

The Oxfordshire Children's Trust  
Arrangements and Board

and

The Council's work for Children and  
Young People in the city.



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## Oxfordshire Children's Trust Arrangements and Board

1. The Children's Trust Arrangements provide the strategic partnership framework for monitoring progress on key health and wellbeing outcomes for all children in Oxfordshire.
2. Acting as the children and young people's arm of the [Health and Wellbeing Board](#), the Trust works closely with and reports to that Board.
3. Delivery is through the Children's Trust Board ("the Board"), a small group of senior leaders from across the children's partnership with authority and accountability for decision-making. The Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Children and Young People chairs the Board.
4. The Trust Arrangements and Board Terms of Reference are described in [Appendix Two](#). The Trust does not deliver operational work; its role is to oversee progress across existing statutory and strategic boards and duties.
5. Multiple statutory and strategic boards operate within Oxfordshire County Council ("County Council") and the wider children's partnership, each with legal responsibilities and medium-term strategies (typically three to five years).
6. The Trust seeks assurance on progress against these boards' objectives and reviews evidence of improved outcomes for children and young people.
7. The Board includes two mandated positions representing Oxfordshire's district councils: one permanently held by Oxford City Council ("the Council") and one rotating among the other districts.
8. The Council's representative on the Board is the Cabinet Member for a Healthy, Fairer Oxford and Small Business Champion. Since June 2023, the district councils' representative has been Councillor Rob Pattenden (Cherwell District Council Executive Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities).
9. Engagement by the Council and other districts is supported by the Council's Corporate Policy and Partnership Officer team.
10. The Trust is required to develop a high-level strategy identifying improvements in key areas affecting all children and young people in Oxfordshire.
11. This strategy is informed by evidence such as the [Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Analysis](#) and aligned with priorities from other statutory boards, legal frameworks, and data sources.
12. The Trust's role is to provide assurance that intended changes and outcomes for children and young people in Oxfordshire are being achieved.



13. In developing [Oxfordshire's Children and Young People's Strategic Plan 2024–2028](#), existing ambitions, priorities, and data were adopted by the County Council as the foundation for high-level changes championed by the Trust.
14. The Board focuses on four priorities from the Strategic Plan:
- **Start Well:** Early Help and Early Years
  - **Live Well:** Outcomes for Young People
  - **Achieve Well:** Education and Inclusion
  - **Voice and Influence:** Children and Young People shaping the services that affect them.

## Oxfordshire Local Area Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 2022-2027

15. The County Council and NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and West Berkshire Integrated Care Board (“BOB ICS”) share joint responsibility for planning and commissioning services across education, health and social care for children and young people with SEND in Oxfordshire.
16. Oxfordshire developed a [Local Area SEND Strategy](#) (“the Strategy”) for children and young people aged 0 – 25 years with SEND. The [Strategy](#) aligns with the County Council’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which is informed by the County Council’s [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#).
17. The Strategy was produced by the SEND Strategy Development Group, comprising representatives from the County Council (education and social care) NHS Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, education settings and Oxfordshire Parent Carers Forum.

## Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – progress, 2024/2025

18. OFSTED together with the Care Quality Commission [undertook an inspection of the Oxfordshire SEND provision in July 2023](#), and found ‘widespread systematic failings’. As part of the inspection process, in November 2023, the Department for Education published an [improvement notice](#), which was issued to the County Council.
19. An Oxfordshire SEND Strategic Improvement and Assurance Board (SIAB) was established, to drive the action required to deliver better services for SEND children, young people, and their families in Oxfordshire.
20. In December 2023, Ofsted approved the partnership’s [priority action plan](#). The plan set 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)

21. The [SEND transformation roadmap](#) is a high-level overview of the key milestones and activities for the local area partnership's (LAP) SEND transformation programme.
22. 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.
23. The timeline reflects what work has been delivered to date. It also looks ahead to include planned activity, including what was needed for the OFSTED and CQC's follow-up monitoring visit due around February 2025.
24. 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.
25. It will be reviewed quarterly and updated to reflect the changes to the programme timelines and actions.

#### Oxfordshire SEND transformation progress report (November 2024)

26. The LAP reported that significant progress had been made in improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Oxfordshire:
  - Improved Access to Information: The updated Local Offer website saw 138,000 page views from 26,605 active users since its launch in December 2023, with ongoing enhancements to advice and support.
  - Engagement: 787 parents, carers, and young people provided feedback through surveys and events since July 2023.
  - Capacity Increase: The Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) casework team grew to 64 staff (up from 57 in July 2023).
  - EHCP Performance:
    - 7,128 children had an EHCP (up from 6,107 in July 2023).
    - 43% of assessments were completed within 20 weeks (up from 40%).
    - 44% of EHCPs were rated good or outstanding (up from 21%).
  - Parent Concerns: Responses within the statutory 10-day timeframe improved by 160% since July 2023.
  - Neurodevelopmental Assessments:
    - Waiting list grew to 3,646 children (up from 3,049), but median wait time reduced to 63 weeks (down from 79 weeks).
    - Monthly assessment completions are increasing.
  - Decision Timeliness:
    - Six-week decisions took 4 weeks to communicate (previously 3 weeks),

reflecting a 33% increase in volume.

27. In February 2025:

- the County Council approved enhanced learning pathways (bespoke education) for children with SEND. Their Cabinet approved over £2 million per year to fund a further 20 enhanced pathways, spreading support as widely as possible across the county.
- the County Council's Education and Young people Overview and Scrutiny Committee received an update on progress by the LAP to improve services and support for children and young people with SEND.
  - Alternative Education Provision (AEP):
    - Collaborative AEP Board established; internal review completed, and external review commissioned.
    - Findings will inform a targeted action plan to enhance provision.
    - Guidance issued to schools on creating sustainable AEP pathways; parent/carer guide in development with OxPCF.
  - Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP):
    - Annual review backlog reduced from 200+ (Sept 2023) to <50 (Jan 2025).
    - 100% compliance with statutory deadlines for school entry and Year 6/7 transfers; 94% compliance for post-16 transitions.
    - Key Stage 5 outcomes: EHCP pupils' A-Level points score rose from 25.18 (2023) to 34.57 (2024), above national average and moving Oxfordshire to second quartile nationally.
  - Mental Health & Wellbeing:
    - *TellMe* app commissioned to support young people.
    - Community Wisdom Project launched (February 2025) to provide early universal support for families awaiting specialist care.
  - Speech & Language Development:
    - WellComm pilot launched (January 2025) in 46 primary schools to identify and address early speech and language barriers.
  - Neurodevelopmental Support:
    - Median waiting times for assessments reduced since April 2023.
    - Over 2,000 people accessed "Living Well with Neurodivergence" workshops and webinars via Autism Oxford and CAMHS.
- The full list of progress updates can be accessed by [reading the scrutiny papers online](#).

