

The Oxfordshire Children's Trust
Arrangements and Board
and
The Council's work for Children and
Young People in the city.

Appendix One: 2024 update



Contents

Oxfordshire Children’s Trust Arrangements and Board	4
Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) inspection 2023	5
The Council’s contribution to the Trust, Children and Young People (C&YPP) Partnership, and Children and Young People (CYP) living in the city	6
Educational Attainment – Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership	6
Youth Investment Funding	7
Targeted Youth Support Scheme services	8
Youth Ambition work with young people 11-19 years	8
School engagement	8
Locality Working	9
Oxford’s work in the Community Impact Zone	9
YouMove – Helping Families Stay Active Together	10
Leisure offers	10
Parks and accessible play	11
Oxford Cultural Education Partnership	11
Museum of Oxford.....	12
Oxford Community Impact Fund	13
The Council’s children safeguarding responsibilities	13
Community Centres.....	14
Growing Partnership working	15
The Oxfordshire Strategic Schools Partnership (OSSP).....	15
Youth Employment, Education and Training	16
Engaging Migrant Families.....	16
Oxford Strategic Partnership – The University of Oxford’s Local Engagement work.....	17
Appendices	18
Appendix Two: Health and Wellbeing Board – 26 September 2024: Update of the Children’s Trust Arrangements and Board.....	18
Appendix Three: Oxfordshire Children’s Trust Arrangements and Board – Terms of Reference (2024 to 2026).	18
Appendix Four: Oxfordshire’s Children and Young People’s Strategic Plan (2024 to 2028).....	18

Appendix Five: The Oxfordshire SEND transformation programme roadmap (May 2024).....18

Appendix Six: Oxford Community Impact Funded Organisations, 2023 to 2024.....18

Appendix Seven: Oxford Strategic Partnership – The University of Oxford’s Local Engagement work.....18

Oxfordshire Children's Trust Arrangements and Board

1. During a period of systems change and changes in leadership within the Oxfordshire County Council ("County"), the Children's Trust ("Trust") Arrangements continued to operate some meetings and workshops in 2023, however these arrangements needed to be re-evaluated and to refine the Trusts strategic intent.
2. In September 2024 the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board received a report from the County Director of Children's Services to provide an update of the Trust Arrangements and Board (Appendix Two).
3. The Trust Arrangements are the strategic partnership mechanism for identifying and monitoring the progress of improvements, in key high-level health and wellbeing outcomes for all children within the County of Oxfordshire.
4. The Arrangements are the child and young people's focused branch of the Health and Wellbeing Board and therefore works closely with and reports to the Health and Wellbeing board.
5. The Arrangements are delivered through the Children's Trust Board ("Board"), which is a small number of strategic leaders across the children's partnership who have authority, responsibility, accountability and decision- making powers. The Board is chaired by the County Cabinet Member for Children's Services.
6. The Trust Arrangements and Board terms of reference have been refreshed (Appendix Three). It is not the role of the Trust Arrangements to directly deliver operational work, but instead as a focus for the progress and delivery of the many other and already existing statutory and strategic boards and duties.
7. A range of statutory and strategic boards already exist within the County Council and across the Children's partnership in Oxfordshire. Each board has a range of legal duties, and each board has a focus around a medium-term strategy, typically three to five years of planning and delivery.
8. It is the role of the Trust Arrangements and Board to seek assurance and progress against each board's strategic objectives and review evidence of progress in improving outcomes for children and young people in Oxfordshire.
9. There are two mandated City and District's council positions on the Board representing all of Oxfordshire's district councils including Oxford City Council (the "Council"); the Council is the permanent holder of one, the other is held by one of the district councils on a rotating basis.
10. The Council's representative is currently Councillor Chewe Munkonge (Cabinet Member for a Healthy Oxford) while the district councils' representative (since June 2023) is Councillor Rob Pattenden (Cherwell District Council Executive Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities).
11. The Council's involvement and engagement in the Board arrangements and that of the other Oxfordshire district councils is supported by the Council's Policy and Partnership Officer team.

