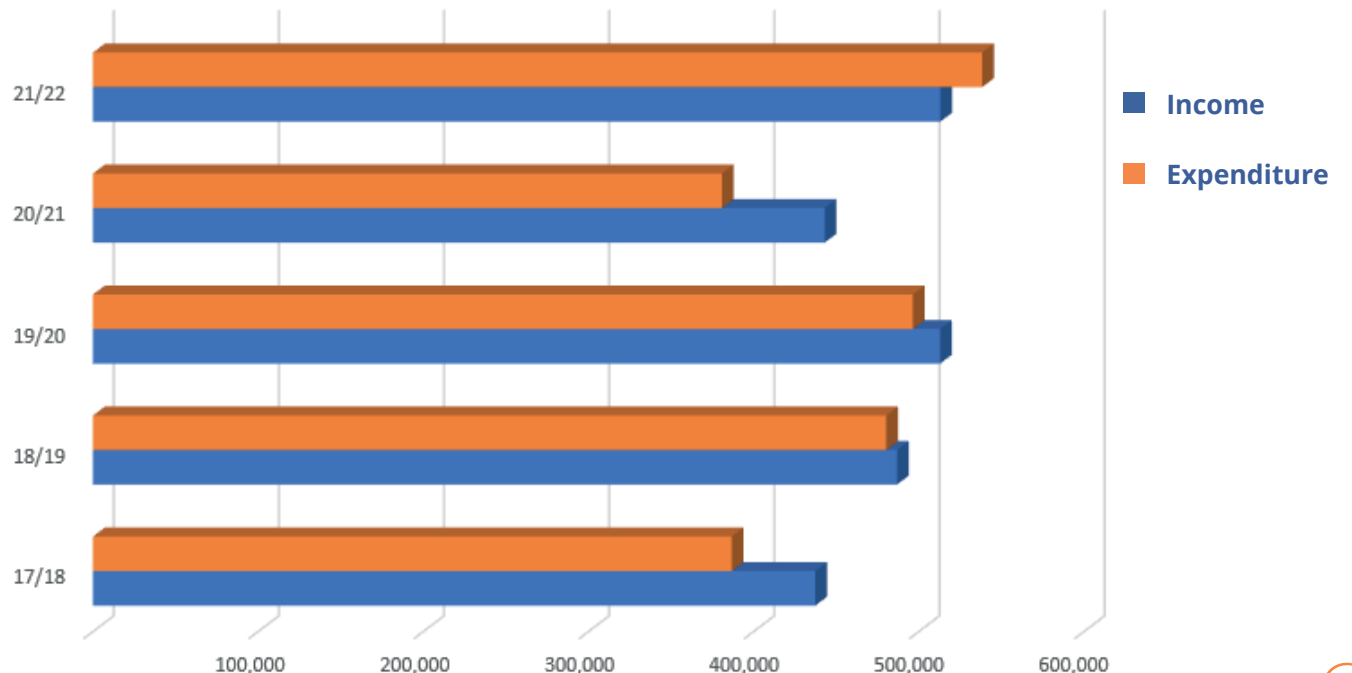
Exceptionally, this was higher than income due to Covid-19 and not running clubs and activities during lockdown.

**For every pound we spent on fundraising we raised almost five pounds.**



- Trust & Foundations 39.88%
- Parental Receipts 20.32%
- WSCC Contracts 18.67%
- Events 6.38%
- Individuals 6.02%
- Other 3.93%
- Community Groups 2.45%
- Business Support 2.36%

### Income/Expenditure Comparison





# Thank you

*We would particularly like to thank the following organisations and individuals for contributing and supporting us to make this another successful year, as well as many others too numerous to mention.*

## **Individuals**

*Richard and Anna Ball  
Mark Hall - (Virtual Rowathon)  
Maddi Longhurst/Dan Mays  
(Staff) - Colour Obstacle Rush  
Mark Kirkdale - Brighton half Marathon  
David Baldrey (BNI) -  
Brighton Marathon  
Olivia Quee - Brighton Marathon  
Steve Ward PDQ (BNI)  
London Marathon  
Maxine Hayes - PPT Arctic Fundraiser  
- 8 day trek Finland  
James Beacon (Gifts in memoriam)  
Terry Barnes (Gifts in memoriam)  
Sarah McCahon*

## **Businesses**

*BNI Heart of Sussex  
HHBA  
Barratt Homes  
Jane Todd - Flint & Co Estate Agents  
(100 mile South Downs Walk (BNI) and  
hamper raffle)  
Serco - (6 a side football match)  
Savannah Cafe Bar  
- (Golf Day/Elvis Night)  
Pierpoint Pet Supplies  
Ariel Company Theatre*

*Searls Land  
Progress Software  
Freeman Brothers (Virtual Memorial -  
Service - donations to Kangaroos)  
RTFJ  
The Hairy Dog Brewery  
Legal and General  
Jonathon Lea Network  
Claire Nash Solicitors  
Bright Light Film*

## **Community**

*Steyning Bowls Club  
Run with Bainsay  
Ardingly College  
Cuckfield Golf Centre Captains  
Charity Golf Day  
Burgess Hill Town Mayor Cllr Anne Eves  
Jingle Crowd Funder  
Lens Cap Off photography group  
Haywards Heath Cricket Club  
Ockenden Lodge and Sussex Masonic  
Charitable Foundation (Matched  
donation)  
Mid Sussex Lodge Freemasons  
Burgess Hill Lodge of Freemasons  
Steyning Bowls Club  
Toad in the Hole Pub Club  
Friends of the Yews*

*Cuckfield Bonfire Society  
St Francis Church Hassocks*

## **Trusts, Foundations and Statutory Contracts**

*Adamson Trust  
Baily Thomas Charitable Trust  
B & L Leach Family Trust  
Bloss Family Foundation  
Boshier Hinton Foundation  
Burgess Hill Town Council  
Children in Need  
Childwick Trust  
Edward Gostling Foundation  
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust  
Friarsgate Trust  
Gatwick Airport Community Trust  
Happy Day Children's Charity  
Hendy Foundation  
John Coates Charitable Trust  
National Lottery  
- Reaching Communities  
Open Foundation Trust  
Robert McAlpine Foundation  
Shanly Foundation  
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust  
Souter Charitable Trust  
Sussex Community Foundation  
WSCC Short Breaks*



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