# **The Council's contribution to the Trust, Children and Young People Partnership, and Children and Young People living in the city**

## **Oxford Children's and Young People Partnership**

28. The Council developed and facilitates the Oxford Children and Young People Partnership ("CYPP"). 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.

29. The CYPP provides oversight for the Community Impact Zone, Life Chances and the Cultural Education Partnership, with meetings held approximately every 6-to-8-week period.

## **Youth Investment Funding**

30. Construction commenced on a state-of-the-art youth hub based in Leys Pool and Leisure Centre in Blackbird Leys.

31. The hub is aimed at giving young people new opportunities to enhance their wellbeing, have fun and grow their self-confidence.

32. A grant of £1.1m from the UK Government's Youth Investment Fund will pay for the build of the youth center and an additional £223,000 of funding was allocated for three youth workers and a coordinator for the first year.

33. The new space will benefit both young people and the local community and means more young people can be supported.

34. The project is a collaboration between the Council and the County Council's Targeted Youth Support Service, with young people, supported by both Council's playing a key role in shaping the project.

## **Youth Ambition work with young people 11-19 years**

35. Open access youth clubs and sports sessions:

- These sessions provide a safe and positive environment for young people to play, socialise, and learn.
- 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 and sessions.

- Young people are informally supported and informed to make the right choices and therefore less likely to be prone to risky behaviours.
- 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.

### 36. Summer 2024:

- Another successful summer of free and low-cost activities were delivered for young people in Oxford, both by the Council in partnership with key stakeholders and by other providers.
- Additionally, the Youth Ambition team ran a Young Leaders Programme, where young people volunteered to support the delivery of activities and all achieved AQA awards as part of the programmes.

### 37. Youth Voice:

- Young people are central to everything that the team do, and the Council ensure that their voices influence the decision-making process.
- The Youth Ambition team also facilitated a Youth Voice panel during 2024/2025, consisting of 10 young people aged 11 – 18 years, providing the young people with a platform to share their views and influence services.

38. The Youth Ambition team have a range of skills and knowledge to support young people with care and needs, and roles include:

- Education, Employment and Training Youth Worker
- Mental Health Youth Worker
- Female Participation Lead Youth Worker
- Mentoring Youth Worker.

39. An audit of Youth Ambition's safeguarding activities was included in the 2025/2026 safeguarding action plan. The audit aims to support the new management team in safeguarding compliance and identify areas of best practice and learning opportunities.

40. The audit findings will be shared with Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnerships Performance and Quality Assurance subgroup.

## **School engagement**

41. 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.

42. School engagement occurs via the Youth Ambition Team, Community Health Development Officers and You Move Activator, supporting funding, outreach and increasing opportunities for physical activity.

## Locality Working

43. The Council is continuing to work to support Children, Young People and their families through its [locality working](#) model.
44. The Localities Team have supported the Youth Ambition Team to secure funding from Oxfordshire County Council to support food provision in all youth sessions across the city.
45. The Oxford Academy (Littlemore) have been supported in gaining funding to support the Break Time Snack Initiative aimed at reducing student hunger and improving concentration.
46. As part of the free school meals campaign, the Locality Team collaborated with the Council's Benefits Team to send letters to residents with children in the city who may be eligible to claim free school meals. This included information on free or low-cost activities families can access.

## You Move

47. The Council continues to receive funding from Public Health to deliver the You Move programme
48. You Move is delivered in partnership between Active Oxfordshire, city and district council's, supporting families on low incomes to access low cost and free physical activity opportunities, encouraging families to be active together.



## Go Active Families

49. [Go Active Families](#) aims to provide families with all the information needed to be more active in Oxford. The activity offers include:
  - Culture and Creative – Local attractions and activities for the whole family
  - Move More Indoors – Ideas to get the whole family more active
  - Go Active Outdoors – Ideas to get the whole family more active outdoors
  - Youth Clubs and Groups – Regular groups and activities for young people
  - Family Centres – Providing support and advice for children and families
  - Stay and Play Sessions – various sessions for parents/carers and their young children
  - Seasonal Activities and Events – One off temporary events and activities for families.



## Leisure offers

50. In partnership with the Council's 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.
  - 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 (both reduced pay as you go and monthly memberships).
  - In-kind community funding: A range of community groups were supported with free use in facilities via the [in-kind community fund](#). Including half-term swimming sessions, ice skating sessions and stay/play sessions.

## Parks and accessible play

51. 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.
52. Oxford's parks provide the backdrop for outdoor fun and family-friendly activities. The Council continually invests in free play opportunities and 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.
53. This innovative facility combines elements of a traditional splash park with a balance bike and scooter track for younger children to provide year-round play value.



54. There have also been projects across a number of the council's play areas to upgrade play equipment and safety surfaces to ensure facilities remain attractive, safe and fun. All of the council's play facilities, including the splash parks, remain free to use to ensure they are accessible to all children and their families.
55. When considering facilities for older children and teenagers there has been increased focus around the 'make space for girls' agenda. A project at Cowley Marsh has seen the creation of a meeting place shelter specifically for girls, designed in consultation with local teenagers to their own specifications.

## Museum of Oxford

56. The [Museum of Oxford](#) (“the MOX”) delivers activity for children in Oxford through its services for communities, [schools](#), [families](#) and under 5s.
57. 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.
58. MOX offers:
  - A school’s programme including 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.
  - A new topic introduced in 2024/25, Romans in Oxford, focuses on the nationally significant pottery industry that was based in Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys.
  - Schools in areas of higher deprivation pilot workshops were delivered free of charge, and work in partnership with them on specific projects, such as the grant funded new Roman’s workshop.
  - Work experience placements for young people and in 2024/25 delivered 1 T Level placement for a student at City of Oxford College Activate Learning, 1 student placement in partnership with Brookes University, 1 work experience placement and 3 placements with Swan School.
  - Tailored activities developed to support specific needs, e.g. free family backpacks with sensory resources are available, and a Visual Story to introduce the museum and the access route in, and school workshops for local SEND schools.
  - Free gallery visits for Oxfordshire based groups of children and young people supported by an optional worksheet.
  - An 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.

