

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE

England & Wales · Charity number 1172048

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-03-15

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Dovecote
Nightingale Avenue
Oxford
OX4 7BU

Phone 01865712299

Email leysdvpc@hotmail.com

Website www.dovecoteproject.com

Activities

Objects: TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR THE DAILY CARE, RECREATION AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN DURING OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS. ALSO, TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF PERSONS IN THE PROVISION OF SUCH CARE, EDUCATION AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

Activities: We are a Community led and managed project meeting the needs of children and families living in a nationally recognised area of disadvantage. The aim of our project is around early intervention support to overcome barriers to accessing opportunities that increase their prospect to improve both their immediate wellbeing and their future life chances.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Oxfordshire

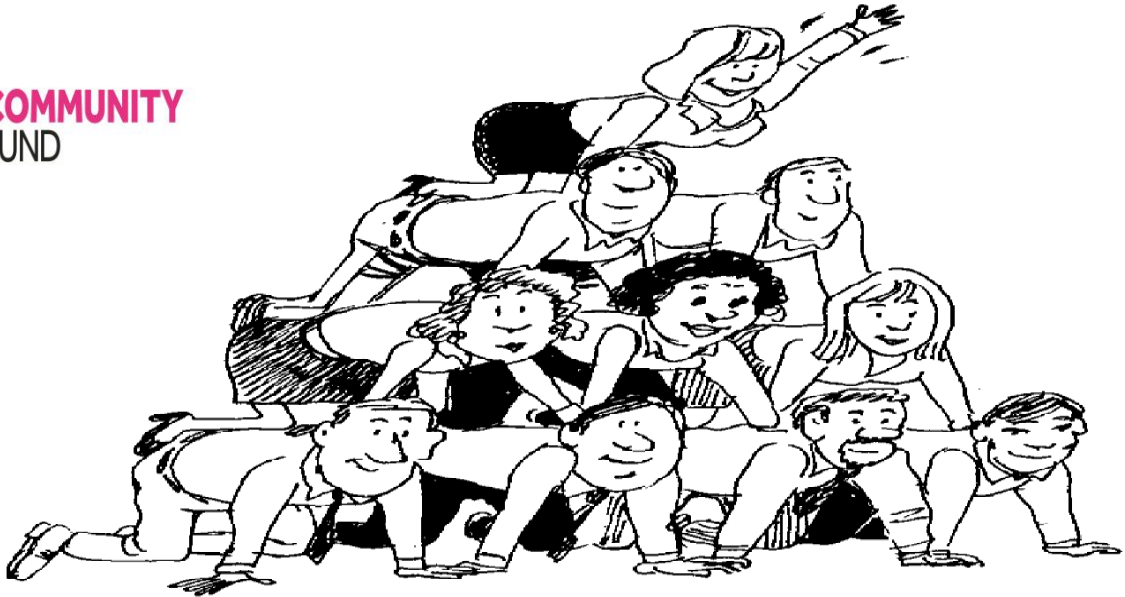
Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£128,475	£93,031	-	-
2024-03-31	£124,218	£94,289	-	-
2023-03-31	£84,751	£53,328	-	-
2022-03-31	£50,962	£51,450	-	-
2021-03-31	£87,610	£49,729	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
RACHEL PARTLETT	Chair	2017-06-27
AMIE PRIOR		2017-06-27
Craig Logan		2017-03-30
Jessica Brain		2023-05-18
TARA COLLIER		2017-06-27

Accounts



**Dovecote Voluntary Parent
Committee
Annual Report
2024 – 2025**

Registered Charity No: 1172048



Why Dovecote Children & Families Project is Important

There are very few initiatives engaging with families in Greater Leys. The Dovecote centre is based in the centre of the estate is the only provider of out of school play facilities for young children and children with disabilities aged 4 to 10 years old, along with being the only provider of these schemes for children aged 4 to 8 across the Leys estate.

As a community-driven initiative, we're grateful for the flexibility to adapt and serve the diverse needs of the Leys community. Our holistic approach offers comprehensive services, fostering trust and deep connections with local residents. By providing affordable solutions and drawing in passionate individuals dedicated to enhancing community life, we strive to create a thriving and inclusive environment for all.

Achievements to Date

At the heart of our actions lies the principle of actively engaging and consulting with children, young people, and families. Our primary goal is to optimize the utilization of the Dovecote, a cherished community asset. We envision the Dovecote as a dynamic and enjoyable local hub, owned and cherished by the community it serves, enriching the lives of all who interact with it

Our project is centered on providing children, including those with disabilities, young people, and families, with accessible, high-quality, safe, and inclusive play and social opportunities that may otherwise be unavailable to them. In 1996, during the establishment of the first phase of the new estate, thorough consultation with local residents highlighted the pressing need for stay-and-play sessions, out-of-school play facilities, and family social and parenting support groups. This feedback culminated in the formation of the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Management Committee, comprising local parents dedicated to founding the Dovecote Children & Families project. This initiative is led and managed by the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee, a formally constituted group. Their commitment and dedication have enabled the project to thrive, creating many new and exciting opportunities for children and families to enjoy for the past 29 years. To date, our project has provided support to over 4,500 families

Volunteers are indispensable to the success of our project, playing a vital role in its operation. Their dedication and commitment are the essence of our initiative; without them, our project simply would not exist. To ensure accessibility and affordability for all families in the Leys, we offer all activities at below-cost.

It's incredibly rewarding to see the growth and development of young children through our programs. Many of them have transitioned from users to dedicated volunteers within our project. Some have even pursued further training to become qualified play workers, contributing to our holidays schemes and eventually embarking on careers in childcare.

Our current board of trustees includes a remarkable young lady who was once a user of Dovecote services from the age of 4. She now serves as a valued member of our board of Trustees, bringing invaluable firsthand insight and dedication to the project



Project Management

We the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Trustees receive regular reports and updates from the Children & Families Services Manager Carol Richards. We hold approximately five to six business meeting per year along with training and informal meetings taking place when required. Trustees are elected at our Annual General Meeting. Annual accounts are prepared by a qualified accountant and signed off at our AGM. Day to day activities of the project is managed and developed in consultation with the committee by the Children & Families Services Manager Children and young people play a lead role in the planning and development of Dovecote Children & Families project. We also employ two part-time afterschool club play workers and have a good bank of regular seasonal play staff.



Vision, Mission and Values

OUR VISION – *A world where all children and young people are equal*

OUR MISSION – *provide services, support and opportunities that support the Improvement of the descending spiral of deprivation and inequality, setting a path for lasting growth*

OUR VALUES – *We pride ourselves in giving a safe and welcoming environment in order to give our users the ability to development themselves and break the cycle of and the cycle of undesirable peer pressure.*



Our Contact Details

Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee, Registered Charity number 1172048,

Dovecote Centre, Nightingale Avenue, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 7BU

Tel: 01865 712299 Mobile: 07974234661

E-mail: leysdvpc@hotmail.com Website: www.dovecoteproject.com facebook: Dovecote Centre

Office Hours

Monday 8.30 am until 3 pm

Tuesday 2 pm until 5 pm

Wednesday & Thursday 8.30 am until 5 pm

Trustees

Rachel Partlett – Chairperson; Amie Prior – Secretary; Jessica Brain, Tara Collier, Craig Logan

Dovecote Team

Carol Richards:

Children & Families Services Co-ordinator

Sharon Bishop

Play Assistant

Delvise Saunders

Play Assistant

Vikki Crawford

Play Co-ordinator

Along with a range of seasonal staff throughout the year

Volunteers

Del Saunders, Alison Logan

Mr Peter J Stevenson, MA FCA, has independently examined our accounts



Chairs Report

Welcome everyone and thank you for attending this year's AGM.

I am pleased to present our annual report for 2024-2025.

As we wrap up another successful year for our project, we take a moment to reflect on the progress made possible through the generous support of the National Lottery Community Fund. This funding has empowered us to focus on groundbreaking initiatives, rebuild relationships with key partners and organizations, and cultivate new collaborations. We are thankful for the opportunities that have allowed us to extend our reach and enhance our impact within the community.

Central to our work is a steadfast commitment to amplifying the voices and addressing the needs of vulnerable young people, families, and children. We prioritize their experiences and insights from our partners to guide the evolution of our services and drive meaningful change.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the Trustees who continue to dedicate their time, support, and oversight to the Charity's work. Their unwavering commitment is invaluable, and without their support, our project would not be possible.

On behalf of the entire team, I would like to extend our deepest thanks to all of our supporters and partners for their continued dedication over the past year.

Treasurers Report

2024/25 financial accounts have been prepared by our long-standing accountant Peter J Stevenson MA FCA

As in previous years, our focus during this reporting period has been on identifying and funding inspiring initiatives that make a positive difference in the lives of children, young people, and families. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis has undoubtedly posed challenges for all children and young people across the UK, with those already facing disadvantages experiencing even greater hardship

Secretary

This report highlights the journey of our Dovecote team and Trustees, illustrating our creativity and innovative approach in maintaining our vital presence for children, young people, and families who depend on our support.

What distinguishes our project is our deep commitment to learning from the lived experiences and voices of local residents, along with the inspiring stories and insights of young people. We use these perspectives to address challenges proactively, working to ensure that other families and young individuals do not face similar hardships.

The past few years have undoubtedly been some of the most challenging for our project, but I couldn't be prouder of the work we do and the community we serve. Looking to the future, we are fully aware of the scope of what lies ahead. With a bold vision, clear strategy, and a team of incredibly dedicated individuals, we are ready to tackle the challenges before us. We invite you to join us as we work toward creating a society that meets the needs of every child, young person, and family.