12. The Trust Arrangements has a requirement to develop a high-level strategy or plan which identifies improvements in key areas impacting all children and young people in Oxfordshire.
13. This strategic intention is based upon already established evidence such as the [Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Analysis](#), and upon the existing priorities and strategies of a range of other statutory boards, legal frameworks and data.
14. It is for the Trust Arrangements to gain assurance of change and improvements against the strategic intent and intended outcomes for children and young people in Oxford.
15. In developing Oxfordshire's Children and Young People's strategic Plan for 2024 to 2028 (Appendix Four), the existing ambitions and priorities of current strategies, data and improvement needs, were accepted by Oxfordshire County Council as the basis for the key high-level changes that the Trust Arrangements would champion and adopt.
16. The Board focuses its actions on four priorities from the Children and Young People's strategic Plan:
 - Start Well: Early Help and Early Years
 - Live Well: Young Lives; outcomes for Young People
 - Achieve Well: Outcomes for education and inclusion
 - Children's and Young People's Choices and their influence over the services that shape their lives.



Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) inspection 2023

17. Oxfordshire County Council and NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire Integrated Care Board ("BOB ICS") are jointly responsible for the planning and commissioning of services (across education, health and social care) for children and young people with SEND in Oxfordshire.
18. OFSTED together with the Care Quality Commission [undertook an inspection of the Oxfordshire SEND provision in July 2023](#), and found 'widespread systematic failings'.
19. Both organisations acknowledged the report findings and committed to focus on areas for improvement including the delivery of individual child Education, Health and Care Plans ("EHCPs") and securing the right help at the right time for each child.
20. The Oxfordshire SEND Strategic Improvement and Assurance Board (SIAB) made up of senior leaders from across the partnership, including Oxfordshire Parent Carer Forum (OxPCF), is also well established with a clear programme of improvement. The board

has been set-up to drive the actions required to deliver better services for SEND children, young people and their families.

21. In December 2023, Ofsted approved the partnership's [priority action plan](#). The plan sets out what will be achieved across five priority action areas:
 - Gathering and acting on the views of children and young people with SEND and their families.
 - Developing effective communications systems across the partnership to ensure coordinated approaches.
 - Improved timeliness and quality assurance of education, health and care plans.
 - Commissioning of services to meet the needs of children and young people and their families.
 - Producing plans that are co-produced with children and young people and their families, which are rigorously monitored.

The Oxfordshire SEND transformation programme roadmap (May 2024)

22. The SEND roadmap is a high-level overview of the key milestones and activities for the local area partnership's SEND transformation programme. (Appendix Five)
23. The roadmap covers improvement activity from January 2024 to April 2025. This follows Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) inspection of LAP services for children and young people with SEND in July 2023.
24. The timeline reflects what work has been delivered to date. It also looks ahead to include planned activity, including what is needed for Ofsted and CQC's follow-up monitoring visit due around February 2025.
25. The activity on the roadmap is a summary and does not include everything. The roadmap reflects almost all the commitments made in the priority action plan that was published in December 2023, together with a number of other key deliverables.
26. It will be reviewed quarterly and updated to reflect the changes to the programme timelines and actions.

The Council's contribution to the Trust, Children and Young People (C&YPP) Partnership, and Children and Young People (CYP) living in the city

Educational Attainment – Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership

27. The Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership ("the OIEP") is a countywide group that brings together employers, business, education, community groups and local government including the Council. It is a collaborative effort aiming to build a more equitable region that offers opportunities for all individuals in the county.
28. Four working groups have been established to deliver the OIEP's vision. One of the working groups is focused on educational attainment - looking at early years, educational attainment of GCSE English and Maths and better links between business and education to help shape career choices.

29. The working group has been supporting a variety of projects including:
- Supporting [ARCh, volunteer school reading programme](#) to improve literacy in primary schools – they have supported ARCh with an application to the OCF Step Change grant to fund a volunteer co-ordinator role for 12 months. They were successful and the volunteer co-ordinator is in place. They have been working to target businesses geographically placed around the schools on their waiting list, prioritising schools in areas of deprivation.
 - Supporting [Growing Minds programme](#) to improve school readiness - Feasibility study drafted for expansion of the programme to other areas of the county. Raised the profile of Growing Minds with partners as a preventative programme to avoid later determinants of deprivation later on in life.
30. Over the next 12 months the working group will be focussed on:
- OIEP will be hosting an Early Years Summit in January 2025, in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (BOBICB), University of Oxford and Home Start (co-deliverers of the Growing Minds programme). The event will bring together practitioners, academics, VCSE and relevant businesses to develop greater understanding of research and evidence-based policies to support organisations in Oxfordshire that are working to support young children and their families to ensure that the children thrive in the early years.
31. The working group will be looking at:
- Sharing information (incl. data insights on educational attainment and developments with regards to the CAR (Curriculum and Assessment Review)
 - A joint agency approach (advocacy and positivity around parent support).