## Dancin’ Oxford

59. [Dancin’ Oxford](#) works in partnership with arts, cultural, community & youth organisations, schools, and young people to engage families and young people in high quality dance activity across Oxford and Oxfordshire.
60. Their year-round family engagement projects offer regular high-quality opportunities for families to be creative and have fun together; responding to a need for positive, inclusive activities for all family models that are regular, physical, fun, and social. All projects are either free, pay-what-you-can or low-cost and tap into the health and wellbeing targets for Oxford.
61. Projects include:
  - Fam Jam - combining dance, disco and movement games, face-painting, healthy food, and social time for children 11 years and under and their grown-ups. Sessions run bi-monthly in Rose Hill and Cowley. Over the 12 months, the project engaged 329 participants.
  - Family Dance Party - regular family discos (with facilitated movement games and

crafts activities) are held in partnership with Pegasus Theatre, the North Wall (in Cutteslowe), MOX and Tiny Ideas Festival (across various venues). Over the 12 months, the project engaged over 570 participants.

- Early Years Arts Project (led by artists experienced in early year's practice) - monthly sessions at Donnington Doorstep and John Henry Newman Academy: focusing on creative, stimulative and physical play between the children and their parents/carers to build confidence and embed creative and physical play in the adult / child relationship outside of the sessions. Over the 12 months, the project engaged 618 participants.
62. Across all family sessions Dancin' Oxford seek on-going feedback through dialogue with participating families to ensure the sessions remain relevant and impactful. This includes learning around accessibility, particularly for families with SEND children who can quickly feel overwhelmed.
63. They welcome all family models and aim for the projects to be fully inclusive, ensuring there's an assistant for family access support plus a quiet space available at each session.

Feedback included:

*"I've got 3 children who come every Wednesday, and all love it. One has sensory issues, and I feel this environment is so inclusive. All 3 come out of the session so happy. This has been a godsend to me with my children. It's fantastic!"*

*"The project is just amazing. The children are having so much fun. Emma and Roly are bringing so much enthusiasm. This project should go on and continue!"*

*"Amazing to have this activity every month. So appreciative for it. We love it every time. Thank you!"*

*"It's amazing to witness the power of a moment in time like this- a little bit of [him] is braver & stronger and more ready for the world than before. Just thought I'd share, in case you ever doubt the power of what you do."*

64. This short (5 mins) film gives an [overview of the family activities Dancin' Oxford](#) offer.
65. Global Dance Stage events: Dancin' Oxford organised two dance stage performance events (at Westgate Oxford) over the year; with a diverse range of community and youth groups performing and showcasing their skills in the heart of the city. These highly valued performance opportunities engaged over 36 dance groups and over 350 children and youth dancers representing a wide range of diverse dance styles. The two events engaged audiences of more than 12,000.

Feedback included:

*"Thank you so much for making this wonderful event happen. It was really exciting, and I believe the audience loved it. Personally, for me the highlights were being able to meet young dancers from the other groups and experience music from different parts of the world."*

*"Thank you as always for providing us with this opportunity. It was lovely to see communities of different backgrounds on stage. We had a blast! Please do share with your team, we all felt very supported."*

66. Future additional projects (alongside the family engagement projects) include:
- Bright Sparks (part of Dancin Oxford's 'Barton Moves - Dancer in Community

*Residence' programme*) – lively, fun, and inclusive creative movement & craft sessions running weekly for 5 – 11-year-olds, including children from non-English speaking families and children who are neurodiverse. The sessions enable the children to build creative and social skills, whilst developing their self-confidence and being active. Based at the Barton Neighbourhood Centre.

- Empowered Sisters (*part of the Blackbird Leys Dancer in Community Residence programme*) - an exciting project for girls aged 11 – 16yrs to grow in confidence, build community and express themselves through dance, movement, creativity, and sisterhood. The sessions combine learning street and social dance styles (e.g. Hip Hop, Popping, Locking, Afro, Dancehall, & House) with Empowerment sessions that include activities and discussions to encourage sharing of ideas to grow into confident leaders who challenge norms, advocate for change, and inspire others. The programme provides high-quality, accessible dance opportunities that everyone can take part in. With cost often a barrier for young people to access sport and the arts, the sessions are free of charge. Based at the Leys Pool and Leisure Centre and the Youth Hub.
- Volunteering for young people – in partnership with Body Politic Dance (as part of their Training Ground programme for 16-19yr olds) – Dancin' Oxford will offer a package of volunteering opportunities across its (participatory and performance) programmes: to build a broad range of skills & experience, and opportunity to work alongside skilled facilitators and practitioners.

## **Oxford Cultural Education Partnership**

67. 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.
68. Projects have included:
  - The continued delivery of 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 the Oxygen Oxfordshire website with more content, partner profiles and events pages for children and young people.
  - The development of a 3 – 5 year forward plan for the Oxygen CEP and a case for funding.
69. Future projects include:
  - Continued delivery of the final year of the Story Exchange project with The Story Museum and 7 local schools.
  - 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.

- Participating in ‘Partnerships for the Future’ Arts Council England funded support programme.

## Oxford Community Impact Fund

70. 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.
71. The OCIF is running for a minimum of 3 years, starting 2022/23, and is reviewed annually.
72. In the 2024 to 2025 financial year, 16 organisations were funded through circa £153,000 of OCIF funding, supporting children and young people with a variety of needs ([Appendix Three](#)). Some examples of the supported organisations and their initiatives include:
  - Donnington Doorstep Family Centre: The organisation has fostered an inclusive environment that supports families, children, and young people from diverse backgrounds. They provided staff with comprehensive training to enhance their understanding of different cultural, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds, ensuring all families feel respected and valued.
  - Leys Community Development Initiative (CDI): A combination of health and wellbeing, isolation eradication, mental wellbeing and educational sessions were organised and run by CDI have witnessed in excess of 500 different juniors and seniors participating and benefiting from the activities.
  - Makespace Oxford: Created an event space that is genuinely safe, welcoming, and accessible, especially for families with young children and those with neurodiverse needs.
  - Mandala Theatre Company: Mandala’s work enables young people and young artists to have pathways into employment, especially into the Creative industries.
  - Oxford Youth Enterprise Ltd (Name It Youth Project): The project was able to expand further and enable more girls and young women to access the project.
  - Wood Farm Youth Centre: The Youth Centre has provided support for an estimated 50 young people, many of whom are from low-income households. This support has been delivered by their part time youth worker and local volunteers at weekly sessions held at the youth centre and by undertaking outreach work on the Wood Farm estate.
73. These initiatives highlight the Council’s commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive community in Oxford.