Afterschool Club

Children attending Dovecote afterschool club have access to a variety of activities and opportunities;

- team games - communication and leadership skills, cooperation, friendship
- Art and crafts –creativity, imagination, fine motor skills
- Outdoor risky play, (many of the children reside in flats)
- Offsite trips – develop both mentally and physically, social awareness, keep healthy
- Activities that supported learning and development -, sensory play, baking, and much more - nurture curiosity, increase confidence to try new things, learn new skills purpose-built sensory room and garden provides therapeutic play

Children are provided with healthy snacks throughout the session, along with toast, a selection of toppings, and a treat such as a biscuit or cake

After-school clubs are incredibly important for children growing up in poverty, as they often don't have access to similar opportunities outside of these spaces. More than just a place for fun and socializing, these clubs are key in boosting focus and academic performance. By providing a variety of activities, they support children's social, physical, and creative development, helping to build essential skills and learning habits that can benefit them in their studies



Holiday Playschemes

These programs continue to be in high demand, particularly during the summer months. Children and young people aged 4 to 10 who participated in our initiatives had the chance to engage in a wide range of activities, opportunities, and experiences that are often out of reach for them.

Example of activities and experiences on offer to support children's learning at develop are:

- team games - communication and leadership skills, cooperation, friendship and social skills
- art and crafts – improve coordination, visual processing abilities, creativity, imagination, fine motor skills along with supporting children to express themselves
- music/ drama workshops– greater confidence, fun, increase awareness of what they can achieve.
- outdoor risky play, (many of the children reside in flats), offsite trips – develop both mentally and physically, social awareness, keep healthy,
- science activities, sensory play and much more - nurture curiosity, increase confidence to try new things, learn new skills
- purpose built sensory room and garden provides therapeutic play
- Free play, an important role to a child's emotional growth. It supports children to take and manage risk and overcome challenge. Which in turn helps build self-esteem and confidence

- Cooking activities, encourage reading, following directions, measuring along with fine motors skills hand coordination

A massive thank you to all the staff for delivering an incredibly fun, safe, and successful scheme

Stay & Play

Despite many of our regular children moving on to nursery in September, our stay-and-play sessions remain busy, with Wednesday sessions being the busiest. As the weather improves, we look forward to utilizing the outdoor garden more, which will allow us to offer high-quality outdoor activities and experiences.

We continue to support new mums, dads and grandparents. For them, sessions offer an opportunity to meet new people which in turn supports them to overcome the feeling of loneliness, isolation and much more. We also support parents suffering with anxiety and depression. Our Little Doves messenger group serves as a valuable source of support for parents. Within our community, we're fortunate to have experienced grandmothers who actively participate in our sessions, offering exceptional encouragement and support to younger moms and dads. What is the saying "It really does take a village to raise a child"

Sessions provide the following;

- A place where children are able to explore and play safely.
- A place where children learn from having fun. Our sessions offer a wide-range of play activities and educational toys to assist children's developmental needs.
- Sessions provide local families with access to a wide variety of activities and opportunities
- Sessions offer fun outdoor play experience and exploring outside is keenly encouraged
- Sessions include free-play, messy play, arts and crafts sensory play in our sensory room. Opportunities and experiences on offer help children by; encouraging speech and language, encouraging sharing and turn-taking and exploring new and exciting activities.



Working in partnership with parents is central to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and it is widely acknowledged that developing successful relationships between parents and providers can have long-lasting and beneficial effects on children's learning and wellbeing

Research has found that 'Stay and Play' sessions where parents and their children play and learned songs, are linked to small but significant reductions in parenting stress, improvements in mothers' health, and better learning environments in the children's own homes.

Partnership Work

We have been successful in establishing new partnerships with Reducing the Risk, Domestic Abuse Services, the community platform, and the Oxford County Council Warm Spaces initiative. Additionally, we've reached out to Thames Valley Police and A2 Dominion Domestic Abuse Services, who will collaborate with us in developing services to support victims of domestic abuse. These partnerships will enhance our ability to provide crucial resources and assistance to those in need within our community. We've also formed three new partnerships with Oxford City Council, Garbbott (Specialist Web & Ecommerce Development), and Oxford University, working together set up and develop a new community website for Blackbird Leys, called 'Leys Engine'.

Strengthening of partnership work continued throughout the year with the following partners; CDI project, Migrant Children Together Project, Oxford Hub, Oxfordshire County Council HAF (Holiday Activities Funding) Team, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Seesaw, local Schools and Blap - Blackbird Leys Adventure.

Developments

The security of lottery funding has been transformative for our project. Over the past year, it has allowed us to concentrate on what truly matters—developing the project, building partnerships, and re-engaging with vulnerable families. Without this crucial support, these essential aspects would have been at risk. Instead, our focus would have shifted entirely to the project's survival, with time-consuming fundraising applications taking priority over meaningful work.

Further development for our project this year was a launch of our SKIP (Senior & Kids Intergenerational project) project. We delivered a pilot project in September with the official launch of the project taking place Thursday 6th February 2025. We had a good attendance on the day of the launch. We are working closely with CDI to engage with more elderly residents

This scheme is being delivered in partnership with the Leys CDI over 55's project. A pilot of this unique intergenerational initiative was conducted from June to August this year. Feedback and consultation gathered during the pilot phase led to the official launch of the project on Thursday, November 7th, 2024. Sessions will take place every Thursday during term time, from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm. The need for, and the benefits of, intergenerational activities have been recognized as a vital support for the local community's health and well-being. Many local juniors and seniors lack interaction with younger or older generations in their lives. By bringing these two groups together, the sessions aim to reduce isolation and loneliness, enhance education, and promote the proven sense of happiness that arises from intergenerational connections.



Future Planned Developments 2025-2026

For over 28 years, project users and community groups have been at the heart of our development. Involving them in the design, delivery, and management of services has ensured that we address locally identified needs, rather than adhering to externally imposed priorities. This approach has been key to the effectiveness and success of our project.

Our experience has shown that face-to-face interactions are the most effective way to gather meaningful feedback. Taking the time to explain the importance of evaluation, guiding families through the process, and genuinely listening to their perspectives makes a significant impact. This practice has shaped the direction of our project, deepening our understanding of the community.

The insights we've gained have enriched our knowledge of what works, revealing how both individual and collective outcomes can transform families, neighbourhoods, and future opportunities. Looking ahead, this user-centred approach will continue to guide our efforts in creating positive, lasting change

Walking bus services from the other two main primary schools. Increase access for working for low-income families and single parents to local affordable local childcare

Development of SKIP project

Training for staff and volunteers

Creation and development of Domestic Abuse support services for local families

Empowering more local residents to become more involved with our project

Securing the long-term sustainability of Dovecote Children & Families project

Lessons learnt

My belief is that community projects have the power to teach invaluable life lessons. They help support a deeper understanding of humanity, generosity, work ethic, empathy, acceptance, faith, humility, and kindness

- Relationships, relationships, relationships. These are what are important
- Importance of supporting Trustees, staff and volunteers.
- Delegate tasks appropriately and enforce realistic deadlines. ...
- Importance of listening, really listening
- The importance of consistency of services
- The instrumental role of new partnerships and the continues firming up of existing partners
- The importance and value of multiple information sources to share and receive
- The importance of continuously reassessing project delivery to meet the evolving needs of a vulnerable community, while addressing gaps in existing service provisions

What has not gone well

Feedback and observation have shown that the cost-of-living crisis is still having a huge negative impact on families and children's physical and mental health. Many families are continuing to face high levels of anxiety and depression, which are negatively affecting their children. The lasting impact of COVID-19 and the shift to remote work continues to fuel frustration among staff. The inability to engage in face-to-face interactions, particularly with housing officers, remains a major source of frustration and is negatively affecting their mental health. As a result, many residents are feeling disconnected, unsupported, and, in some cases, abandoned.

Funding

See attached 2024/2025 financial report prepared by Peter Stevens, MA FCA

Reserves Policy of the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee

The purpose of the Reserves Policy for Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee is to ensure the stability of our charity, services, employment, and ongoing operations of the organization and to provide a source of internal funds for organizational priorities such as employer's liabilities and project operational liabilities should the project be faced with winding up.

Steps taken to establish our level of reserve:

In order to make a judgment on the amount of reserve Trustees have considered the risks in respect of expenditure, unrestricted income and where appropriate restricted income. Trustees have also taken into consideration current external identified potential major risks to income and expenditure during the year ahead. A risk assessment has been undertaken for the period 2024/25 and the following has been determined:

- * Limited funding sources available
- * Level of employer's liability

How Did We Set Our Reserves Level

Appropriate level of reserves was set taking the following into consideration:

- a) discussion with manager, treasurer and trustees;
- b) analysis of cash flow;
- c) analysis of existing funds and reserves;
- d) review of future income streams with an assessment of their reliability;
- e) review of committed expenditure;
- f) examining the likely changes in funding/donations;
- g) assessment of how your charity may cope with changes in income;
- h) studying the likely effects on the beneficiaries;
- i) assessment of the risks facing the charity, and how likely these are to materialise;
- j) forecasting levels of income in future years (taking into account the reliability of each source of income, and the prospects for opening up new sources);
- k) forecasting expenditure in future years on the basis of planned activities;
- l) analysis of project organisational liabilities, contingencies or risks; and assessment of the likelihood of each of those needs arising, and the potential consequences for our charity not being able to meet them;
- m) charity income being volatile in nature and currently has high liabilities;
- n) charity is working on some financial difficulties it is facing;
- o) current climate charity is faced with, really threat of insolvency;

The reserves we have set aside ensure that our charity can cover all liabilities incurred if funding to continue the project is not secured. We intend to maintain our reserves at a level that is at least equivalent to three months' worth of project wind-down costs, as well as employer's and organizational liabilities, such as office expenses, asset disposal, and the storage of legal documents and confidential information.

Acknowledgements:

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all individuals, groups, and organisations whose contributions have been instrumental in sustaining the success of the Dovecote Children & Families projects throughout the past year. Your unwavering assistance and support have been indispensable in enabling the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee to uphold its mission of providing high-quality, affordable play experiences and opportunities for children, including those with disabilities, as well as young people and families residing in one of Europe's largest social housing estates.

Finally

We extend immense gratitude to all our staff for their outstanding dedication in creating a fun, happy, friendly, welcoming, secure, challenging, and stimulating environment for the children.", young people and families of the Leys!