Youth Investment Funding

32. Construction has begun on a state-of-the-art youth hub based in Leys Pool and Leisure Centre in Blackbird Leys. Building work started on site on Monday 23 September and is due to complete by Spring 2025.
33. The hub is aimed at giving young people new opportunities to enhance their wellbeing, have fun and grow their self-confidence.
34. A grant of £1.1m from the UK Government's Youth Investment Fund will pay for the build of the youth centre, and an additional £223,000 of funding has been allocated for three youth workers and a coordinator for the first year.
35. The new space will benefit both young people and the local community and means more young people can be supported.
36. The project is a collaboration between the Council and Oxfordshire County Council's Targeted Youth Support Service, with young people, supported by both Council's, playing a key role in shaping the project.

Targeted Youth Support Scheme services

37. The Blackbird Leys Youth Hub will provide critical support services and activities aimed at driving positive outcomes for young people in Oxford, including improved mental and physical wellbeing, and skills for life and work.
38. The project will see:
 - Social areas
 - Quiet rooms
 - A kitchen
 - Music and digital space
 - A climbing wall
39. In July 2024, Youth sessions started in various venues in Blackbird Leys and these will be moved to the Blackbird Leys Youth Hub once the building work is complete.

Youth Ambition work with young people 11-19 years

40. **Open access youth clubs and sports sessions:** These sessions provide a safe and positive environment for young people to play, socialise, and learn, and where staff build positive relationships with young people and ensure they have a sense of belonging by involving them in all aspects of the running of these clubs.
41. Young people are informally supported and informed to make the right choices and therefore less likely to be prone to risky behaviours.
42. The sessions serve as an early intervention for young people who may be struggling with issues including safeguarding and social and emotional challenges, and through participation and relationship building, staff are able to support them.
43. **Summer 2024:** Another great summer of free and low-cost activities were delivered for young people in Oxford over the summer by both the Council in partnership with key stakeholders and by and other providers.
44. **Youth Voice:** Young people are central to everything that we do, and the Council ensure that their voices influence the decision-making process.



School engagement

45. The Council has a regular presence in secondary schools to build relationships with young people as well as promoting the positive youth work activities available to them in their community.
46. The Council has a Physical Activity Officer for Schools in post to support the development of physical activity and sport within a school setting and to assist in the development of extra-curricular opportunities.

Locality Working

47. The Council is continuing to work to support Children, Young People and their families through locality working.
48. As part of its localities work the Council is working to ensure community groups can keep up with the demand from families in the city by supporting them to function and through collaboration internally that staff when needed have knowledge and understanding of community groups that can be accessed. The focus of this work is to develop stronger collaboration, especially around early intervention.
49. Most recently with the allocation of Household Support Fund, Locality Managers have been working over the summer to support organisations with non holiday activity funded young people places, and to ensure provision in communities is expanded to meet the rising needs from families. For example, the startup of Barton United's holiday soccer camp.
50. Furthermore, Locality Managers have been working to identify youth provision where a need has been identified to provide a meal or snack with their activities to help meet the increasing need of hunger being experienced by young people in the city.

Oxford's work in the Community Impact Zone

51. The Community Impact Zone (CIZ) is an initiative managed by Oxford Hub under a governance partnership between the Council, Oxfordshire County Council, and Thames Valley Police, with support from Lankelly Chase. In addition to its core governance, the CIZ collaborates with African Families in the UK and Active Oxfordshire to run various programmes.
52. The CIZ aims to tackle inequalities in health, education, and opportunity in South East Oxford. The work focuses on neighbourhoods in this area that experience some of the highest levels of deprivation nationally: Blackbird Leys, Greater Leys, Littlemore, and Rose Hill.
53. The CIZ's initiatives to address these inequalities include:
 - Providing additional support to help children achieve academic success
 - Offering opportunities for children and young people
 - Creating spaces for people to connect with their community
 - Developing a growing network of peer supporters to help families thrive.
54. The CIZ is not a traditional service or intervention. Instead, it focuses on enabling people to respond to needs in their own communities, build local networks of support, and feel invested in their local community.
55. It also brings agencies and organisations, including the Council, together to collaborate effectively in supporting local communities.
56. Current CIZ programmes include:
 - **Big Brothers Big Sisters:** This programme creates long-term mentoring and friendships that support children to thrive in life. These positive relationships have a lasting influence on young people's lives, boosting their self-esteem and helping them to achieve their goals.
 - **School Plus:** This initiative tackles educational inequality in Oxford by providing free tutoring and academic support for local pupils aged 5 to 18 years. Local children are matched with volunteer tutors, and through regular tutoring sessions, the pairs work together to help children reach their full academic potential.