## The Council’s children safeguarding responsibilities

74. Oxfordshire County Council acts as the Children’s Services Authority (CSA) for Oxfordshire, holding the primary legal responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of all children in the county.

75. As a district council, the Council has statutory duties under the Children Act 2004 to:
- Ensure its functions are discharged with regard to safeguarding and promoting children's welfare.
  - Require any partners delivering functions on its behalf to do the same.
  - Co-operate with the CSA and relevant local partners to improve children's well-being.
  - Participate in budget pooling to support children's trust arrangements.
  - Work collaboratively with local partners to enhance outcomes for children.
76. Under the Care Act 2004, the Oxfordshire Children's Trust Board must prepare a Children and Young People's Plan, setting out a joint strategy for improving the well-being of children and young people through partnership working.
77. The Council's Safeguarding Policy [2023 - 2026](#) outlines how these obligations are met and supports staff, Members, and volunteers in safeguarding responsibilities. [Detailed procedures guide](#) staff and contractors on responding to safeguarding concerns.
78. The Council provide an annual financial contribution (£5,000) to the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership.
79. The [Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board](#) (OSAB) and [Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership](#) did not require any agencies to complete a self-assessment in 2024/2025, instead they asked all agencies to respond to the Professional Curiosity questionnaire.
80. Oxford City Council expressed their wishes to continue with the self-assessment to ensure quality assurance, the understanding from the OSAB Manager, is that the self-assessment will be making a return in 2026.
81. To inform an annual self-assessment City Council staff would normally complete an annual safeguarding questionnaire to inform the annual self-assessment. Despite the OSAB and OSCP postponing the annual safeguarding self-assessment with agencies, the Council went ahead with the questionnaire in October 2024.
82. An annual [safeguarding report for 2024/2025](#) was presented to the Scrutiny Committee in October 2025.
83. The internal safeguarding briefing, mandatory for all staff, Members, and volunteers includes the identification, and response to, children's safeguarding concerns.
84. The Council's Community Safety Service Manager is a member of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. The Council's Safeguarding Coordinator actively participates in subgroups of the OSCP, including Neglect Strategy; Policy, Practice, and Procedure; Learning, Development & Training; and Performance, Audit, and Quality Assurance. Delivering on associated actions and audits as required.
85. The Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation Team Officers attend the police Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group meetings that identifies and support young people at risk, and coordinates activities to tackle their exploiters.
86. The Council is a Responsible Authority for the [Oxford Community Safety Partnership](#), chairs and facilitates partnership meetings, and coordinates plans to address the community safety priorities in the city.
87. The current priorities include violence against women and girls, serious and organised

crime, anti-social behaviour, and modern slavery. All priorities have an important safeguarding element running through them, with Council and partner staff trained, planning for, and responding to child safeguarding issues.

88. Toolkits provided by the OSCP are used by colleagues, specifically the Strengths and Needs tool by Homeless Prevention officers to ensure Early Help support is offered at the right time.
89. Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, 109 child safeguarding concerns were recorded. Of these, 34 referrals were made to the Oxfordshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub ([MASH](#)) and six to the Oxfordshire Locality and Community Support Service ([LCSS](#)). Cases not meeting referral thresholds were managed internally by the Council or signposted to appropriate agencies.
90. During the same period, 27 internal Safeguarding Introduction sessions (Children & Adults) were delivered, attended by 401 staff members.

## Community Centres

91. The city boasts 16 operational [community centres, all owned by the Council](#).
92. 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.
93. 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.
94. Rose Hill Community Centre serves as a prime example of community engagement and locality working. It supports numerous organisations that work with children, young people, and their families 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 Department of Work and Pensions (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.
  - Stay and Play Groups: Free weekly sessions for parents with young children.
  - Other examples: Various art, karate, and kickboxing classes run by private groups.



## Growing Partnership working

95. 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.
96. 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.

## Educational Attainment – Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership

97. 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.
98. 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 Math's and better links between business and education to help shape career choices.
99. The [educational attainment working group](#) identified nine challenges to tackle in answer to the question: *'How might we improve educational attainment in Oxfordshire so that more 16-year-olds are aspirational and level 3 ready?'*:
  - How might Oxfordshire develop a mentoring scheme for Young People so that we promote identity, belonging and motivation?
  - How might Oxfordshire better share key information between one educational setting and another to improve identity, belonging and motivation?
  - How might Oxfordshire analyse achievement data more effectively so that we may identify and prioritise support to tackle disadvantage and discrimination
  - How might Oxfordshire extend the use of online/offline learning tools to overcome barriers to educational attainment of GCSE Math's?
  - How might Oxfordshire develop a framework to extend the voluntary workforce to support learning, and improve signposting to wider support?
  - How might Oxfordshire more effectively bring together all agencies to identify much earlier those Young People who are struggling in their educational journey?
  - How might Oxfordshire plan training and awareness to become a more Trauma Informed County?
  - How might Oxfordshire train and develop teachers to have increased awareness of the everyday challenges facing young people so that they can build better and more meaningful relationships that impact the learner experience?
  - How might Oxfordshire grow the parent advocate model, actively listening to more parents and responding to their issues and insights?

## Oxford's work in the Community Impact Zone

100. The [Community Impact Zone](#) (CIZ) is an initiative managed by Oxford Hub under a governance partnership between the Council, the 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.
101. 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.
102. 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.
103. 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.
104. It also brings agencies and organisations, including the Council, together to collaborate effectively in supporting local communities.
105. The CIZ works to tackle inequalities of health education and opportunity, delivered through initiatives that include:
  - More support to help children at school
  - Opportunities for children to learn to swim and ride a bike
  - A growing network of peer supports to support families to thrive.

