



Registered Charity no:
1121458



Annual Report

1 August 2022- July 31st 2023



Introduction

Building for the Future is a fantastic Wokingham-based, parent-led, grassroots-funded charity set up in 2007. It has provided a fabulous custom-designed play space called “Our House” which has been meeting the needs of local children and young people with disabilities since 2014 at which it has offered activities, support and therapy.

The charity works in partnership with other disability/community groups to provide a joined-up local service and is very proud to have been awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. This award has helped the charity gain support from a large number of local and national businesses.

“Building for the Future is an outstanding charity which supports disabled children in my constituency and across Wokingham Borough. I have keenly observed and supported its progress since its foundation in 2007. “Our House” allows disabled children and their families to come together, find support and information and access therapies. It provides a range of facilities and is a truly impressive achievement.” Rt Hon Theresa May.

The Need

11% of children in the UK have a disability - equating to an estimated 4,200 children in Wokingham Borough alone, or 48,000 across East Berkshire. For these children, the most common reported impairments are Autistic Spectrum Disorder (41%) and mental health (30%). 63% have a learning disability and 5% have a physical disability.ⁱ

Receiving a diagnosis of disability can be a frightening and overwhelming experience for families. 72% families of disabled children report feeling isolated, detached or without an adequate supportive network. Many of the children we support report feeling visibly different, facing bullying, and struggling to make friends. It is essential to provide these children with a safe and inclusive environment where they can learn, play, and thrive without fear of judgement or discrimination.

In our immediate area, there is a specific concern regarding the increase in additional needs being recognised in the early years and approximately 30% of children in the Reading/Wokingham area are estimated to be “not school ready”. These children may be struggling with communication and language skills, personal and social development, physical development and curiosity. Without early intervention and support, these challenges can significantly hinder their educational progress and overall development. These children urgently need early intervention and support.

Building for the Future recognises the critical need for a safe space where families can come together, share their experiences, and find solace and support from others navigating similar journeys. We are committed to addressing these pressing needs and creating a brighter future for disabled children,

young people, and their families. With your continued support, we can make a lasting impact and ensure that every child has access to the resources, support, and opportunities they deserve.

Our Vision and Mission

Our Vision

Building For The Future aims to bring parents of disabled children together in order to raise the profile of disabled children, raise awareness of issues that families with disabled children face and to continue to operate its purpose-designed community centre for disabled children and their families to use.

Our Mission

To enable the disabled community to thrive by providing access to

- Facilities
- Support
- Therapy

all of which is informed by those living with disabilities and their carers.

Our solutions

Our House

Building for the Future provides the only community centre for all disabled children and their families in Wokingham and the surrounding areas. Our building, in the heart of Wokingham, is a place where disabled children feel welcomed and appreciated regardless of the nature of their challenges. A place which provides comfort and support for all the family as well as somewhere to socialise, play and enjoy the facilities.

‘Our House’ is a unique accessible play centre with a range of facilities, including soft play, a sensory room, teen chill-out zone, PCs, gaming and free play area. At ‘Our House’, disabled children can relax, have fun and be truly valued and accepted for who they are.

Services that we currently offer include:

- A specialist weekly pre-school session (Ladybirds)
- Regular weekend family play schemes for children with different levels of disability
- Holiday family play sessions
- Monthly youth group for teenagers
- Regular facilities hire for local disability groups such as Busy Bees, Activate Learning, Wokingham Borough Council HAF Programme
- Special Key Events e.g. Christmas Parties, Easter Egg Hunts, visiting entertainment e.g. local theatre group, circus, animal/pet groups, science sessions etc.

- Parent information and support sessions hosted by BFTF and run in-house by outside specialists - e.g. sleep workshop, sensory integration, online safety, DLA form completion.



private parties/events.

- Service-signposting and information library for parents covering a range of needs and disabilities.
- Offering our accessible centre for small disability groups to hire at reduced rates such as Reading College's educational offering to young adults with profound and multiple learning difficulties.
- Hiring out of accessible facilities for

Building for the Future Plus

Unfortunately, local provision for adults with disabilities is very poor. There are major gaps in provision for day services, social activities and employment opportunities. There is limited capacity for residential care, supported living arrangements, day programs and other adult social care services. Many areas have extremely long waiting lists to access (years in some cases). The transition from children to adult services often leads to a breakdown in consistency of care, expertise, and support networks. This lack of adequate, consistent, sustainable support can leave young adults with complex disabilities facing isolation, deteriorating conditions, and being trapped at home without meaningful activities or independence after school. It places huge strain on families and carers as well.

Since 2021, we have been offering Building for the Future Plus for local adults once they have left school. This is a service providing life-fulfilling opportunities for young adults with disabilities who have left school or college. Such opportunities could include employment, socialising and the pursuit of hobbies and other activities.

Consideration of new premises

Our House has been located in Toutley Road for ten years. Over that time, our awareness of the needs of our community, and our ambitions for it, have grown which has led us to recognise the need to move to a new location in the future. We need a larger space which is accessible by public transport and provides sufficient parking.