YouMove – Helping Families Stay Active Together

57. [YouMove](#) is an Oxfordshire wide programme to support families on lower incomes to access free and low-cost physical activity. The offer brings children, young people, and their families together in Oxford to enjoy a range of fun activities.
58. YouMove entered its second year, offering free or low-cost activities for families in Oxford. Funded by the Oxfordshire County Council, Public Health, and the Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire West Integrated Care Board.
59. The programme supports families receiving benefits-related free school meals and children in need, including refugee children, young carers, children in care, and families identified by trusted early help providers. As of September 2024, YouMove now also supports children under 5 years of age.
60. Since its inception in May 2022, YouMove has registered 642 families from Oxford city, totalling around 2,256 participants. Impressively, approximately 82% of these participants are from priority neighbourhoods.
61. Registered families can enjoy a wide range of free and discounted activities in the city. Through partnerships with More Leisure (the Council's new leisure operator since April 2024), families can access discounted activities at leisure centres, day passes, and trips to Harcourt Arboretum and Beale Park, among other offerings.
62. Collaborations with local session providers and organisations, such as Oxford Brookes University, which offers free access to their climbing wall, have been instrumental.
63. Beyond physical activities, partnerships with the Story Museum and Oxford Playhouse provide unique opportunities for families to engage in physical activity in diverse ways.
64. Regular YouMove newsletters keep families informed about new offers and activities throughout the year and feedback from participating families has been overwhelmingly positive:
 - “This scheme has been a lifeline for me and my daughter.”
 - “It’s been amazing to get out more with the family for activities I wouldn’t normally afford.”
 - “Doing things I wouldn’t normally think of with the kids and getting exercise that doesn’t feel like exercise. Thank you!”
 - “The YouMove cards are brilliant and make being active this summer so much easier.”
 - “With the rising cost of living, I was worried about the limited activities I could continue with my family if I didn’t apply for a YouMove card.”
65. YouMove continues to make a significant impact, helping families stay active and engaged together.



Leisure offers

66. In partnership with the Council’s new leisure operator, [More Leisure Community Trust](#), the following offers have been retained for Oxford’s children and young people:
 - **Free Swimming Sessions:** Children and young people living in the city (OX1 to OX4) can enjoy free swimming sessions across all Oxford’s swimming pools. The

new operator has committed to a minimum of 21 sessions a week (currently 41 sessions).

- **Concessionary Leisure Membership:** Oxford's most vulnerable residents (OX1 to OX4) continue to benefit from significantly discounted access to Oxford's three leisure centres, seasonal heated outdoor pool, and ice rink. The low pay-as-you-go price for any activity remains at £2.10, with the previous peak price of £2.60 removed, ensuring all charges are at the single rate of £2.10.

Parks and accessible play

67. Oxford boasts over 90 green spaces in its communities, [including parks and nature reserves](#). It also offers a variety of exciting play areas. These aren't just typical swings and slides - some feature sand and water play, fostering creativity and imaginative play for children of all ages.
68. Oxford's parks provide the backdrop for outdoor fun and family-friendly activities. The Council continually invests in free play opportunities and has recently secured funding for the installation of a new seasonal splash play area, as well as the installation of a 'learn and play' balance bike and scooter track for younger children in Hinksey Park.



Oxford Cultural Education Partnership

69. The Oxford City Cultural Education Partnership ("the OxCEP") works in partnership with arts and cultural organisations, schools, youth groups and young people to engage young people in arts and cultural activity across Oxfordshire.
70. Recent projects have included:
 - The creation of new branding and a logo for 'Oxygen: Oxfordshire's Cultural Education Partnership' in consultation with children and young people, and in partnership with North Oxfordshire's Cultural Education Partnership.
 - A consultation with children and young people about the barriers to accessing arts and cultural provision, and a wish list of activity that OxCEP could offer.
 - A partnership project with The Story Museum working with teachers and pupils at 7 schools with multiple indices of deprivation, creating learning resources and building teacher's skills to support pupil's emotional literacy, funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation.
 - The development of 'A Day in the Life of..' careers films with Oxford cultural and creative practitioners, with resources for pupils and teachers at primary and secondary school levels.
 - The launch of a new website and social media profiles for Oxygen CEP.
71. Future projects include:
 - The development of a 3 – 5 year forward plan for the Oxygen CEP.