## Youth Employment, Education and Training

106. In partnership with the Job Centre, the Council run a Youth Employment, Education, and Training (EET) Hub at Rose Hill Community Centre.
107. 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.

# Appendices

# Appendix Two: Oxfordshire Children's Trust Arrangements and Board Terms of Reference (2024-26)

## 1. Introduction

1.1 The Children's Trust Board brings together the public, private and voluntary sectors to improve outcomes and life experiences for all children and young people who live in the county. The Board focuses its actions on four priorities from the Children and Young People's 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 Voices and their influence over the services that shape their lives

1.2 The purpose of the Trust is to:

- Oversee the strategic intent of Oxfordshire multi-agency partners based upon the desired outcomes of Health and Wellbeing Board with a focus upon outcomes and implications for Children and Young People. Along with a focus on effective partnership working across Oxfordshire to best support Children and Young People.
- Drive a long-term Children and Young People's strategy and plan, designed to improve outcomes for children in Oxfordshire in relation to the agreed priority areas of 'Start Well, Live Well, Achieve Well.'
- To receive assurance in relation to the impact and progress of the strategic priorities and to review the impact of other strategic boards and committees in supporting those priorities and progression.
- Champion the involvement of Children, Young People, Parents and Carers in partnership, working with senior managers and politicians.
- Ensure the Health and Wellbeing Board and other partnerships are sighted on the key challenges and outcomes facing Children and Young People in Oxfordshire

1.3. This term of reference sets out the strategic, decision making and operational structure of the Children's Trust Board. This document will be reviewed in line with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the strategic priorities of the County Council and any refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan.

## 2. Responsibilities

2.1 The responsibilities of the Trust are to:

- Report and inform the Health and Wellbeing Board (this does not preclude consultation and reporting to other committees and boards focused upon outcomes for Children and Young People).
- Produce an overarching strategy focused upon key high-level outcomes using the delivery work of other strategic boards and committees to drive outcomes.
- Lead on the production, development and updates the Children and Young People's Plan.
- Review performance via the Children's Trust dataset which is overseen by the Performance, Audit and Quality Assurance Subgroup of both the Trust and Strategic

- Safeguarding Arrangements for Children and Young People in Oxfordshire.
- Encourage and promote integrated working between children's services, health and social care and other local services including voluntary and public sector services.

### 3. Structure

- 3.1 Membership: Members of the Trust are required to be of sufficient seniority to be able to:
- Speak for their organisation and make decisions
  - Commit their organisation on policy and practice matters
  - Hold their organisation to account and lead dissemination of communication into and out from their organisation/agency.
- 3.2 The Trust membership is drawn from each of the agencies or organisations set out below:
- Cabinet Member for Children and Families (OCC)
  - Children Education and Family Services (CEF: DCS and Deputy Directors)
  - Director of Public Health
  - Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (2 representatives)
  - The City and District Councils: one mandated representative from the District's and City Council on behalf of the others.
  - Thames Valley Police
  - Oxfordshire Children's Strategic Safeguarding Arrangements: Scrutineer
  - Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
  - Safer Oxfordshire Partnership
  - Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust
  - Representation from schools and colleges'
  - Members of the Children and Young People's Forum will represent the Third Sector
  - Healthwatch ambassador.
- 3.3 Membership will be reviewed in line with CYP strategy updates. Associated colleagues may be invited to attend for specific information and assurance items.
- 3.4 Time limited task and finish groups or specific Invitees: The Trust may, from time to time, establish working groups to pursue particular projects. These groups will be set up on a "task and finish" basis and will be dissolved once the project has been completed.
- 3.5 The Chair: The Trust will be chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services, Oxfordshire County Council.
- 3.6 Vice Chair: The Vice Chair will be a representative from any of the organisations represented at the Board. The role of the Vice Chair involves chairing and preparing meetings, approving minutes and reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board in the absence of the Chair and leading on agreed specific pieces of work. The duration of the role can be negotiated but continuity is expected given that the Board only meets four times a year.

#### **4. Administration**

4.1 Forward Plan: The Trust will produce an annual Forward Plan to ensure clearer oversight of key risks and issues across the system. The Forward Plan will support the overall strategic direction of service delivery with a focus of assurance and escalation of issues as appropriate.

#### 4.2 Meetings:

4.2.1 The Trust will meet four times a year and publish an annual plan for its meetings.

4.2.2 The agenda for three of the meetings will include a focus on at least one of the priorities listed above and include time to consider emerging and core business.

#### 4.2.3 Core business includes:

a. Performance monitoring and assurance

b. Updates from other statutory boards across the partnership

c. New and emerging national, regional, and local developments which impact on the business of the Trust.

4.2.4 Agendas will be published in advance of the meeting.

#### 4.3 Strategy and Plan review:

4.3.1 The Trust will review the programme of assurance in line with the strategies and direction of Health and Wellbeing.

#### **5. Communication, Consultation and Engagement**

5.1 The Trust is responsible via a range of mechanisms across the partnership for engaging and involving Children, Young People, their Families, Carers, and other local stakeholders to influence partnership plans that deliver outcomes for Children and Young People.

5.2 To achieve this, the Trust will work with specific partners and agency/partnership mechanisms on a range of participation, engagement, feedback, and the output of coproduction activity, to ensure that the voice of Children, Young People and Families influence and inform the priorities and assurance of the Trust.

#### **6. Confidentiality and Information Sharing**

6.1 Information used by the Children's Trust Board and provided to external bodies will be accurate, timely and fit for purpose.

6.2 Members of the Trust are encouraged to share information as required for the purpose of planning, developing, and monitoring partnership projects and services by ensuring all data is in line with the Data Protection Act 1998.

6.3 All members of the Trust are responsible for communicating any relevant information to their organisation unless that information is deemed confidential to a particular meeting.

#### **7. Values**

The Children's Trust Board will be:

7.2 Strategic - members of the Trust can take a strategic overview, to implement system change and thinking and to influence decision making and delivery within their organisation

7.3 Inclusive – the Trust will be a partnership of equals, actively involving all the key players in the public, private, voluntary and community sectors and children and young people

7.4 Outcome focused – The Trust will establish common priorities together with agreed

actions and milestones that lead to demonstrable improvements against measurable baselines

7.5 A body that promotes equality – the Trust will serve the needs of all children and young people regardless of age, sex, disability, race, religion, belief, or sexual orientation.