ALSO, A MASSIVE BIG THANKS TO:

Trustees and wonderful volunteers who help make

Dovecote Children & Families project happen

Funders for their valuable support

Peter Stevenson for examining the accounts

*Dovecote users, parents, carers and children and young people who
make it all worthwhile 😊😊*

Reaching Communities Lottery Community Fund



Oxford Food Hub

Oxford County Council HAF - Holiday Activities Funding

Peabody Housing Group

Garbott Specialist Web Agency

Well Together



DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE CIO

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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9	Detailed Income & Expenditure Account

Registered Charity No: 1172048

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE CIO
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

TRUSTEES

Amie Prior
Jessica Brain
Rachel Partlett
Tara Collier
Craig Logan

REGISTERED OFFICE

The Dovecote
Nightingale Avenue
Blackbird Leys
Oxford
OX4 5BU

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Peter J Stevenson

BANKERS

Barclays Bank plc, Oxford
Lloyds Bank plc

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE CIO

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Charitable Status

Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered in England, number 1172048.

Trustees

The Trustees who have held office at any point during the period ended 31 March 2025 and to the date of this report are as follows:

Rachel Partlett (Chair)	Jessica Brain
Amie Prior (Secretary)	Tara Collier
	Craig Logan

Structure, Governance and Management

The Committee was originally established under a Constitution adopted in 2007. The charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) formed in 2017 acquired the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body.

Additional trustees may be appointed by the Committee; all new trustees are offered appropriate training in order to fulfil their role.

Objectives and activities

The object of the charity is to provide facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children during out of school hours and school holidays.

The charity also aims to advance the education and training of persons in the provision of such care, education and recreational facilities.

Achievements and performance

Thanks to a major 3-year grant from the Lottery Fund, the charity has been able to expand its activities greatly, and to develop further its plans for broadening its appeal and relevance within the local community. In the past year it has attracted grants and donations totalling £117,337 for its core work, including £86,233 from National Lottery under the Reaching Communities programme; their year runs from January to December.

In total, £73,370 of Restricted Funds has been carried forward for use in 2025/26.

Full details of achievements and future plans may be found on the charity's website.

Public benefit

The Trustees of the charity have had due regard both to the objectives of the charity, as set out above, and also to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties. All activities are undertaken in furtherance of the charity's objects, as outlined above.

Risk management

The principal risks the charity may face are perceived to be inadequate future funding and the possibility of safeguarding issues arising in the children's activities. To mitigate these risks, more than sufficient future funding has been secured in the short term, and appropriate safeguarding measures have been put in place.

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE CIO

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)**

Financial Review

Income for the year totalled £128,475 (2024 £124,218) and expenditure £93,031 (2024 £94,289). The net surplus of £35,444 (2024 £29,929) has been added to the fund balances, resulting in reserves carried forward of £222,426 of which £73,370 (2024 £49,214) were restricted funds and £75,000 (2024 £65,000) were funds designated for redundancy costs in the event of the charity being wound up.

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report, and have therefore continued to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Plans for Future Periods

With the Reaching Communities support, the charity plans to develop further its partnership and outreach work, and to provide more offsite facilities for local families. It will develop and expand its holiday playscheme and its specialist facilities, whilst maintaining its core services, as described on the charity's website.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the Trustees 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (information needed by the independent examiner in connection with preparing his report) of which the charity's examiner is unaware, and each Trustee has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken in order to make himself aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

Peter J Stevenson has signified his willingness to continue in office and a resolution to re-appoint him as examiner will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on 13 May 2025

And signed by order of the Trustees by



Amie Prior
Trustee and Secretary

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee CIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025, which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to state on the basis of Procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Peter J. Stevenson

Peter J. Stevenson

Flat 25, Cherwell Court,
Banbury Road,
Kidlington
OX5 2BG

Date: 13th May 2025

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Totals £	2024 Totals £
INCOME				
Grants and donations	117,187	257	117,444	109,164
Activities for generating funds: Fees and hirings	0	9,971	9,971	12,812
Other income				
Refunds	0	959	959	1,686
Interest	0	101	101	556
TOTAL INCOME	117,187	11,288	128,475	124,218
EXPENDITURE (Note 3)				
Fundraising and publicity	5,859	0	5,859	5,785
Charitable activities				
Staff costs	71,259	0	71,259	68,080
Activity costs	10,970	0	10,970	15,330
Property costs	2,565	0	2,565	3,155
Office costs	1,084	0	1,084	804
Professional fees	1,294	0	1,294	1,135
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	93,031	0	93,031	94,289
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	24,156	11,288	35,444	29,929
Funds b/f at 1st April 2024	49,214	137,768	186,982	157,053
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2025	£73,370	£149,056	£222,426	£186,982

The notes on page 3 form part of these accounts.

All activities are continuing; there are no gains and losses other than those recognised through the Statement of Financial Activities.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	4	500	1,120
Bank deposit accounts		88,483	86,157
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>134,853</u>	<u>100,985</u>
		223,836	188,262
CURRENT LIABILITIES	5		
Creditors		<u>1,410</u>	<u>1,280</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>222,426</u>	<u>186,982</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>£222,426</u>	<u>£186,982</u>
FUND BALANCES			
Restricted funds	6	73,370	49,214
Designated funds		75,000	65,000
Other unrestricted funds		<u>74,056</u>	<u>72,768</u>
		<u>£222,426</u>	<u>£186,982</u>

NB Designated funds represent a provision for redundancy costs
in the event of the charity being wound up

These accounts were approved by the Management Committee on 13 May 2025

SIGNED: 
Rachel Partlett

SIGNED: 
Amie Prior

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

1. Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Annual Report. All the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body were transferred in at 1st April 2017.

2. Accounting policies

(a) **Income** is included in the SoFA when:

the entity becomes entitled to the resources, it is probable that the income will be received, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(b) **Liabilities** are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the entity to pay out resources.

3. Expenditure

Expenditure includes the Independent Examiner's fee £500 (2024 £500); no trustees were paid or committee expenses reimbursed (2024 NIL), and there were no related party transactions in either year. No employees' emoluments exceeded £60,000 in either year; the average number of employees was 6 (2024: 6).

4. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Payments in advance:		
Insurance	500	500
Payroll services	0	620
	£500	£1,120

5. Creditors

HM Revenue & Customs	0	0
Other creditors	1,410	1,280
	£1,410	£1,280

6. Restricted funds

The restricted fund surplus represents the unexpended balance of fund monies at year-end.

7. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. Under all scenarios reviewed the charity has sufficient reserves to continue operating as a going concern for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report, and consequently has adopted this basis in preparing the accounts.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

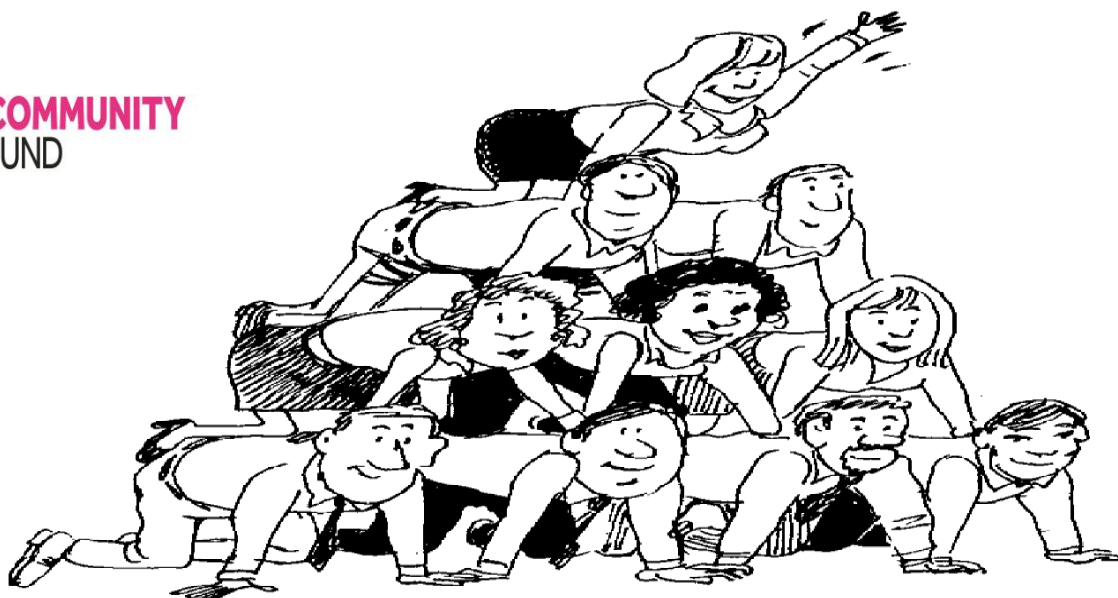
FOR COMPARATIVE PURPOSES

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Totals £
INCOME			
Grants and donations	107,799	1,365	109,164
Activities for generating funds:			
Fees and hirings	0	12,812	12,812
Other income			
Refunds	0	1,686	1,686
Interest	0	556	556
TOTAL INCOME	107,799	16,419	124,218
EXPENDITURE			
Fundraising and publicity	4234	1,551	5,785
Charitable activities			
Staff costs	68,080	0	68,080
Activity costs	15,330	0	15,330
Property costs	3,155	0	3,155
Office costs	0	804	804
Professional fees	0	1,135	1,135
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	90,799	3,490	94,289
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	17,000	12,929	29,929
Funds b/f at 1st April 2023	32,214	124,839	157,053
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2024	£49,214	£137,768	£186,982

DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

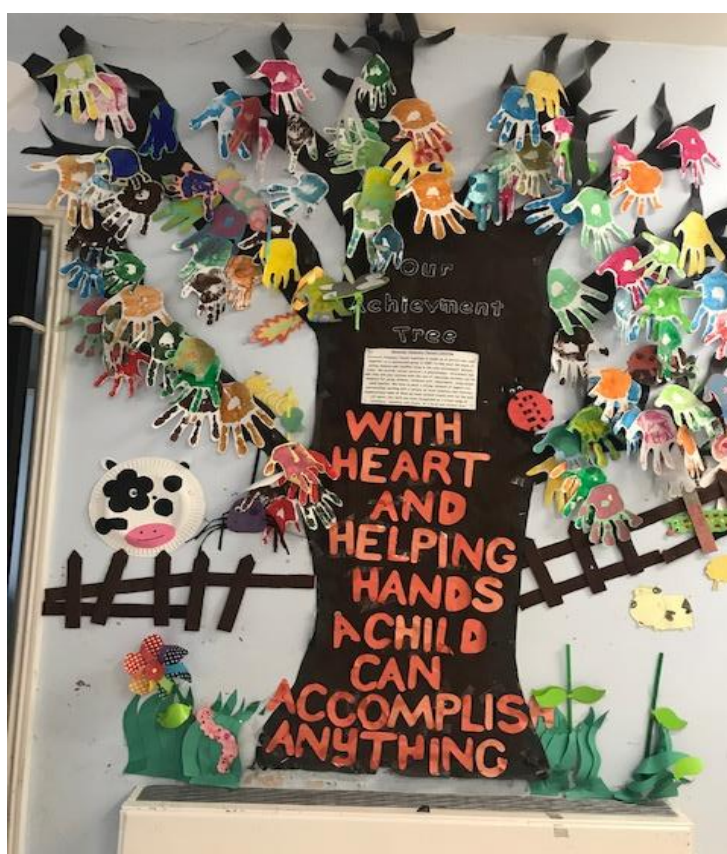
	2024/25		2023/24	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Fees and rentals		7,501		10,342
Refunds		959		1,686
Restricted grants:				
Oxon CC/Oxford City: holiday funding	19,669		9,413	
Together Wellbeing	11,286		0	
Blackbird Leys Parish Council	0		500	
Reaching Communities: Lottery Fund	86,232		91,727	
Other grants in 2023/24	<u>0</u>	117,187	<u>6,159</u>	107,799
Unrestricted grants and donations:				
Various		257		1,365
Building Management fees		2,470		2,470
Bank interest		101		556
TOTAL INCOME		£128,475		£124,218
EXPENDITURE				
Wages		34,392		31,248
Training, travel and subsistence		867		832
Services Coordinator: salary		36,000		36,000
Fundraising fee		5,859		5,295
Equipment, workshops & trips		8,370		14,851
Rent		2,600		2,600
Insurance		555		555
Sensory garden refurbishment		2,010		0
Accountancy and bookkeeping		500		550
Payroll charges		620		585
Inspection and DBS check fees		174		479
Telephone (inc. insurance)		653		644
Advertising		0		490
Miscellaneous		431		160
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£93,031		£94,289
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		£35,444		£29,929

Accounts



**Dovecote Voluntary Parent
Committee
Annual Report
2023 – 2024**

Registered Charity No: 1172048



Why Dovecote Children & Families Project is Important

There are very few initiatives engaging with families in Greater Leys. The Dovecote centre is based in the centre of the estate is the only provider of out of school play facilities for young children and children with disabilities aged 4 to 10 years old, along with being the only provider of these schemes for children aged 4 to 8 across the Leys estate.

As a community-driven initiative, we're grateful for the flexibility to adapt and serve the diverse needs of the Leys community. Our holistic approach offers comprehensive services, fostering trust and deep connections with local residents. By providing affordable solutions and drawing in passionate individuals dedicated to enhancing community life, we strive to create a thriving and inclusive environment for all.

Achievements to Date

At the heart of our actions lies the principle of actively engaging and consulting with children, young people, and families. Our primary goal is to optimize the utilization of the Dovecote, a cherished community asset. We envision the Dovecote as a dynamic and enjoyable local hub, owned and cherished by the community it serves, enriching the lives of all who interact with it

Our project is centered on providing children, including those with disabilities, young people, and families, with accessible, high-quality, safe, and inclusive play and social opportunities that may otherwise be unavailable to them. In 1996, during the establishment of the first phase of the new estate, thorough consultation with local residents highlighted the pressing need for stay-and-play sessions, out-of-school play facilities, and family social and parenting support groups. This feedback culminated in the formation of the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Management Committee, comprising local parents dedicated to founding the Dovecote Children & Families project. This initiative is led and managed by the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee, a formally constituted group. Their commitment and dedication have enabled the project to thrive, creating many new and exciting opportunities for children and families to enjoy for the past 28 years. To date, our project has provided support to over 3,500 families

Over the past 28 years of operation, our project has achieved significant milestones through the dedication of our committee, staff and volunteers. These accomplishments include:

- An afterschool club three sessions per week, 16 children per session, including children with disabilities aged 4 to 12 years old
- Easter and summer playschemes for up to 32 children per session including children with disabilities per session
- Half term playschemes (subject to funding) for up to 16 children
- Twice weekly Stay & Play sessions for young mums and dads with young children
- SEN (Special Educational Needs) Stay & Play session each Thursday term time
- Purpose built sensory room for children with disabilities and their families
- Strong partnership work with a wide range of voluntary and statutory organisations supporting vulnerable children and families
- Strong partnership work with Aiming High Short Breaks for Disabled Children to support young children with disabilities experiencing exclusion to accessing local services to participate in our afterschool club and schemes.
- Setting up Leys News a free community newsletter distributed to every household in Blackbird Leys. Today the Leys news is an independent community newspaper reach 5000 household every month
- Development of Dovecote Afloat – narrow boat project bringing the magic of canals and nature to young people from the Leys (Sadly due to funding this project came to an end in August 2016) *Sadly due to funding this project is no longer running*
- Purpose built sensory garden
- Provide support, training and volunteering opportunities

- Extension of centre garden providing a larger outside play area
- Awarded Outstanding Grade by Ofsted 2009
- Finalist Groundwork Community Award – Best Community Project on a Social Housing Estate 2018
- Finalist Children & Young People's Award 2016
- Secured two large key funding awards from the National Lottery

Volunteers are indispensable to the success of our project, playing a vital role in its operation. Their dedication and commitment are the essence of our initiative; without them, our project simply would not exist. To ensure accessibility and affordability for all families in the Leys, we offer all activities at below-cost.

It's incredibly rewarding to see the growth and development of young children through our programs. Many of them have transitioned from users to dedicated volunteers within our project. Some have even pursued further training to become qualified play workers, contributing to our holidays schemes and eventually embarking on careers in childcare.

Our current board of trustees includes a remarkable young lady who was once a user of Dovecote services from the age of 4. She now serves as a valued member of our board of Trustees, bringing invaluable firsthand insight and dedication to the project

Project Management

We the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Trustees receive regular reports and updates from the Children & Families Services Manager Carol Richards. We hold approximately five to six business meetings per year along with training and informal meetings taking place when required. Trustees are elected at our Annual General Meeting. Annual accounts are prepared by a qualified accountant and signed off at our AGM. Day to day activities of the project are managed and developed in consultation with the committee by the Children & Families Services Manager. Children and young people play a lead role in the planning and development of Dovecote Children & Families project. We also employ two part-time afterschool club play workers and have a good bank of regular seasonal play staff.



Vision, Mission and Values

OUR VISION – *A world where all children and young people are equal*

OUR MISSION – *provide services, support and opportunities that support the Improvement of the descending spiral of deprivation and inequality, setting a path for lasting growth*

OUR VALUES – *We pride ourselves in giving a safe and welcoming environment in order to give our users the ability to development themselves and break the cycle of and the cycle of undesirable peer pressure.*

We are dedicated to nurturing the person growth of children and young people while fostering positive relationships. Together we empower them to reach their full potential and pursue their dreams. Our ambition is to significantly impact the lives of the families, children and young people we assist, aspiring to better futures for all.

Through our services, we aim to enhance the lives of families, young people and children, building on years of trust cultivated within the community. Our commitment to reliability and consistency in service deliver ensures that this trust is maintained, reinforcing our bond with the community

Our Contact Details

Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee, Registered Charity number 1172048,

Dovecote Centre, Nightingale Avenue, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 7BU

Tel: 01865 712299 Mobile: 07974234661

E-mail: leysdvpc@hotmail.com Website: www.dovecoteproject.com facebook: Dovecote Centre

Office Hours

Current office hours vary

Trustees

Rachel Partlett – Chairperson; Amie Prior – Secretary; Jessica Brain, Tara Collier, Craig Logan

Dovecote Team

Carol Richards: Children & Families Services Co-ordinator

Sharon Bishop Play Assistant

Delvise Saunders Play Assistant

Vikki Crawford Play Co-ordinator

Along with a range of seasonal staff throughout the year

Volunteers

Amanda Jones

Mr Peter J Stevenson, MA FCA, has independently examined our accounts



Chairs Report

Welcome everyone and thank you for attending this year's AGM.

Can I start by saying I am deeply saddened by the passing of our admired Trustee, Hillary Miles. This loss is truly a profound one, not just for our organisation but for all who had the privilege of knowing Hillary. Hillary's dedication, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to the Dovecote Children & Families project will deeply be missed. I hope we can come together to honour Hillary's memory and carry forward the values she embodied.

I am pleased to present our annual report for 2023-2024.

As another fruitful year comes to a close for our project, we reflect on the progress made possible by the National Lottery Community Fund. This support has enabled us to concentrate on innovative developments, reestablish connections with partners and organizations, and forge new collaborations. We are grateful for the opportunities afforded to us, which have allowed us to expand our reach and impact within the community.

At the heart of our project lies a commitment to increasing the voices and addressing the needs of disadvantaged young people, families, and children. We prioritise their stories and experiences, alongside insights from our partners, to shape and evolve our services towards meaningful change.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all Trustees who continue to serve, support and scrutinise the Charity's work. We deeply value and appreciate their dedication and commitment. Without their unwavering support, our project simply wouldn't exist.

On behalf of everyone at our project, I extend a heartfelt thank you to all our supporters and partners for the unwavering support they have given us throughout the past year.

Treasurers Report

2023/24 financial accounts have been prepared by our long-standing accountant Peter J Stevenson MA FCA.