- Developing partnerships with local arts youth boards and a youth ambassador programme.
- Seeking funding to support the development of 6 local 'hubs' in non-traditional delivery venues, creating programmes of creative and cultural activity for children and young people in areas of Oxfordshire where there is less engagement and fewer opportunities for access.



Museum of Oxford

72. The [Museum of Oxford](#) ("the MOX") delivers activity for children in Oxford through its services for communities, [schools](#), [families](#) and under 5s.
73. The Council work in partnership with local communities to collect their cultural stories and share them in the Council's museum through exhibitions and events, including by commissioning local cultural experts to deliver family activities.
74. MOX offers:
 - A schools programme includes a range of handling workshops that are targeted to specific areas of the curriculum including history, citizenship, art, and English, as well as contributing to the Cultural Capital agenda. New topics introduced in 2023/24 have included Anglo-Saxon Oxford, From Bike to BMW and Oxford in World War 2.
 - Schools in areas of higher deprivation free pilot workshops, and work in partnership with them on specific projects, such as our recent Story Makers project with Wood Farm School, using museum collections and art therapy to support pupils with specific education and emotional needs.
 - Work experience placements for young people and in 2023/24 delivered 1 T-Level placement for a student at City of Oxford College Activate Learning, 3 student placements in partnership with Brookes University History Department and 2 work experience placements in partnership with Oxford Spire Academy.
 - Tailored activities developed to support specific needs, e.g. touch tours for children and young people with visual impairments, sensory backpacks are available.
 - Free gallery visits for Oxfordshire based groups of children and young people supported by an optional worksheet.
 - A new audio tour of the museums galleries specifically designed for families.
 - Family workshops at a range of price points, with at least two a week in every school holiday, and free trails and activity backpacks around the galleries.
 - Monthly 'Mini-MOX' activities for families with children under 5 years of age.



Oxford Community Impact Fund

75. The Oxford Community Impact Fund (OCIF) is a vital initiative aimed at empowering community groups and individuals to create meaningful projects that benefit the wider community. Following a comprehensive grant review in 2021, the OCIF was established to find better ways of supporting community groups and individuals.
76. The OCIF is running for a minimum of 3 years, starting 2022/23, and is reviewed annually. [Further details on the OCIF are available on the Council's website.](#)
77. In the 2023 to 2024 financial year, 41 organisations received OCIF funding, supporting children and young people with a variety of needs (Appendix Six). Some examples of the supported organisations and their initiatives include:
- **Activate Learning, City of Oxford College:** Supported the City of Oxford College's England Girls representative side in the Sanix World Rugby Youth Tournament 2023.
 - **Ark-T Centre:** Funded the hiring of a business development marketing practitioner and a Creative Wellbeing Practitioner for workshops.
 - **AT The Bus:** Supported sessions at Greyfriars School and St Frideswide's Primary School for children with high levels of need.
 - **Autism Family Support Oxfordshire:** Funded a weekly group for autistic young people aged 16-25 to help in their transition to adulthood.
 - **Barton Community Association:** Supported youth activities and Stay, Play and Learn sessions for parents and carers with children under 3.
78. These initiatives highlight the Council's commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive community in Oxford.

The Council's children safeguarding responsibilities

79. Oxfordshire County Council is the Children's Services Authority (CSA) for Oxfordshire. It has the principal legal responsibility for promoting and maintaining the welfare of all children in Oxfordshire.
80. The Council, as a district council, has legal duties under the Children Act 2004 to:
- make arrangements to ensure that in discharging its functions it has regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
 - ensure that where it makes arrangements with other people for the discharge of its functions, that those people provide the functions having regard to the need;
 - co-operate with the CSA and its relevant local partners with a view to improving the well-being of children in the CSA's area;
 - co-operate with the CSA in budget pooling – a key provision that underpins children's trust arrangements;
 - co-operate with relevant local partners in the making of arrangements to improve the wellbeing of children in the CSA's area.
81. The Children's Trust Board has a duty under the Care Act 2004 to prepare a children and young people's plan which must set out the strategy of the Board's members for co-operating with each other in order to improve the well-being of children and relevant young persons in the area.
82. [The Council's Safeguarding Policy](#) sets out how the Council fulfils these obligations and supports staff, Members, and volunteers in all aspects of safeguarding. [The Council's Safeguarding Procedures](#) set out how staff and contractors should respond to safeguarding incidents.