## Appendix Three: Oxford Community Impact Funding, 2024 - 2025

2024-25 FUNDING AMOUNT	ORGANISATION	FEEDBACK
£7,500	Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground (BLAP)	One Thursday this year we took a spot check on the register. 76% of the children that day were having free school meals. It is relatively new for us to be able to know the numbers but the County Holiday play scheme fund for those on free school meals now means we know our numbers far more accurately. Children at BLAP come from many nationalities. We have children from Africa, from Asia and from the Caribbean and many from Eastern Europe as well as many from the UK. They mix well together; we are clear that racial comments will not be tolerated but on the very rare occasion this happens we are very careful to explain why the comment was not acceptable as they might be using expressions learnt at home. On occasion we have also explained our reasoning to a parent. We have received funding from Oxfordshire Community Foundation to help fund the free school meals children at the After School Club. This has helped many families but has meant we need to seek further funding for these children as the financial issues remain for these children when the funding has ended. We are careful to make sure that no child can see from the register which children are funded and which come free.
£8,000	Donnington Doorstep Family Centre	Doorstep has fostered an inclusive environment that supports families, children & young people from diverse backgrounds. Cultural Competency Training: We provide staff with comprehensive training to enhance their understanding of different cultural, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds, ensuring all families feel respected and valued.
£15,000 342	EMBS Community College Ltd	Students from a range of backgrounds, including Afghanistan wanted to improve their confidence with communicating 'on the street'. Inside the classroom they learned crucial skills for improving their life skills, including language around medicine, shopping and employability. They visited the local Oxfam to put these skills into practice, and teachers organised trips and visits to museums, and local sites.
£20,000	Fusion Arts	Fusion Arts strives for equality and delivers social justice and equity work as a means to striving for this. Story Makers – supported children in deprived areas of Oxford with speech, language and communication need. We worked with young people to support silver arts awards with YWMP. Delivered Lantern making workshops and supported 98 participatory arts sessions working with over 540 children and young people. Supported that African and Caribbean Heritage community as well as other marginalised groups from the Global Majority led grassroots groups – such as working alongside Help the World Oxford and sessions and internships for Faustine Petron from Make it Mandatory. Hosted the Caribbean Living Room Exhibition, supported Windrush Festival and Fusion Arts also fundraised and took on the management of Oxford Cultural Anti Racism Alliance. We supported Oxford Community Action with creative arts holiday sessions for children and families. We were able to host numerous community and local artist led exhibitions with over 1900 visitors attending shows at our 95 Gloucester Green space. <a href="https://fusion-arts.org/articles">https://fusion-arts.org/articles</a> (examples here as articles to a number of exhibitions and projects)
£8,000	Home-Start Oxford	This year we have continued to deliver our non-judgemental, free support to families who have at least one child under the age of 5 through both 1:1 home-visiting, and a raft of inclusive, nurturing groups.

£6,500	Justice in Motion	Our creative practice uniquely uses physical theatre, dance and disciplines such as parkour and trials bikes to engage audiences and participants with difficult social issues. We have developed our own narrative-based movement style, which sits at the core of our approach to delivering programmes, and we are intent on continuing to innovate and explore, building on the learning and experiences from the residencies, workshops and creation process we have delivered to date.
£9,500	Leys Community Development Initiative (Leys CDI)	A combination of health and wellbeing, isolation eradication, mental wellbeing and educational sessions have been organised and run by CDI during the reporting period that have witnessed in excess of 500 different juniors and seniors participating and benefiting from the activities. Stories detailing many of the success stories of the project are visible on CDI's regularly updated website and attached is a video of our juniors on our Summer 2024 course. <a href="https://youtu.be/qrzxt-xbeqq">https://youtu.be/qrzxt-xbeqq</a>
£6,500	Makespace Oxford	We aimed to create an event space that is genuinely safe, welcoming, and accessible, especially for families with young children and those with neurodiverse needs. This inspired three unique resources: Playkit: A pop-up play space with open-ended playthings for children of various ages, accommodating parents who need their children with them. Sensory Kit: Includes adjustable ear defenders, fidget toys, sunglasses, and pen and paper to support neurodiverse individuals who communicate better with less stimulation. Many Voices Collection: A selection of books for children and young people by Black authors, featuring Black protagonists, or carrying an anti-racist message. The Communities Coordinator ensures access needs are met by meeting with each prospective hirer, showcasing available resources, and addressing specific needs. Makespace nurtures relationships and supports underrepresented groups by securing grants for rent support and providing space for key activities in art, music, theatre, domestic abuse, and criminal justice reform. The Community Works events space also regularly hosts racial justice, youth advocacy, Queer Action groups, support for Ukrainian families, Solidarity events, and BAME-led grassroots activities. Additionally, it supports a permanent resident running Oxford's first female Black-owned restaurant.
£6,500	Mandala Theatre Company	Mandala's work enables young people and young artists to have pathways into employment, especially into the Creative industries, we are one of only two Global majority led cultural organisations in Oxford. Our professional company ran workshops and presented Rehearsed Readings of our new project 'Seed Guardians' which focuses on Food Poverty in the UK and Sustainability, to Oxford Schools and colleges, as well as to local community groups, which included many young people seeking asylum and refugees.
343	Oxford Hub	The Community Participation Manager has supported a number of our key projects to develop their participation. We have opened our new Windale Hub, in The Leys, which the Participation Manager co-ordinates as a free space for existing or new ideas for community support - often and including peer support activities. Our Steering Group, consisting of representatives from a number of our user groups, helps refine the Windale space and our support offer. Our coffee morning for parents with young children runs from here, led by a local parent and supported by our Parent Power Team. Our Puzzles group is now run by a local volunteer in partnership with a student volunteer. The Monday BAME Talking Cafe is also co-facilitated by one of our team alongside a local volunteer. Additionally, we host external providers such as the Bee Empowered Family Fitness session - a local mum who we provided with support to access our Participatory Grants and introduced to AfiUK as a host organisation to incubate her idea until they were self-sustaining. Our PGM project this year engaged and trained 7 panelists to evaluate funding proposals and determine funding to improve health and wellbeing for the local area.

