

ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED
(A Company limited by Guarantee – Reg.No.04536406)

Registered Charity No. 1104861

ANNUAL REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED

31st March 2024

ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED

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ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED

Legal and administrative details

Status	The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 16 th September 2002 and registered as a charity in August 2004.
Governing document	The Company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.
Company Number	04536406
Charity Number	1104861
Registered Office	Peppermint Healthy Living Centre Franklin Way Croydon Surrey CR0 4YD
Directors/Trustees	Beverley Noble - Chair Judith Osakwe Amanda Tucker
Chief Executive	Lauraine Nicholson
Company Secretary	Beverley Noble
Bankers	HSBC plc 9 Wellesley Road Croydon, Surrey CR9 2AA
Independent Examiner	Peter Mills ACA CTA Palmer McCarthy Suite 70, Capital Business Centre 22 Carlton Road, South Croydon, CR2 0BS

ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Objectives and Activities

Acorns 2 Oaks was originally set up as CRSSC Ltd to provide childcare services to families within the Broad Green area as a result of the Broad Green Sure Start programme being operational in the area. The capital to build the Centres to deliver these services was an investment from Broad Green Sure Start.

Canterbury Centre has operated as a community-based Day Nursery since June 2003. Peppermint Centre provided a Nursery & Pre-School from July 2005 until September 2014 when the provision then changed to a term-time Pre-School.

Both settings aim to provide quality and affordable childcare to working parents living in the Broad Green area, supporting parents to access and sustain employment, and thereby furthering the charity's purposes for the public benefit. The charity's strategy, in order to achieve its aims and objectives, is to employ quality staff and maintain its facilities. The charity measures its success by the number of children and families that make use of its services.

Acorns 2 Oaks believes that a placement for a student or volunteer within our organisation is a valuable opportunity to build experience whilst learning about working within this sector. Equally, we appreciate the positive contribution that such committed and enthusiastic people can bring.

The Trustees have had regard to the guidelines set out by the Charities Commission on Public Benefit when reviewing its aims and objectives and in planning for the future.

Achievements and Performance

The year saw an increase of nursery placements due to the 30 hour funding offer. The nurseries continue to be promoted within the local community to increase uptake further. One of the three vacant Peppermint offices is now occupied by the Surgery, it is still the hope that a local organisation occupies the remaining one on a long term service agreement.

Financial Review

The year ended 31st March 2024 resulted in a deficit of £64,239 (2023: £48,267 deficit). This deficit is attributable to:

- ◆ Whilst 30 hour funding increased funded income by 10%, fee paying income subsequently reduced by 20%
- ◆ Venue hire, from private hirers, was less than the prior year.
- ◆ Staff salaries increased again due to change to minimum wage. Whilst the nursery fees and venue hire were increased with the hope to cover this, the reduction in hall hire and fee paying placements counteracted this.
- ◆ Increase in maintenance, utilities and suppliers costs.

The only other income received was Service Charges from AT Medics (NHS Croydon) for use of the premises

The charity's reserves were again used to support the loss in revenue, ensuring that the running costs could be met, and the aims and objectives of the charity were upheld. The charity's policy is to hold an adequate level of reserves in order to meet future operational costs that may not be sufficiently covered by income. The charity had closing reserves on 31st March 2024 of £47,360, of which £1,372 are restricted (2023: reserves of £111,599 of which £1,372 were restricted). The charity considers this level of reserves to be in line with its policy.

The principal risk to the charity is a reduction to the government free education and childcare funding, which is the charity's main source of income. The risk is mitigated by the charity seeking other income streams, such as the hiring of its hall to community groups.

Plans for the Future

Acorns 2 Oaks' main objective for the coming year is to:

- ◆ promote the nurseries in order to return to full capacity
- ◆ market the hire facilities and to include weekend community events
- ◆ explore funding opportunities to support the development of the outside play area and to improve the presentation and usage of the building.
- ◆ consider working with a marketing person (trainee / intern / volunteer) that can provide a level of intervention & support

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document is detailed on the information page attached to these accounts.

The company is governed by the Directors who are volunteers, as listed on the information page attached to these accounts. The major risks to which the company is exposed to are reviewed regularly by the Directors and management, and systems have been put in place to mitigate those risks.

Trustees are trained on their responsibilities initially on induction and periodically thereafter. The Board continues to advertise for Trustees.

The Trustees review and set the remuneration of key management personnel, having had regard to the recent performance of the charity when carrying out the review.

The charity does not carry out significant fundraising activities.

Directors Responsibilities

The Directors are required by UK company law to prepare the financial statements for each financial year, in accordance with applicable law and regulations and in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Company law requires the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the statement of financial activity for that period.

In preparing the financial statements the Directors are required to:

- i) Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- ii) Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent

- iii) State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- iv) Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and that enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act.