83. The Council is also required to complete an annual self-assessment of its safeguarding children's activities. This has been developed into a joint self-assessment audit between the [OSCB](#) and Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board.
84. The evidence for each audit standard is assessed and given a rating:
 - Green – Fully met and evidenced – Best Practice
 - Amber – the standard/compliance point is not met but work has begun, or work is underway but has experienced delays in completion
 - Red – the standard/compliance point is not met; work is not underway and there are issues with commencing work.
85. The Council were rated Green against all standards, and this was upheld at a Peer Review event in February 2024. The review recognised the Council's high levels of staff engagement.
86. The full self-assessment is available as a background paper to this report. ([The Councils Safeguarding Audit 2023](#)).
87. Officers undertook an annual review of the Council's Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding Procedures, and these were approved in July 2024.
88. A Safeguarding report is provided to the Council's scrutiny committee annually, this year's report saw no recommendations from Councillors.

Community Centres

89. The city boasts 16 operational [community centres, all owned by the Council](#).
90. While the Rose Hill Community Centre is directly managed by the Council, the others are run by community associations. These centres offer a variety of activities for children and young people, such as youth clubs for different age groups, stay and play sessions for parents with young children, and various art, cooking, educational, and sports sessions.
91. The Council's Community centres play a crucial role in keeping children and young people active and safe, providing a wide range of children's services either free or at reduced rates.
92. Rose Hill Community Centre serves as a prime example of community engagement. It supports numerous organisations that work with children and young people, either in partnership or directly. Some of these partnerships include:
 - **Rose Hill Youth Club:** Offers free activities and meals to over 60 children weekly during term time and summer programmes.
 - **Youth Ambition and DWP Team:** Assists young people in finding education, employment, and training opportunities.
 - **Film Oxford and The Lights Festival:** A successful community initiative involving young people from across the city, now extended to a weekend of free activities.
 - **EMBS Community College:** Provides alternative education for young people, offering space for off-site teaching, a tailored gym programme, and support for their International Culture Day event, celebrating diversity and cultural identities.
 - **Stay and Play Groups:** Free weekly sessions for parents with young children.
 - **Other examples:** Various art, karate, and kickboxing classes run by private groups.
93. The Rose Hill Community Centre Gym offers a supervised fitness programme specifically for teenagers aged 12-17. The Junior Gym provides a safe and supportive environment for young people to learn the basics of exercise and develop healthy habits. Led by a qualified fitness instructor, these sessions offer numerous benefits:
 - **Improved Physical Health:** Regular exercise helps teens maintain a healthy weight, build strength, and improve cardiovascular fitness.

- **Increased Confidence:** Participating in physical activities can boost self-esteem and confidence.
- **Social Benefits:** Junior Gym provides an excellent opportunity to meet new friends and connect with peers.



Growing Partnership working

94. Officers continue to explore opportunities with partners to work with the Council to deliver services such as youth work, by changing the way some services are delivered new sources of funding may be more accessible.
95. The Council developed and facilitates the Oxford Children and Young People Partnership (“C&YPP”). This partnership is chaired by a city of Oxford secondary head teacher and is made up from:
 - The Council
 - Oxfordshire County Council
 - The health sector and business sectors
 - Thames Valley Police
 - Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action
 - Young people.
96. The C&YPP provides oversight for the Community Impact Zone, Life Chances and the Cultural Education Partnership, with meetings held approximately every 6-to-8-week period.
97. **The Council’s Community Safety Team** provides partnership oversight of anti-social behaviour, child exploitation and county drugs lines and modern-day slavery and the Council has used the [Safer Oxford Partnership](#) to cascade and inform its own practice in relation to young people’s pathways and access to services.

The Oxfordshire Strategic Schools Partnership (OSSP)

98. The Council is a member of the OSSP, which is a forum where organisations that play a significant role in publicly funded education in Oxfordshire meet with the aim of addressing Oxfordshire’s key education priorities that go beyond the responsibilities or influence of any one organisation.
99. A City Council officer represents Oxford and the District Councils, sitting alongside representatives from the County Council education team, schools, universities, further education and diocese.