Throughout the reporting period, our focus remained on seeking out and funding inspiring ideas that positively impact the lives of children, young people, and families. It's evident that the cost-of-living crisis has presented challenges for all of the UK's children and young people, particularly exacerbating difficulties for those already experiencing disadvantage.

Secretary

This report tells the journey of our Dovecote team and Trustees, showcasing our creativity and innovation in ensuring our continued presence for children, young people, and families who rely on us.

What sets our project apart is our commitment to learning from the experiences and voices of local residents, as well as the inspiring stories and perspectives of young people. We leverage these insights to proactively address challenges, working to prevent other families and young people from encountering similar difficulties.

I believe we can all confirm to the fact that the past few years have presented some of the most demanding challenges for our project. Nevertheless, I couldn't be prouder of our truly community project. As we look into the future, we acknowledge the scale of the task ahead. With an ambitious goal, a strategic vision, and a team of exceptionally talented individuals, we are equipped to face those challenges head-on. We hope you'll stand alongside us as we strive to create a society that truly caters to the needs of all children, young people, and families.

Afterschool Club

The fluctuation in attendance at the afterschool club over the past year reflects the ongoing impact of the cost-of-living crisis, particularly affecting vulnerable families, children, and young people in the UK

Children attending the club have access to a variety of activities and opportunities;

- team games - communication and leadership skills, cooperation, friendship
- Art and crafts –creativity, imagination, fine motor skills
- Outdoor risky play, (many of the children reside in flats)
- Offsite trips – develop both mentally and physically, social awareness, keep healthy
- Activities that supported learning and development - , sensory play, baking, and much more - nurture curiosity, increase confidence to try new things, learn new skills purpose-built sensory room and garden provides therapeutic play

After school clubs hold significant value for children growing up in poverty, as they often lack access to such opportunities elsewhere. Beyond being a source of enjoyment and socialisation, these clubs play a crucial role in enhancing concentration and academic performance. Offering a diverse range of activities, they enable children to develop socially, physically, and creatively, instilling valuable skills and learning habits applicable in their academic pursuits.



Holiday Playschemes

These schemes continue to be very much in demand, summer in particular

This year the children young people aged 4 to 10 years old were able to access a wide range of activities, opportunities and experiences not normally available to them.

Activities and experiences on offer supported them to learn;

- team games - communication and leadership skills, cooperation, friendship and social skills
- art and crafts – improve coordination, visual processing abilities, creativity, imagination, fine motor skills along with supporting children to express themselves
- music/ drama workshops– greater confidence, fun, increase awareness of what they can achieve.
- outdoor risky play, (many of the children reside in flats), offsite trips – develop both mentally and physically, social awareness, keep healthy,
- science activities, sensory play and much more - nurture curiosity, increase confidence to try new things, learn new skills
- purpose built sensory room and garden provides therapeutic play
- Free play, an important role to a child's emotional growth. It supports children to take and manage risk and overcome challenge. Which in turn helps build self-esteem and confidence
- Cooking activities, encourage reading, following directions, measuring along with fine motors skills hand coordination

The conclusion of the scheme was marked by a well-attended and oversubscribed family and carer trip to Drayton Manor. For many, this excursion provided a rare chance to escape the hardships of living in one of Europe's largest housing estates, particularly during the lengthy summer break. Twenty adults

and nineteen children participated, enjoying a day filled with fun and quality family time. Everyone enjoyed a fantastic and enjoyable day

A massive thank you to all the staff for delivering an incredibly fun, safe, and successful scheme

Stay & Play to include SEN

Stay and play sessions continue to be extremely busy. Our Wednesday sessions is most certainly our busiest session. On several occasions we have sadly had to turn people away due to reaching full capacity for inside of 15 children and 14 adults. Now the weather is getting nicer we will be able to start using the outside garden more this will enable more to families attend.

We continue to support new mums, dads and parents. For them, sessions offer an opportunity to meet new people which in turn supports them to overcome the feeling of loneliness, isolation and much more. We also support parents suffering with anxiety and depression. Our Little Doves messenger group serves as a valuable source of support for parents. Within our community, we're fortunate to have many experienced grandmothers who actively participate in our sessions, offering exceptional encouragement and support to younger moms and dads. What is the saying "It really does take a village to raise a child"

Sessions provide the following;

- A place where children are able to explore and play safely.
- A place where children learn from having fun. Our sessions offer a wide-range of play activities and educational toys to assist children's developmental needs.
- Sessions provide local families with access to a wide variety of activities and opportunities
- Sessions offer fun outdoor play experience and exploring outside is keenly encouraged
- Sessions include free-play, messy play, arts and crafts sensory play in our sensory room. Opportunities and experiences on offer help children by; encouraging speech and language, encouraging sharing and turn-taking and exploring new and exciting activities.



Working in partnership with parents is central to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and it is widely acknowledged that developing successful relationships between parents and providers can have long-lasting and beneficial effects on children's learning and wellbeing

Research has found that 'Stay and Play' sessions where parents and their children play and learned songs, are linked to small but significant reductions in parenting stress, improvements in mothers' health, and better learning environments in the children's own homes.

Our SEN sessions are developing slowly with an average of two attending per session. This number may seem low, but we intentionally limit the session to accommodate only 6 to 8 families with SEN children. This allows us to provide a more personalized and attentive experience, ensuring that each family's unique needs are met effectively.

Partnership Work

New partnership work was formed with CDI Clockhouse project, Migrant Children Together Project, Oxford Hub, Oxfordshire County Council HAF (Holiday Activities Funding) Team, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire and Seesaw, Wellbeing Together Team

Strengthening partnership work also took place with CDI youth project, local Schools and Blap - Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground.

Collaborating with individuals and communities enhances the likelihood of developing services that effectively address people's needs, thereby enhancing their experiences and outcomes. Local residents, children, and young people possess invaluable knowledge, skills, experiences, and connections that are essential for services to comprehend in order to effectively support their physical and mental health.

Partnership working also coordinates better action between organisations and allows us opportunities to exchange views, support innovation and provide additional momentum to get things done.

Developments 2023-2024

Further development for our project this year was a Santa Drop. This entailed delivering sack of good quality toys, books, selection boxes, family boxes of biscuits and tins of chocolate to 52 children and 26 families. This is the first time we have been able to support families struggling with the cost of living to provide their children with good quality toys and books for Christmas. We worked with several local agencies; Oxford Hub and Neighbourhood Watch to identify those families most in need to receive the Santa Sacks

Future Planned Developments 2024-2035

New Intergenerational project with the Clockhouse; The aim of this project is to create a new Intergenerational partnership work between two local charities working with residents and families aged 0 to 90 years old. Bringing together people from various age groups and backgrounds will lead to a rich exchange of ideas, experiences, and perspectives. It will foster understanding, empathy, and collaboration, ultimately benefiting the community as a whole. This project will see the delivery of a play sessions with some of our toddler and seniors from the Clockhouse beginning with one session a week for 1 hour.

Setting up of Domestic violence support for local parents/families; It has been identified that there is sadly very little support accessible to victims of domestic violence both female and male. In addition to helping the victims of domestic violence directly, awareness campaigns can help individuals and communities recognize the signs and speak up when they see it
Training for staff and volunteers

Empowering more local residents to become more involved with our project

Funding

See attached 2023/2024 financial report prepared by Peter Stevens, MA FCA

Reserves Policy of the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee

The purpose of the Reserves Policy for Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee is to ensure the stability of our charity, services, employment, and ongoing operations of the organization and to provide a source of internal funds for organizational priorities such as employer's liabilities and project operational liabilities should the project be faced with winding up.

Steps taken to establish our level of reserve:

In order to make a judgment on the amount of reserve Trustees have considered the risks in respect of expenditure, unrestricted income and where appropriate restricted income. Trustees have also taken into consideration current external identified potential major risks to income and expenditure during the year ahead. A risk assessment has been undertaken for the period 2023/24 and the following has been determined:

- * Limited funding sources available
- * Level of employer's liability

Monitoring and reviewing our Reserves Policy will be reviewed at our Trustees business meeting before our Annual General Meeting.

How Did We Set Our Reserves Level

Appropriate level of reserves was set taking the following into consideration:

- a) discussion with manager, treasurer and trustees;
- b) analysis of cash flow;
- c) analysis of existing funds and reserves;
- d) review of future income streams with an assessment of their reliability;
- e) review of committed expenditure;
- f) examining the likely changes in funding/donations;
- g) assessment of how your charity may cope with changes in income;
- h) studying the likely effects on the beneficiaries;
- i) assessment of the risks facing the charity, and how likely these are to materialise;
- j) forecasting levels of income in future years (taking into account the reliability of each source of income, and the prospects for opening up new sources);
- k) forecasting expenditure in future years on the basis of planned activities;
- l) analysis of project organisational liabilities, contingencies or risks; and assessment of the likelihood of each of those needs arising, and the potential consequences for our charity not being able to meet them;
- m) charity income being volatile in nature and currently has high liabilities;
- n) charity is working on some financial difficulties it is facing;
- o) current climate charity is faced with, really threat of insolvency;

Our reserves position;

	Current Year	Previous year
Unrestricted Funds	£34,286	£54802
Restricted funds	£49,214	£32,214
Designated funds	£65,000	£55,000
Reserves funds	£38,500	£15000

The reserves that we have set aside provide us with the means for our charity to cover all liabilities incurred if funding to continue the project was not secured. We intent to maintain our

reserves at a level which is at least equivalent to three months project wind down costs along with employer's liabilities and organisational liabilities i.e. office, disposing of assets, storing of legal documents/confidential information.

Acknowledgements:

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all individuals, groups, and organisations whose contributions have been instrumental in sustaining the success of the Dovecote Children & Families projects throughout the past year. Your unwavering assistance and support have been indispensable in enabling the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee to uphold its mission of providing high-quality, affordable play experiences and opportunities for children, including those with disabilities, as well as young people and families residing in one of Europe's largest social housing estate.

Finally

We extend immense gratitude to all our staff for their outstanding dedication in creating a fun, happy, friendly, welcoming, secure, challenging, and stimulating environment for the children.", young people and families of the Leys!