<p><b>£20,000</b></p>	<p>Oxford Playhouse</p>	<p>Removing financial barriers to attendance/engagement: Accessible pricing (£10 entry points), c2000 free carer tickets annually. Every year we distribute 2,500 tickets free of charge to communities, individuals and school groups who would otherwise not be able to attend, by partnering with local and regional organisations and charities, often working with communities who often feel under-represented, and those who may need to access creativity in an adapted way. Accessible performance options: c40 BSL interpreted, audio described, captioned, dementia and autism friendly performances annually. Targeting social change and structural inequality: We run a dynamic and wide-ranging participation programme, averaging around 15,000 beneficiary contacts per year – whether working closely with some of Oxford’s inner city schools to improve literacy, or working with partners including Age UK to deliver programmes for the later-in-life. Our creative education programme targets areas of deprivation where access to arts education is limited or non-existent. This year Primary Playmaker supported 450 children in 10 state primary schools to write their very own original play. The average across these schools of: EAL pupils is 25% (UK average 22%). Of these, 4 schools had over 35% of EAL pupils, with one at 57%. Pupils receiving SEN support 17.6% (UK average 13.5%). 3 schools at 25% and above. Pupils receiving free school meals 25.7% (UK average 25.9%). 3 schools at 38%, 48% and 50% “It’s the kind of venture that quite simply changes children’s lives through broadening aspirations and horizons” Head Teacher.</p>
<p><b>£12,000</b></p>	<p>Oxford Youth Enterprise Ltd (Name It Youth Project)</p>	<p>Our project was able to expand further and enable more girls and young women to access the project. Young women, in particular teenage girls often find barriers in accessing Green Spaces due to a multitude of reasons. Our project enables deeper discussion, awareness, empowerment for the young women to become proactive and more confident in asserting their rights to access green spaces and to demand from local authorities to support their cause through developing their ideas</p>
<p><b>£5,000</b></p>	<p>Oxfordshire Science Festival (known as "IF Oxford")</p>	<p>We continuously work to include more diverse representation in our programming, volunteers, staff and trustees because this is one way to better attract audiences more representative of the population.</p>
<p><b>£20,000</b></p>	<p>The Story Museum</p>	<p>The Big Ideas grant enables us to continue working towards reducing the inequality of educational attainment in Oxford and tackling high levels of illiteracy in underprivileged areas. We have delivered year-long partnerships with 7 primary schools through which 2,683 pupils and 120 teachers have benefitted from school trips and Museum visits to their school, and of which 120 pupils and 32 teachers receive in-depth, sustained provision targeted at their stated needs. We also worked with 4 family centres in priority areas boosting oracy, literacy, confidence, and wellbeing, amongst very young children helping them prepare for starting school. We continue to distribute Dream Tickets to the participants of all our funded projects so that they can visit the Museum with their families. 309 Dream Tickets offering £1 entry to the Museum have been redeemed and 320 Bursary places to our skills courses were taken up. As an example of our community work, Week of Welcome saw 103 adults and children who have experienced forced displacement visit the Museum for storytelling and craft activities. Through our Learning and Participation programme we reached 13,417 children and families. This includes 2,130 early years, 7,910 from primary schools, 1,056 secondary school students, and 412 teachers.</p>
<p><b>£5,000</b></p>	<p>Wood Farm Youth Centre</p>	<p>Over the last year the Youth Centre has provided support for an estimated 50 young people, many of whom are from low-income households. This support has been delivered by our part time youth worker and local volunteers at weekly sessions held at the youth centre and by undertaking outreach work on the Wood Farm estate. The COVID lockdowns have had a considerable impact on the numbers attending the youth centre and we are now only beginning to get back to the number of pre - COVID contacts the staff team had with young people. The staff team also work with parents on the estate and this has resulted in the setting up of support group, called 'Reach', for women who are experiencing mental health issues. The support group meets weekly at the youth centre and is attended by 10 - 12 local women.</p>

<p><b>£5,000</b></p>	<p>Young Women's Music Project</p>	<p>In 2023, more than 250 young women, trans and non-binary people attended YWMP workshop activities, with many of these young people coming from under-privileged or vulnerable backgrounds, and NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training), some of whom live in the most deprived 5% of areas in England. These young people are often vulnerable, some being survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, homelessness, and more. YWMP empowers women, trans and non-binary people by providing musical education and skills development. The sessions provide a creative outlet to work through problems and a supportive safe space to form social links. Data we have collected after the sessions has demonstrated that young people who have previously experienced social problems have grown in confidence and gained skills that have allowed them to go back into education, find themselves work and built up enough confidence to socialise again. Our project provides social interaction, self-exploration, information on opportunities, access to a network of other like-minded people, and education opportunities that are vitally empowering for young people who may not access these things for free elsewhere.</p> <p><a href="https://youtu.be/4q91DZg6nnE">https://youtu.be/4q91DZg6nnE</a></p>
<p><b>£1,375</b></p>	<p>AT The Bus</p>	<p>S loved the cinema and Didcot railway centre, thank you so much, he always has such a wonderful time with Yellow Sub, oh and he loved his cheese on toast at Truck'</p> <p>'J loved Drayton Manor! Thank you for putting on such great activities. '</p> <p>'E had a wonderful day in Bournemouth thank you so much. 'The Beattie Method intentionally designs spaces that are inclusive of all identities, cultures, belief systems, socioeconomic backgrounds and accessibility needs. We continued to welcome and value each student for every aspect of themselves. We centred on our students' voices, listened actively and deeply, appreciated and affirmed their perspectives and contributions, and did not make assumptions about their experiences. In every area of our work, we continued to take proactive measures to create conditions of equality, promote diversity and uphold dignity for all. As a dynamic, reflexive practice, the Beattie Method continues to further evolve in pursuance of these goals. This funding has been significant, helping us to improve educational and wellbeing outcomes for 28 children during the Summer 24 Term, and ensuring a full academic year of delivery. Referral data from last academic term (Summer 24) has highlighted the high level of need at Greyfriars school which is in an area of significant disadvantage. 50% of students were 'pupil premium' (national average 21%), 75% of our referred cohort were SEN, 21% had English as an Additional Language and over 40 languages are spoken by pupils with 60% from an ethnic minority.</p>
<p><b>£1,000</b></p>	<p>Anne Griffiths</p>	<p>Specific workshop was targeted and the young adults with learning difficulties who attend Yellow Submarine</p>
<p><b>£475</b></p>	<p>Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra</p>	<p>This project delivered music education to a primary school in a historically deprived area. The school, Windale Primary, is a small state-funded academy primary school in the Blackbird Leys area of Oxford with children from a range of cultural backgrounds. 43.5% of children are eligible for free school meals. People who attended state schools are consistently underrepresented among professionals in the music industry.</p>