Along with a purpose designed centre, the charity would offer:

- A space that is accessible to a greater age range of disabled children and young people

- Flexible group spaces which can be independently rented, with folding walls that can be opened up to create larger event spaces. This can be used to offer provision for young adults to meet, socialise, work and partake in purposeful activities.
- Residential suites for young people requiring a high level of care, but who have mainstream social and emotional needs.

Building for the Future is presenting consulting with the local authority on its plans and researching potential sites for this development. We aim to increase our fundraising and to designate funds for the future renovation of a new space.

Our impact

Since opening the charity has seen fantastic benefits; bringing families together to provide support; bringing children together to encourage friendships and siblings together to decrease isolation. The charity has witnessed a dramatic improvement in the mental wellbeing across all of the 'Our House' family.



Parents comments

"A fabulous place that we could never thank enough. You gave us a place we could go and be a family and have fun".

"It is a wonderful place for my younger boys to play with other siblings while my eldest son can chill out and I can stop to have a coffee and chat to other parents."

"Can meet friends in a neutral environment that is safe. My kids absolutely love coming to the centre and they feel comfortable in being themselves."

"My disabled child loves going there. Great venue to meet other parents and supportive chat."

15 young people are presently involved in Building for the Future Plus. They are co-designing our service offering for the future. We have managed to find work experience placements for 3 of these young people as well as having run various social events.

Finances

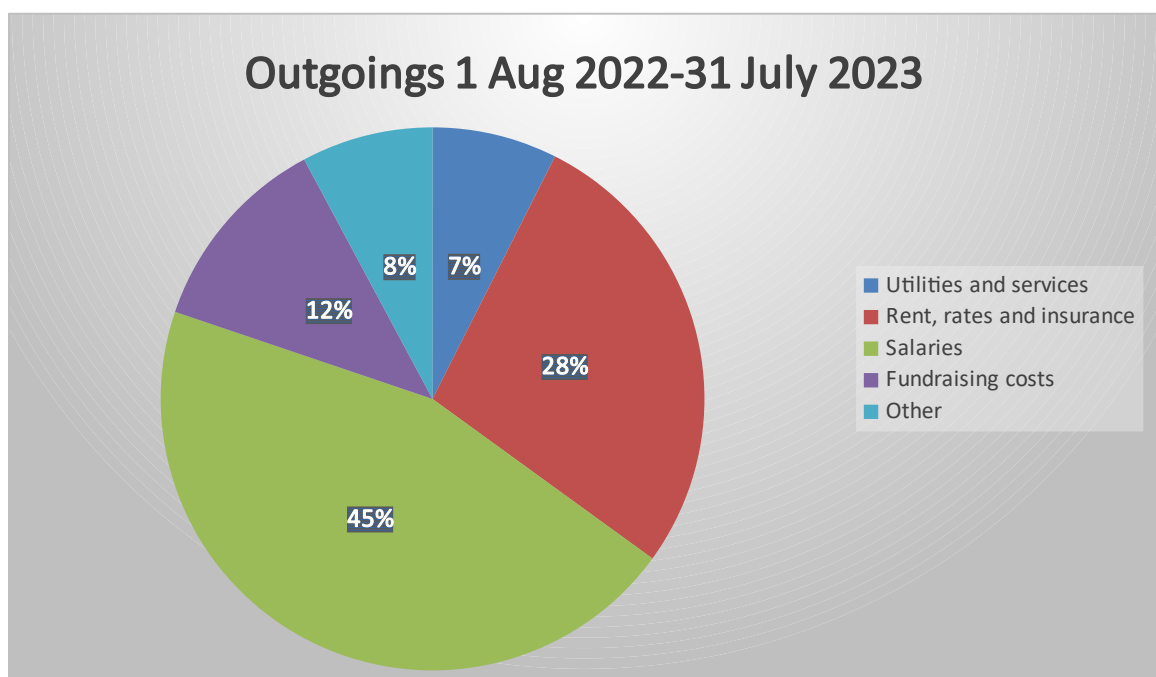
Our income, primarily derived from donations, grants, and invoiced amounts, totalled £91,150, resulting in a deficit of £30,522 versus previous year. £26,447 came from partner organisations using our space to offer services to children and young people. This has included Reading College, Busy Bees and the Wokingham Borough Council HAF programme.

£64,579 came through fundraising. We would also like to express our extreme gratitude to the organisations that supported us including Wilmott Dixon. BFTF has been selected by their Farnborough business as their chosen charity. At their annual challenge, '[Doing the Wight Thing](#)', they raised over £8,000 in support of our charity. Their team has roots in the Wokingham area, and they have a long-standing relationship with the charity. We also received a £10,000 grant from the David

Brownlow Charitable Foundation and £10,000 from the Hiscox Foundation for which we are extremely grateful.