ALSO, A MASSIVE BIG THANKS TO:
Trustees and wonderful volunteers who help make
Dovecote Children & Families project happen
Funders for their valuable support
Peter Stevenson for examining the accounts

Dovecote users, parents, carers and children and young people who make it all worthwhile 😊😊

**Reaching Communities Lottery Community Fund
Oxford Food Hub
Oxford County Council HAF Funding
Blackbird Leys Parish Council
Peabody Housing Group
Oxford Hub**



DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE CIO
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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4	Independent Examiner's Report
5	Statement of Financial Activities
6	Balance Sheet
7	Notes to the Financial Statements
8	Statement of Financial Activities 2022/23 (for comparative purposes)
9	Detailed Income & Expenditure Account

Registered Charity No: 1172048

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE CIO
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

TRUSTEES

Amie Prior
Jessica Brain
Rachel Partlett
Tara Collier
Craig Logan

REGISTERED OFFICE

The Dovecote
Nightingale Avenue
Blackbird Leys
Oxford
OX4 5BU

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Peter J Stevenson FCA

BANKERS

Barclays Bank plc, Oxford
Lloyds Bank plc

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE CIO

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Charitable Status

Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered in England, number 1172048.

Trustees

The Trustees who have held office at any point during the period ended 31 March 2024 and to the date of this report are as follows:

Rachel Partlett (Chair)	Amie Prior (Secretary)
Jacob Brain (resigned 18/5/23)	Tara Collier
Hilary Miles (resigned 18/5/23)	Craig Logan
Dwayne John (resigned 18/5/23)	Jessica Brain (appointed 18/5/23)

Structure, Governance and Management

The Committee was originally established under a Constitution adopted in 2007. The charity formed in 2017 acquired the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body.

Additional trustees may be appointed by the Committee; all new trustees are offered appropriate training in order to fulfil their role.

Objectives and activities

The object of the charity is to provide facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children during out of school hours and school holidays.

The charity also aims to advance the education and training of persons in the provision of such care, education and recreational facilities.

Achievements and performance

Thanks to a major 3-year grant from the Lottery Fund, the charity has been able to expand its activities greatly, and to develop further its plans for broadening its appeal and relevance within the local community. In the past year it has attracted grants and donations totalling £109,164 for its core work, including £91,727 from National Lottery under the Reaching Communities programme, of which £49,214 is carried forward for use in 2024/25, as the National Lottery year runs from January to December.

Full details of achievements and future plans may be found on the charity's website.

Public benefit

The Trustees of the charity have had due regard both to the objectives of the charity, as set out above, and also to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties. All activities are undertaken in furtherance of the charity's objects, as outlined above.

Risk management

The principal risks the charity may face are perceived to be inadequate future funding and the possibility of safeguarding issues arising in the children's activities. To mitigate these risks, more than sufficient future funding has been secured in the short term, and appropriate safeguarding measures have been put in place.

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE CIO

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Financial Review

Income for the year totalled £124,218 (2023 £84,751) and expenditure £94,289 (2023 £53,328). The net surplus of £29,929 (2023 £31,423) has been added to the fund balances, resulting in reserves carried forward of £186,982 of which £49,214 (2023 £32,214) were restricted funds and £65,000 (2023 £55,000) were funds designated for redundancy costs in the event of the charity being wound up.

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report, and have therefore continued to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Plans for Future Periods

With the Reaching Communities support, the charity plans to develop further its partnership and outreach work, and to provide more offsite facilities for local families. It will develop and expand its holiday playscheme and its specialist facilities, whilst maintaining its core services, as described on the charity's website.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the Trustees 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (information needed by the independent examiner in connection with preparing his report) of which the charity's examiner is unaware, and each Trustee has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken in order to make himself aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

Peter J Stevenson FCA has signified his willingness to continue in office and a resolution to re-appoint him as examiner will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on 10 June 2024

And signed by order of the Trustees by



Amie Prior
Trustee and Secretary

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Totals £	2023 Totals £
INCOME				
Grants and donations	107,799	1,365	109,164	77,469
Activities for generating funds:				
Fees and hirings	0	12,812	12,812	7,073
Other income				
Refunds	0	1,686	1,686	85
Interest	0	556	556	124
TOTAL INCOME	107,799	16,419	124,218	84,751
EXPENDITURE (Note 3)				
Fundraising and publicity	4234	1,551	5,785	4,537
Charitable activities				
Staff costs	68,080	0	68,080	40,227
Activity costs	15,330	0	15,330	3,360
Property costs	3,155	0	3,155	3,305
Office costs	0	804	804	731
Professional fees	0	1,135	1,135	1,168
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	90,799	3,490	94,289	53,328
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	17,000	12,929	29,929	31,423
Funds b/f at 1st April 2023	32,214	124,839	157,053	125,630
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2024	£49,214	£137,768	£186,982	£157,053

The notes on page 3 form part of these accounts.

All activities are continuing; there are no gains and losses other than those recognised through the Statement of Financial Activities.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	4	1,120	500
Bank deposit a/c		86,157	55,601
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>100,985</u>	<u>102,002</u>
		188,262	158,103
CURRENT LIABILITIES	5		
Creditors		<u>1,280</u>	<u>1,050</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>186,982</u>	<u>157,053</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>£186,982</u>	<u>£157,053</u>
FUND BALANCES			
Restricted funds	6	49,214	32,214
Designated funds		65,000	55,000
Other unrestricted funds		<u>72,768</u>	<u>69,839</u>
		<u>£186,982</u>	<u>£157,053</u>

NB Designated funds represent a provision for redundancy costs
in the event of the charity being wound up

These accounts were approved by the Management Committee on 10 June 2024

SIGNED: 
Rachel Partlett

SIGNED: 
Amie Prior

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

1. Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Annual Report. All the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body were transferred in at 1st April 2017.

2. Accounting policies

(a) **Income** is included in the SoFA when:

the entity becomes entitled to the resources, it is probable that the income will be received, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(b) **Liabilities** are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the entity to pay out resources.

3. Expenditure

Expenditure includes the Independent Examiner's fee £500 (2023 £450); no trustees were paid or committee expenses reimbursed (2023 NIL), and there were no related party transactions in either year. No employees' emoluments exceeded £60,000 in either year; the average number of employees was 6 (2023: 5).

4. Debtors	2024	2023
	£	£
Payments in advance:		
Insurance	500	500
Payroll services	620	0
	£1,120	£500

5. Creditors

HM Revenue & Customs	0	0
Other creditors	1,280	1,050
	£1,280	£1,050

6. Restricted funds

The restricted fund surplus represents the unexpended balance of Lottery Fund monies at year-end.

7. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. Under all scenarios reviewed the charity has sufficient reserves to continue operating as a going concern for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report, and consequently has adopted this basis in preparing the accounts.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

FOR COMPARATIVE PURPOSES

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Totals £	2022 Totals £
INCOME				
Grants and donations	74,690	2,779	77,469	35,196
Activities for generating funds:				
Fees and hirings	0	7,073	7,073	7,921
Book sales	0	0	0	320
Other income				
Furlough payments	0	0	0	7,423
Refunds	0	85	85	97
Interest	0	124	124	5
TOTAL INCOME	74,690	10,061	84,751	50,962
EXPENDITURE (Note 3)				
Fundraising and publicity	763	3,774	4,537	1,086
Charitable activities				
Staff costs	35,048	5,179	40,227	42,392
Activity costs	3,360	0	3,360	3,541
Property costs	3,305	0	3,305	3,150
Office costs	0	731	731	386
Professional fees	0	1,168	1,168	895
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	42,476	10,852	53,328	51,450
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	32,214	-791	31,423	-488
Funds b/f at 1st April 2022	0	125,630	125,630	126,118
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2023	£32,214	£124,839	£157,053	£125,630

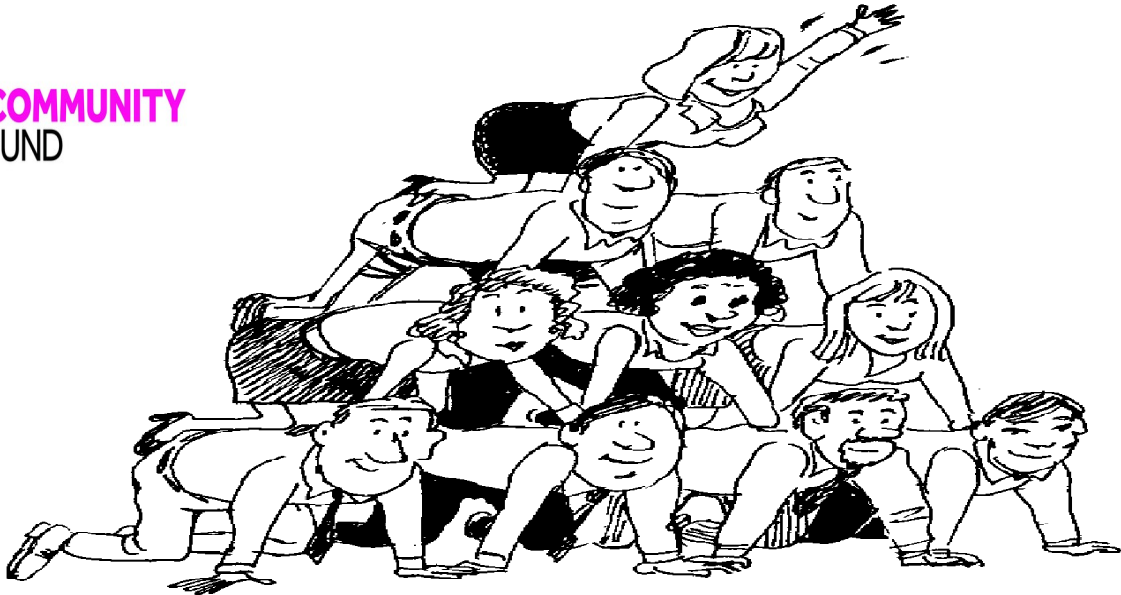
The notes on page 3 form part of these accounts.