<p><b>£ 1,375</b></p>	<p>Jacari</p>	<p>We have supported 45 children and young people from migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking communities in Oxford so far, this academic year. These children are from some of the most diverse communities in the city. Many have recently arrived and are new to English. Regular tutoring from a Jacari volunteer has contributed to reducing the educational inequality experienced by these children by giving them the confidence and English language skills to participate at school and access an education. It has also helped reduce social isolation and help these children feel included and welcomed at their school and within the wider community.</p> <p>We have also facilitated bringing together diverse communities in the city as our volunteers are mostly university students, visiting their pupils in a part of a city they may not otherwise visit and getting to know a different side of Oxford. This has also given their pupils contact with university students so they can hear what it's like to study at Oxford and experience a side of the city they may otherwise be excluded from.</p> <p>We also organised one trip for our pupils to Oxford City Farm in November 2024 which gave them access to somewhere in their community which they may not have experienced before.</p>
<p><b>£350</b></p>	<p>BeFree Young Carers</p>	<p>The young carers who use our Befriending service have been identified by our youth workers as the young carers who require an additional level of support. Whether this is because of the challenging situations they face in their home life or external disadvantage including levels of poverty which might mean that the activities they take part in outside of school are often limited compared to their peers. In taking part in the befriending programme, they can have time where they have the attention of the adult who can facilitate activities that they are interested in and might otherwise not be able to experience. Additionally, it gives them the chance to talk about the challenges that they are facing, and this can be beneficial to receive guidance or for the befrienders to be able to gain sign posting recommendations from the Be Free Young Carers team.</p>
<p><b>£1,300</b></p>	<p>EMBS Community College</p>	<p>Students from a range of backgrounds, including Afghanistan wanted to improve their confidence with communicating 'on the street'. Inside the classroom they learned crucial skills for improving their life skills, including language around medicine, shopping and employability. They visited the local Oxfam to put these skills into practice, and teachers organised trips and visits to museums, and local sites.</p>
<p><b>£250</b></p>	<p>Young Art Oxford</p>	<p>We received almost 3,500 entries from participating schools. Selecting pictures for the exhibition was done on a 1 in 5 basis for every participating schools. This provided a more level playing field for those schools with poorer art facilities. Over 600 pictures were selected for the exhibition at the Ashmolean.</p> <p>We worked with three independent schools to gain participation from state schools. This involved bringing children from those schools into the independent school for a day of art (and in some cases drama and music too). Art produced on the day was submitted to the exhibition. Schools were encouraged to pay visits to the exhibition - some children attended that had never been to a museum before. Many more came with their families.</p> <p>We maintained a £2 entry fee to keep costs as low as possible. Entry to the Exhibition was free at all times.</p>

<p><b>£ 700</b></p>	<p>Tiny Ideas</p>	<p>During 2024 we reached families in areas of deprivation in Oxford with our outreach programme of free Early Years shows of 'Material Monsters, Fabric Friends' in local libraries, as well as offering free and low-cost events at our Tiny Ideas festival. We also offered free tickets to paid for festival events to families attending the library performances or the OCC Early Years Project.</p> <p>Material Monsters, Fabric Friends is a sensory show we developed through workshops with the SEN group at Barton Park Primary, and with access consultant and director Robyn Olivia. A fully accessible show, all performances, including library shows, were relaxed and included Makaton, improving access for many families. As part of the wider festival, we prioritised programming relaxed and accessible performances, and Ms Olivia provided wider accessibility advice to both Tiny Ideas and our partner venues.</p> <p>We successfully reflected the diversity of our audiences with at least 50% of the creative freelancers hired or programmed representing marginalised groups (those identifying as female, LGBTQI+, deaf, disabled, or neurodivergent, or from the global majority).</p>
<p><b>£ 350</b></p>	<p>Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra</p>	<p>Without FUNomusica concerts, children in Oxfordshire have no way to access classical music in a setting that allows them to move around, interact, and express themselves in the ways children need.</p>
<p><b>£300</b></p>	<p>Peep</p>	<p>Our Peep SEND group – which this grant has contributed to - plays a vital role in promoting equality and inclusion in areas of high deprivation by supporting families of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We provide a welcoming, accessible and inclusive environment where all families feel valued, regardless of the challenges they are facing. By offering free, targeted support, we help reduce barriers to participation that many SEND families face, such as financial constraints, social isolation or a lack of accessible activities. Our sessions focus on early learning, communication, physical and social development, empowering parents with practical strategies to support their child's progress at home. Our Peep SEND group has created peer support networks of SEND parents, which help to reduce the isolation many SEND families, particularly experience. These networks create a sense of belonging, inclusion and shared understanding. Through making contact with families through the group, and through using our local networks, we also signpost families to further support to promote their inclusion and wellbeing.</p>
<p><b>£750</b></p>	<p>The Story Museum</p>	<p>Story Connectors provides young people with free courses to develop creative skills, confidence, and wellbeing. The Community Impact Fund enabled us to deliver 3 courses in Rose Hill and Barton over the course of the year. These areas are among the 20% most deprived in England with fewer opportunities for extra-curricular activities and cultural learning. We offer this skill development courses free of charge to directly address inequality in these communities for young people's learning and skills development.</p> <p>The 3 courses on Zine making, podcasting, and filmmaking helped young people to gain new creative skills, develop their confidence, and broaden their understanding of heritage. We worked with professional artists to deliver workshops which helped participants to meet new role models and explore alternative career opportunities.</p> <p>For sessions held at the museum, we covered the cost of transport and brought young people into the city centre who would not normally visit. We encourage all young people to come into the city and access the cultural opportunities available here, not just The Story Museum. We provided all participants with tickets to come back for just £1, increasing their confidence to return to a familiar venue at a reduced cost.</p>

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