Our total outgoings amounted to £121,672, a slight decrease from the previous year's £122,133. The charity had four part time employees – a CEO, caretaker, event organiser and fundraiser (equating to 2.2 FTE).

We were fortunate to have reserves that we could draw upon to cover the shortfall and maintain service. However, building sustainable income is of key importance in the future year. While we faced economic challenges, we remained committed to managing our resources efficiently and maximising their impact.



Governance

Building for the Future is governed by a board of trustees. The trustees are responsible for the overall management of the charity and for ensuring that it complies with all relevant laws and regulations.

In 2022/3, our Trustees are:

Chairman of Board of Trustees - Andy Slay



Andy has been actively involved in community and fund-raising events in Wokingham over the past 15 years through the Lions, Charity Balls, May Fayre, Winter Carnival and Cantley Fireworks. Having retired in 2015, he decided to devote more time to the community and became a trustee with BFTF in 2016.

Treasurer - Geoff Hammond



Geoff retired in 2013 from a career managing a small, Reading based company operating in the electro-optics field. Apart from taking the role as treasurer for BFTF he is also treasurer and volunteer engineer for REMAP Berkshire who design and make bespoke aids for disabled people. He lives in Wokingham with his wife and enjoys growing vegetables and all things technical.

Karen Woolford



Karen joined Building for The Future as a Trustee back in 2009 and was an integral part of finding and project managing the renovation of a deserted office into the inspirational space we have for our children today. She remains on the board now as a representative parent of a disabled child. She is married with 3 children, one of whom has cerebral palsy, and she has a background in project management in the IT industry.

Andy Goffin



After a career in sales and marketing, mainly within the promotional merchandise industry, Andy retired at the start of 2017. Having the free time to become involved in the local community, he is now an active member of Wokingham Lions Club, treasurer of a local Residents Association, and a volunteer with a couple of local charities. Andy became a Trustee of BFTF in 2020.

Paula Scott



Paula had a long career in education as a special needs teacher and manager working with children and young people with learning disabilities specialising over the last 20 years in vision impairment. She has always been passionate about providing equal life and educational opportunities for disabled children and their families. She has a particular interest in supporting children and families pre-school. Paula lives in Wokingham and became a trustee when she retired in 2021.

Nimi Shephard-Patel



Nimi has experience in both corporate account management and small charity fundraising management. She has a learning disability herself and has always advocated for the improvement of education for those with differing skills and abilities. Despite her 'classroom' difficulties, she has completed her PhD in education.

Nimi joined BFTF as a fundraiser and joined our board in 2022.

Val Lynch



Val is a governance specialist with considerable charitable and private sector experience. She qualified as a Company Secretary in 1995 and was appointed a fellow of the ICSA in 2007. She specialises in governance, compliance, regulation, health and safety, risk and audit.

Jane Holmes, CEO and Founder of Building for the Future.




Jane has a 22-year-old daughter with cerebral palsy who, along with several other mothers of disabled children, set up the charity in 2007. Before her daughter was born, Jane was a Human Resources Manager and has many years' experience working in the hotel and restaurant industry.

The board of trustees meets at least four times a year to review the charity's progress and to make any necessary decisions. The trustees are responsible for setting the charity's strategy and for overseeing all operational activity.


Conclusion

We are grateful to all our staff, volunteers and supporters for their help and support during the year. We are committed to continuing to provide essential high-quality services to children and young

people with disabilities. In the year ahead, we aim to build up sustainable income and conduct more planning for our long-term vision.

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Building for the Future			1121458		CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts					
	For the period from	01/0/20222	To	31/07/2023		
Section A Receipts and payments						
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year	
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	
A1 Receipts						
Donations and grants	64,579	-	-	64,579	-	
Invoiced amounts	26,447	-	-	26,447	-	
Interest	124	-	-	124	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	91,150	-	-	91,150	115,788	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	
Total receipts	91,150	-	-	91,150	115,788	
A3 Payments						
Utilities and services	9,055	-	-	9,055	-	
Rent, rates and insurance	33,536	-	-	33,536	-	
Salaries (including pension payments)	54,981	-	-	54,981	-	
Fundraising costs	14,582	-	-	14,582	-	
Other	9,518	-	-	9,518	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	121,672	-	-	121,672	122,133	
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)						
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	121,672	-	-	121,672	122,133	
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 30,522	-	-	- 30,522	- 6,345	
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-	
Cash funds this year end	18,552	-	-	18,552	49,074	

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	18,552	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Details			
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
		G A Hammond		02/02/2024

**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES****Independent examiner's
report on the accounts****Section A****Independent Examiner's Report****Report to the trustees/
members of**Charity Name
Building for the Future (Wokingham)**On accounts for the year
ended**31st July 2023**Charity no
(if any)**

1121458

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 July 2023**.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:**Date:**

15/05/2024

Name:

Gisela Sharpe

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FCCA

Address:

16 Lincoln Gardens

Twyford

Reading RG10 9HU

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.