All activities are continuing; there are no gains and losses other than those recognised through the Statement of Financial Activities.

DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	2023/24		2022/23	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Fees		8,732		3,703
Rentals		1,610		900
Refunds		1,686		85
Restricted grants:				
Oxford City Council: holiday funding	9,413		2,000	
Peabody Trust	3,859		0	
Oxford Hub	2,300		0	
Blackbird Leys Parish Council	500		500	
Awards for All	0		10,000	
Reaching Communities: Lottery Fund	91,727		48,020	
Oxfordshire Community Foundation	0		11,170	
Other grants in 2022/23	0	107,799	3,000	74,690
Unrestricted grants and donations:				
Various		1,365		2,779
Building Management fees		2,470		2,470
Bank interest		556		124
TOTAL INCOME		£124,218		£84,751
EXPENDITURE				
Wages	29,986		7,108	
Training, travel and subsistence	832		720	
Services Coordinator: salary + NI	37,262		32,400	
Fundraising fee	5,295		3,774	
Equipment, workshops & trips	14,851		3,360	
Rent	2,600		2,600	
Insurance	555		550	
Repairs	0		155	
Accountancy and bookkeeping	550		400	
Payroll charges	585		531	
Inspection and DBS check fees	479		237	
Telephone (inc. insurance)	644		475	
Advertising	490		763	
Miscellaneous	160		255	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£94,289		£53,328
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		£29,929		£31,423

Accounts



Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee Annual Report 2022 – 2023

Registered Charity No: 1172048



Why Dovecote Children & Families Project is Important

There are very few initiatives engaging with families in Greater Leys. The Dovecote centre is based in the centre of the estate is the only provider of out of school play facilities for young children and children with disabilities aged 4 to 14 years old, along with being the only provider

of these schemes for children aged 4 to 8 across the Leys estate with an estimated population of 1153 within this age range.

As a community owned and run project, we have been fortunate to have the ability to flex in order to meet the needs of the Leys community. We provide holistic services that meet the multiple-needs of local residents, build trusting relationships, provide low-cost services and attract people that are highly committed to making their community a better place to live.

- Good quality play experiences, supporting children and young people to achieve good physical and mental health.
- Inclusive, safe play opportunities where children and young people develop self-confidence and life skills preparing them for a creative and positive adulthood.
- Families, young children and children with disabilities are supported to overcome social exclusions and isolation
- Training and assistance for volunteers to support current provision, and initiate and develop new projects
- User involvement in design, delivery and management of services to meet locally identified need rather than externally perceived needs.
- Skilling up and local capacity building, sign posting local families to access training, support and resources to learn new skills, gain self-esteem and confidence and increase wellbeing.

Achievements to Date

The guiding principle underlying all our work is consultation with, and involvement of children, young people and families. A key aim is to maximise the use of the Dovecote a valuable community resource. For Dovecote to be vibrant, fun, local community resource owned by the community in which it seeks to serve – whose lives it enhances.

Focus of our project is providing children including children with disabilities, young people and families with access to affordable good quality, safe, secure play and social opportunities and experiences not normally accessible to them. When the first phase of the new estate was established in 1996, consultation took place with local residents. The need for stay and play sessions and out of school play facilities was identified along with family social and parenting support groups. The outcome of the consultation was the creation of the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Management Committee made up of local parents who come together to create the Dovecote Children & Families project, led and managed by the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee a constituted group. Their commitment and dedication have enabled the project to thrive, creating many new and exciting opportunities for children and families to enjoy for the past 27 years. Our project has worked with and supported in excess of 3000 families.

We have achieved the following project developments over the past 27 years we have been operating, thanks to the dedication of the committee, staff and volunteers:

- An afterschool club three sessions per week, 16 children per session, including children with disabilities aged 4 to 12 years old
- Easter and summer playschemes for up to 40 children including children with disabilities per session
- Half term playschemes (subject to funding) for up to 16 children
- Twice weekly Stay & Play sessions for young mums and dads with young children
- Purpose built sensory room for children with disabilities and their families

- Strong partnership work with a wide range of voluntary and statutory organisations supporting vulnerable children and families
- Strong partnership work with Aiming High Short Breaks for Disabled Children to support young children with disabilities experiencing exclusion to accessing local services to participate in our afterschool club and schemes.
- Setting up Leys News a free community newsletter distributed to every household in Blackbird Leys. Today the Leys news is an independent community newspaper reach 5000 household every month
- Development of Dovecote Afloat – narrow boat project bringing the magic of canals and nature to young people from the Leys (Sadly due to funding this project came to an end in August 2016) *Sadly due to funding this project is no longer running*
- Purpose built sensory garden
- Provide support, training and volunteering opportunities
- Extension of centre garden providing a larger outside play area
- Awarded Outstanding Grade by Ofsted 2009
- Finalist Groundwork Community Award – Best Community Project on a Social Housing Estate 2018
- Finalist Children & Young People's Award 2016
- Secured two large key funding awards from the Lottery

Volunteers play a vital part role in the running of our project. Without their help and commitment there would not be a Dovecote Children & Families project. All activities are offered to families at below cost to ensure accessibility and affordability to all young children and families living in the Leys. It is encouraging to see young children develop; many have gone on to become volunteers helping in our project. Several have been supported to access training to become qualified play workers working in our schemes before pursuing a career in child care. Our current board of trustees consists of two young men, former users of the Dovecote from the age of 4 years old along with helping deliver services on a volunteer basis for several years.

Project Management

We the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Trustees receive regular reports and updates from the Children & Families Services Manager Carol Richards. We hold up to six business meeting per year along with training and informal meetings taking place when required. Trustees are elected at our Annual General Meeting. Annual accounts are prepared by a qualified accountant and signed off at our AGM. Day to day activities of the project is managed and developed in consultation with the committee by the Children & Families Services Manager. Children and young people play a lead role in the planning and development of Dovecote Children & Families project. We also employ two part-time afterschool club play workers and have a good bank of regular seasonal play staff. Stay and play sessions are delivered by our wonderful volunteer Alison Logan, supported by Carol. We also have a very good network of parents/carers and supporters who are always willing to help when they can.

Vision, Mission and Values

OUR VISION – A world where all children and young people are equal

OUR MISSION – *provide services, support and opportunities that support the Improvement of the descending spiral of deprivation and inequality, setting a path for lasting growth*

OUR VALUES – *We pride ourselves in giving a safe and welcoming environment in order to give our users the ability to development themselves and break the cycle of undesirable peer pressure.*

We support children and young people in their personal development and to build positive relationships. Together we enable children and young people to reach their full potential and realise their ambitions. We are ambitious for the lives of the children and young people we work with. The services we provide to families and children aspire to better lives. We have built trusting relationships within the community over many years. We have maintained this trust by being dependable and consistent in our delivery of services and support.

Our Contact Details

Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee, Registered Charity number 1172048,

Dovecote Centre, Nightingale Avenue, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 7BU

Tel: 01865 712299 Mobile: 07974234661

E-mail: leysdvpc@hotmail.com Website; www.dovecoteproject.com facebook:leysdvpc

Office Hours

Current office hours vary

Trustees

Rachel Partlett – Chairperson; Amie Prior – Secretary; Jacob Brain, Tara Collier, Craig Logan, Hilary Miles and Dwayne John

Dovecote Team

Carol Richards: Children & Families Services Co-ordinator

Sharon Bishop Play Assistant

Alison Logan Play Assistant

Delvise Saunders Play Assistant

Along with a range of seasonal staff throughout the year

Volunteers

Alison Logan, Amanda Jones

Mr Peter J Stevenson, MA FCA, has independently examined our accounts

Chairs Report

Welcome everyone and thank you for attending this year's AGM

I am pleased to present our annual report for 2022-23. The past twelve months have been much better than the previous twelve months. Thanks to the vaccine slowly but surely the past year has seen Covid having less of an impact on daily life. Services our project provide are now pretty much back to fully pre covid familiarity; i.e., stay and play and afterschool club sessions. At each Trustee meeting CR has reported that our stay and play sessions are very popular. The Wednesday session more often than not is having to turn families away as it is full to capacity and more!

The Dovecote Children & Families project puts the voices and needs of disadvantaged young people, families and children at the centre of everything we do, drawing on their stories and the experiences of our partners to develop services for change.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all Trustees who continue to serve, support and scrutinise the Charity's work. Without their dedication and commitment which is very much valued and appreciated, there would not be a Dovecote Children & Families project.

A major important aspect of this year was being awarded three-year funding from the Lottery Reaching Communities fund. We learnt the good news 24th October 2022. The support of the Lottery is very much welcomed to say the least. It will provide us with much needed resources; recruitment of a Play Leader (something we have been without for just over 18 months) along with much needed recruitment of a Community Outreach Worker to enable us to take Dovecote Children & Families Project out into the community.

Having this resource will support us to connect and reconnect with children, families and local organisations in the Leys. This is something we feel has been a hugely negatively impacted by Covid 19.

On behalf of everyone at Dovecote Children & Families project, I would like to big thank you to all our supporters and partners for their support over the past year.

Treasurers Report

2022/23 financial accounts have been prepared by our long-standing accountant Peter J Stevenson MA FCA

Throughout the reporting period the focus has continued to explore how best to find and fund the inspiring ideas that change the lives of children, young people and families. This has been impacted considerably by the global pandemic and Covid-19. It's clear that all the UK's children and young people and disadvantaged families have been challenged by the pandemic but for those already experiencing disadvantage the past few years have been an even more challenging year.

Securing the support of Reaching Communities for the next three years will enable Dovecote Children & Families project to focus on supporting more families, reconnecting and strengthening of current partnership work whilst establishing new partnership work. Having the resource of an outreach worker will enable us to take Dovecote Children & Families project out into the community. The funding will support us to develop current services to better meet the needs of Leys children and families along with having the ability to provide a wider variety of activities and opportunities to disadvantage children and families in the Leys and surrounding areas

We are fortunate as a small charity to have had enough reserves that permitted us to match fund some of the lottery funding over the next three years. We believe having this resource

strengthened our Reaching communities funding bid. “It's a fact, more people are likely to donate to charity and give more money if they know their donation will be match-funded”.