The Directors are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Where appropriate, the Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website. It is important to bear in mind that legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the Board



Beverley Noble - Chair

Date: 31st October 2024

ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

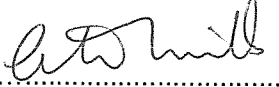
Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



6/11/2024

Peter Mills ACA CTA
Independent Examiner
Palmer McCarthy
Chartered Certified Accountants
Suite 70, Capital Business Centre, 22 Carlton Road
South Croydon, CR2 0BS

ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)****For the year ended 31 March 2024**

	£	2024 £		2023 £
Incoming resources				
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
Charitable Activities - Note 3	474,132	-	474,132	450,297
Other Trading Activities - Note 4	71,763	-	71,763	78,391
Investment Income - Note 6	3,094	-	3,094	762
Total Incoming resources	548,989	-	548,989	529,450
Expenditure on Charitable Activities- Note 7	613,228	-	613,228	577,717
Total Expenditure	613,228	-	613,228	577,717
Net movement in funds	(64,239)	-	(64,239)	(48,267)
Total funds brought forward	110,227	1,372	111,599	159,866
Total funds carried forward	45,988	1,372	47,360	111,599

ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED

Company Registration number 04536406

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Intangible asset - note 9	-	-
Tangible assets - note 10	-	-
	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors and prepayments - note 11	4,719	7,050
Cash at bank and in hand	200,120	241,748
	204,839	248,798
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and accruals - note 12	(157,479)	(137,199)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	47,360	111,599
Total assets less liabilities	47,360	111,599
Financed by:		
Unrestricted funds - note 13	45,988	110,227
Restricted funds - note 13	1,372	1,372
Total funds	47,360	111,599

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at the end of its financial year, and of its income and expenditure for the financial year in accordance with sections 394 & 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, and in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102) and were approved by the Trustee Board on 31st October 2024.



Beverley Noble – Chair

ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS****For the year ended 31 March 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
Net Cash Provided by/(Used in) operating activities (note 17)	<u>(44,722)</u>	<u>5,107</u>
Cash Flows from investing activities		
Investment Income	3,094	762
Purchase of Fixed Assets	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash Provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>3,094</u>	<u>762</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	(41,628)	5,869
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<u>241,748</u>	<u>235,879</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u><u>200,120</u></u>	<u><u>241,748</u></u>

ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

Company information

The Company is a private company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales under Company Number 04536406. The company is a registered charity under charity number 1104861. The company's principal activity and operations are that of providing pre-school education, childcare and youth services. The registered office address is Peppermint Healthy Living Centre, Franklin Way, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 4YD.

a) Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102). The Charitable Company is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS102 and therefore the Charity also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102)), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements are prepared in pounds sterling which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

b) Going concern

There were no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt upon the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Incoming Resources

Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities and Grants receivable are accounted for on an accruals basis. All other income is accounted for on an as received basis.

d) Resources Expended

All expenditure is included in the accounts on an accruals basis.

e) Amortisation of Goodwill

The cost of Goodwill was written off over 10 years, being the estimated useful economic life of the asset

f) Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible Fixed Assets are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided on the straight line basis at rates calculated to write off the cost of the relevant asset over their expected useful economic life. The depreciation rates used are as follows:

Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	25%
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ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

g) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand and deposits held with banks.

h) Recognition of liabilities

Expenditure approved for payment but not paid are recorded as liabilities in the balance sheet. Current liabilities consist of amounts expected to be settled within 12 months from the balance sheet date

i) Debtors

Debtors are recorded at transaction price and are impaired where there is evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the original recognition of the debtor, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

j) Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either

- a. Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees;
- b. Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity

k) Activities in furtherance of the Charities objectives comprises nursery fees to third parties, including fees funded by Local Authority.

l) Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty.

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods. The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements:

The company makes an estimate of the accrual relating to premises costs, included within current liabilities (see note 16 for the liability recognised in these financial statements).

The company makes an estimate of the recoverable value of debtors. When assessing impairment of debtors, management considers the ageing profile of debtors and historical experience (see note 11 for the carrying value).

ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements

2. Net Movement in Funds

Net Movement in Funds is Stated after Charging
(including VAT)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Operating lease expense	7,500	1,815
Independent Examination fees	2,550	2,490
Other services provided by Independent Examiner	2,520	2,520
Amortisation	-	-
Depreciation	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

3. Charitable Activities Income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Family services grant	-	-
Free education funding	427,196	389,429
Childcare placements	44,902	56,786
Other nursery income	1,982	1,725
Fundraising events	52	2,357
	<u>474,132</u>	<u>450,297</u>

4. Other Trading Activities Income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income From Hall Hire	43,233	51,048
Service Charges	<u>28,530</u>	<u>27,343</u>
	<u>71,763</u>	<u>78,391</u>

ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

5. Staff Costs and numbers:

The Costs incurred in respect of employees were:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries & Wages	453,301	429,992
Social Security Costs	21,699	19,460
Defined Contribution Pension Costs	7,415	6,507
	<u>482,415</u>	<u>455,959</u>

No employee earned over £60,000 during the year under review.