100. With respect to the identified priorities, the representations of those organisations meet to:
- Share information
 - Identify opportunities for collaboration
 - Minimise duplication
 - Provide challenge and support.
101. The OSSP is a partnership of equals, with partner representatives being responsible for representing the work and view of their organisations and for making appropriate contributions to the strategic improvement of education in Oxfordshire.
- The work focuses on inclusive practice, the effective education of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people, to improve education for all.



Youth Employment, Education and Training

102. In partnership with the Job Centre, the Council run a Youth Employment, Education, and Training (EET) Hub at Rose Hill Community Centre.
103. The Hub:
- runs a variety of activities, including, employment training, a job/CV club, 1-2-1 job support, and regular employment fairs
 - is designed to arm young people with the correct knowledge, tools, and support to pursue achievable and sustainable employment in the future.
104. In this third year of funding from the Department of Work and Pension, the Council have supported over 90 clients so far, with 30-40% being from refugee backgrounds.

Engaging Migrant Families

105. Since December 2015, 57 families have been resettled in Oxford through government-recognised resettlement schemes. The following initiatives highlight the ongoing support provided to these families.
- A comprehensive package of support providing at least one-year person-centred intensive support to all families arriving in Oxford on the Refugee Resettlement Schemes. A team of dedicated support workers helps families navigate schooling, access English for Speakers of Other Languages or childcare funding, obtain additional Home Office funding for children with special needs, and provides interpretation and translation services.
 - Attending local community hubs to engage directly with families to understand their needs.
 - Funding the School Advocacy project (currently to August 2025, when agreement will be sought to re-tender to continue the provision) to help refugee families navigate the education system.

- Promoting local and national initiatives to help refugee families in the community such as the Sure Start Maternity Grant temporary extension for Afghan & Ukraine households, accessing cost of living support and discounted furniture via Emmaus.
- Grant funding has created roles in tenancy sustainment to help families maintain their tenancies and established a new position, Active Wellbeing Support Officer, to support newly resettled families in living healthy lifestyles.
- Progressing the Council's commitment to become an accredited Council of Sanctuary and be a welcoming place for households including with children, seeking sanctuary who are fleeing violence and persecution.
- Funding additional therapeutic support via Refugee Resource for counselling for refugee's households who have been resettled in Oxford.
- Providing seed funding for an innovative Refugee Employment Support Programme (RESP) via Aspire and other partners to increase employability for refugees and their families.
- Working in partnership with the Oxfordshire Migration Partnership with colleagues from other Local Authorities, statutory and non-statutory agencies across the county to improve outcomes for migrant families.
- Hosting a County wide Ukraine response team to help Ukrainian families settle in Oxford.

Oxford Strategic Partnership – The University of Oxford's Local Engagement work

(Appendix Seven)

106. The University of Oxford (OU) has significantly increased its work supporting local school children as encouraged by the Oxford Strategic Partnership of which it is a longstanding member. OU has a three point approach for local engagement with Oxford's communities
- Improving relationships with the city and community
 - Maximising positive social impact
 - Increasing visibility and awareness around local engagement.
107. OU runs several programs to engage children and young people in Oxford City. These include:
- [Sports and Education Programs](#): The Oxford Sport Leaders Programme combines sports with educational workshops, allowing students to participate in activities like basketball, rowing, and athletics while learning about teamwork, psychology, and more.
 - [Community Grants](#): OU provides small community grants to support local projects. These grants have funded various initiatives, including literacy support for disadvantaged children, youth clubs, and play and activity days.
108. These efforts aim to create opportunities for children and young people in Oxford, to enhance their skills, and support their overall development.

Appendices

Appendix Two: Health and Wellbeing Board – 26 September 2024: Update of the Children's Trust Arrangements and Board.

Appendix Three: Oxfordshire Children's Trust Arrangements and Board – Terms of Reference (2024 to 2026).

Appendix Four: Oxfordshire's Children and Young People's Strategic Plan (2024 to 2028).

Appendix Five: The Oxfordshire SEND transformation programme roadmap (May 2024).

Appendix Six: Oxford Community Impact Funded Organisations, 2023 to 2024.

Appendix Seven: Oxford Strategic Partnership – The University of Oxford's Local Engagement work.