The average number of staff employed during the year was:

	2024	2023
Office & Administration	4	3
Direct Charitable work	34	36
Total	<u>38</u>	<u>39</u>

Key management personnel remuneration totalled £133,981 (2023: £132,491)

6. Investment Income

	2024	2022
	£	£
Bank Interest Received	<u>3,094</u>	<u>762</u>

7. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	2024			2023
	Staff Costs	Others	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Childcare Placements	482,415	3,419	485,834	457,690
Establishment Costs	-	48,941	48,941	47,000
Catering	-	4,831	4,831	4,610
Educational Equipment	-	5,819	5,819	5,107
Governance Costs	-	5,340	5,340	5,280
Other	-	62,463	62,463	58,030
	<u>482,415</u>	<u>130,813</u>	<u>613,228</u>	<u>577,717</u>

8. Corporation Tax

The Company is a registered Charity and is not subject to Corporation Tax on its activities.

ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

9. Intangible Fixed Assets		
		Goodwill
		£
Cost at 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024		<u>15,000</u>
Amortisation		
at 1st April 2023		15,000
Charge For the Year		-
at 31st March 2024		<u>15,000</u>
Net Book Value at 31st March 2024		<u>-</u>
Net Book Value at 31st March 2023		<u>-</u>
10. Tangible Fixed Assets		
		Fixtures, Fittings & Equip.
		£
Cost at 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024		<u>10,033</u>
Depreciation		
at 1st April 2023		10,033
Charge for the Year		-
at 31st March 2024		<u>10,033</u>
Net Book Value at 31st March 2024		<u>-</u>
Net Book Value at 31st March 2023		<u>-</u>
11. Debtors & Prepayments		
	2024	2023
	£	£
Debtors arising from Charitable activities	-	-
Debtors arising from other trading activities	400	4,483
Prepayments	<u>4,319</u>	<u>2,567</u>
	<u>4,719</u>	<u>7,050</u>
12. Creditors & Accruals		
	2024	2023
	£	£
Creditors arising from Charitable activities	9,318	6,051
Taxes and Social Security	7,129	6,333
Accruals	<u>141,032</u>	<u>124,815</u>
	<u>157,479</u>	<u>137,199</u>

ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

13. Movement in Funds

	Balance 1 Apr 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance 31 Mar 2024 £
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	110,227	548,989	(613,229)	45,987
<u>Restricted Funds</u>				
Peppermint Grant	42	-	-	42
Crosfield Grant	1,330	-	-	1,330
	1,372	-	-	1,372
<u>Total</u>	111,599	548,989	(613,229)	47,359

The Peppermint Grant and the Crosfield Grant are for the purpose of future capital expenditure.

14. Summary of assets and liabilities between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Debtors	4,719	-	4,719
Cash	198,748	1,372	200,120
Creditors	(157,479)	-	(157,479)
Net Assets	45,988	1,372	47,360

15. Trustees Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

No member of the Management Committee or Trustees received any remuneration during the year.

Where trustees of the company have children placed at the nursery they pay the full nursery fee for that placement.

No Trustee was reimbursed expenses by the charity.

There were no related party transactions that require disclosure.

ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

16. Contingent Liabilities

At 31st March 2024 the company had no contingent liabilities or capital commitments not provided for in these accounts. Creditors includes £137,213 (2023: £117,713) provided as a contingent liability in respect of service charges that have not been charged to the company by Croydon Council.

17. Reconciliation of net movements in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net Movement in Funds	(64,239)	(48,267)
Deduct Investment Income	(3,094)	(762)
Decrease (Increase) in Debtors	2,331	34,118
Increase (Decrease) in Creditors	20,280	20,018
Net Cash Provided by/(Used in) operating activities	<u>(44,722)</u>	<u>5,107</u>

18. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2024 £
<u>Cash and cash equivalents</u>			
Cash	241,748	(41,628)	200,120

The company has no borrowings.

19. Operating Lease Commitments

The company has operating lease commitments in relation to the rental of the premises used in the furtherance of its activities, as follows:

Future minimum operating lease payments	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	7,500	7,500
Between two and five years	30,000	30,000
In over five years	87,500	95,000
	<u>125,500</u>	<u>132,500</u>

ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED

The following page does not form part the Statutory Financial Statements

ACORNS2OAKS LIMITED**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT****For the year ended 31 March 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income Receivable		
Free education funding	427,196	389,429
Childcare fees	44,902	56,786
Bank interest	3,094	762
Fundraising events	52	2,357
Other nursery income	1,982	1,725
Hall hire	43,233	51,048
Service charges	28,530	27,343
Total Income Receivable	548,989	529,450
Premises costs	48,941	47,000
Staff salaries	453,301	429,992
Employer's NI	21,699	19,460
Pensions	7,415	6,507
Staff training and information	2,820	1,321
Staff DBS Checks	599	410
Catering	4,831	4,610
Children social activities/educational	968	3,418
Cleaning and domestic supplies	32,618	31,320
Clinical waste	3,088	3,023
Expendable equipment	5,819	5,107
Insurance	4,241	3,297
Office supplies	1,554	1,171
Telephone, postage, fax and internet	6,870	7,450
Bank charges	729	754
Sundry expenses	1,082	430
Subscriptions	1,162	641
OFSTED registration	270	270
IT Maintenance & Software	7,784	6,526
Audit and professional fees	5,070	5,010
Professional fees	2,367	-
Total admin & overhead expenses	613,228	577,717
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(64,239)	(48,267)