“A Great Match” is the first-ever in-depth research carried out into match-funding in the UK, analysing data from 138,000 charitable donations. *“The research shows that match funding is a fantastic incentive to donors”*

Secretary

Despite the challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic Dovecote Children & Families project has continued to work hard to transform the lives of disadvantage, children, including those with disabilities, young people and families living in nationally recognised area of disadvantage. This report tells the story of how our team at Dovecote and Trustees have been creative and innovative in making sure we continued to be here for children, young people and families who need us

What makes Dovecote Voluntary Children & Families project such a special organisation is that we take learning from local residents and inspired stories and voices of young people. We then work to prevent other families and young people from experiencing these challenges

I think everyone will agree when I say the past two years have been some of the most demanding for Dovecote Children & Families Project, but I could not be prouder of this very special organisation. As we look ahead, we recognise the scale of the challenge before us – we have an ambitious goal, an ambitious strategy, and a gifted, talented team. We are up for the challenge and hope you will continue to stand with us as we work to truly build a society for all children, young people and families.

Afterschool Club

Numbers attending afterschool club over the past year have varied. We feel this has been mainly down to the cost-of-living crisis which continues to hit the most vulnerable families, children and young people in the UK. It has also been a year of unwelcome records: the highest inflation in 40 years, the sharpest fall in pay for more than two decades.....

Children attending the club had access to a variety of activities and opportunities;

- team games - communication and leadership skills, cooperation, friendship
- Art and crafts –creativity, imagination, fine motor skills
- Outdoor risky play, (many of the children reside in flats)
- Offsite trips – develop both mentally and physically, social awareness, keep healthy
- Science activities, sensory play, baking, and much more - nurture curiosity, increase confidence to try new things, learn new skills purpose-built sensory room and garden provides therapeutic play

Although academic performance is a crucial part of a child's journey through school, building on their social skills and self-confidence is just as important. After school clubs enable students to interact with new people, develop interpersonal skills and learn from each other. They also help to discourage children from engaging in anti-social behaviours by keeping them busy.

There is a large body of research showing that extracurricular activities play a positive role with significantly improving soft skills for those who regularly attend - these include; independence, fitting in with peers, teamwork, communication and problem solving skills.

Extracurricular activities allow students to apply lessons and skills acquired in class to a real-world context, particularly the use of soft skills. For example, students who take part in sports teams like football are given the opportunity to develop and improve their discipline, teamwork and communication, and students who take part in after school maths class will be able to implement skills such as problem solving and critical thinking - proving to work in both an academic and social environment.

Researchers continue to find data to support the statement that after school clubs are highly effective and beneficial in developing soft skills, boosting academic performance and overall helping young people.

Extracurricular activities bring physical and mental health benefits for children

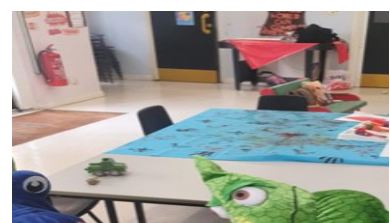
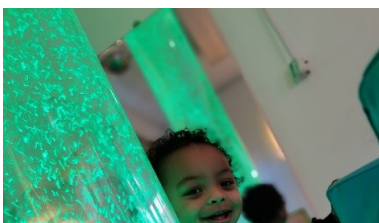
Stay & Play

Our stay and play sessions continue to be extremely busy. Wednesday sessions can be a bit manic at times as this is the busiest sessions. On several occasions we have sadly had to turn people away due to reaching full capacity for inside of 15 children and 14 adults. One Wednesday session we had 21 children and adults!!! To say it was a bit manic is an understatement but fun and fulfilling seeing children having a good time. Now the weather is getting nicer we will be able to start using the outside garden more this will enable more to families attend.

We continue to support new mums, dads and parents of babies born during lockdown to socialise, learn new skills, access new opportunities, be less afraid of trying new things and meeting new people, overcome the feeling of loneliness, isolation and much more. Along with support parents suffering with anxiety and depression. Our Little Doves messenger group is a very good source of support for those parents. Many grandmothers who attend the sessions are very good at encouraging and supporting younger mums and dads.

Our stay & play sessions offer the following;

- Group leaders ensure a smooth-running of our sessions where children are able to explore and play safely.
- Children learn from having fun. Our sessions offer a wide-range of play activities and educational toys to assist children's developmental needs.
- We offer a variety of activities
- Sessions offer fun outdoor play experience and exploring outside is keenly encouraged
- Sessions include free-play, messy play, arts and crafts sensory play in our sensory room. Opportunities and experiences help children by; encouraging speech and language, encouraging sharing and turn-taking and exploring new and exciting activities.



Working in partnership with parents is central to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and it is widely acknowledged that developing successful relationships between parents and providers can have long-lasting and beneficial effects on children's learning and wellbeing

Research has found that 'Stay and Play' sessions where parents and their children play and learned songs, are linked to small but significant reductions in parenting stress, improvements in mothers' health, and better learning environments in the children's own homes.

Aim of Stay and Play sessions – Update

Be Healthy- Much of our play is physically active helping develop physical health. Additionally, there is a very strong ethos of promoting healthy eating, with snack time consisting of only fruit, which develops a healthy lifestyle and encourages the parents to support the children to follow a healthy lifestyle. Through playing, learning and developing in a supportive environment, where parents are helped to promote these activities, children are nurtured and remain mentally and emotionally healthy.

Stay Safe -Through playing with their children and enjoying time with other parents, parents' bond better with their children and develop support networks to help them cope with parenthood and learn new skills, which will reduce the occurrences of maltreatment, neglect and violence.

Enjoy & Achieve -Through both structured and unstructured, children become more socially independent and socially able making them ready to engage fully in school when they are old enough. Through these same process's children are able to develop personally and socially while enjoying recreation.

Make a Positive Contribution - Stay and Plays are social environments where children are encouraged to develop positive relationships with other children and behave appropriately in play. Through play children are encouraged to be more independent which helps them develop self-confidence.

Partnership Work

The focus this year is to reconnect and strengthen our work with our current partners i.e., Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground, local schools, Family Solutions, CDI..... Sadly, partnership and networking has been severely impacted by Covid 19. Since restrictions have been lifted most originations time and effort has been on reconnecting with users, restarting services needed to help address the impact of the pandemic on disadvantage children, young people and families.

We are pleased to say we are now working in partnership with Together with Migrant Children; They provide support migrant and refugee children, young people and families across the UK. Their aim is to empower and support individuals, families and communities through advocacy, specialist assessment, family assessment, family, youth work and social work. The forge close

working links with other organisations to ensure everyone one they work with is well supported. Central to their work is rights-based and democratic practice.”

This group is now based the Peep reschool room at Dovecote. Together we will be explore ways in which we can work together to provide services needed to support Asylum seekers and refugees with young children living in Blackbird Leys. We will work together to source and submit joint funding bids to enable Dovecote Children and Families project and Together with Migrant Children to develop service needed to support vulnerable families.

Parent Power (Oxford Hub); “Parent Power brings parents together to support each other, enabling families to lead their best lives and achieve their goals.

Additional new partnership work also took place with Parent Power is an ambitious initiative that works directly with families who are keen to lead changes in their own lives – helping themselves, their children and their communities to thrive. Drawing on the experience of other projects in the UK and the US. Parent Power supports families. to set their goals, access opportunities in the community and shape services around them. We are working together to set up new parent lead initiatives, recruit and support volunteers and put together joint family fun events

We have also had the opportunity to reconnect with existing partners; BLAP, CDI, local Schools.....

Working in partnership with people and communities creates a better chance of creating services that meet people's needs, it improves their experience and outcomes. Local residents, children and young people have the knowledge, skills, experiences and connections services need to understand in order to support their physical and mental health

Partnership working coordinates better action between organisations and allows us opportunities to exchange views, support innovation and provide additional momentum to get things done.

Future Developments

- Families project - Parents and families have identified that existing resources at the Dovecote are under-utilised. Develop new parenting support groups, baby massage, new parent sessions, workshops with parents setting agenda.....
- Development of existing specialist facilities (purpose built sensory room) to reach those, young children with impairments experiencing social exclusion and facing multiple barriers to engagement with services, to support their education and wellbeing.
- Work with Social Services to facilitate Dovecote becoming a contact centre for families with children in care.
- Development of more play & stay sessions to include a SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disabilities) session
- Raise necessary funds to employ an Outreach worker to take Dovecote services out to the community, i.e., offer support and advice on parenting, local activities and services through home visiting and groups, offering a listening ear

Funding

See attached 2022/2023 financial report prepared by Peter Stevens, MA FCA

Equal Opportunities

We are fully committed to caring for children in a multi-cultural/racial community.
We give the following undertaking and declare that:

We will treat the children in our care with equal concern and without prejudice to their religious persuasion, racial origin, cultural background, gender, disability or special needs.

The Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee is committed to taking positive and proactive steps to ensure that we provide a safe and caring environment, free from discrimination for everyone in our community; we provide facilities that promote and reflect cultural and social diversity and are equally accessible to all.

We are proud of our record of success in including children with various specific physical intellectual or behavioural needs in our activities and we are fortunate to have a very good partnership with the Parasol Project. Parasol is based on the belief that children with disabilities are children first. With the help of enablers provided by Parasol, we are able to better meet the needs of children with disabilities in our playschemes.

Acknowledgements:

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all the people, groups and organisations who have contributed to the continued success of the Dovecote Children & Families projects over the past year. Without your help and support the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee would not have succeeded in continuing to deliver good quality, low-cost play experiences and opportunities for the children, including children with disabilities, young people and families living in one of Europe's largest social housing estates Blackbird Leys.

Finally

A huge thanks to all our staff for the great job they do providing a fun, happy, friendly, welcoming, secure, challenging and stimulating environment for the children, young people and families of the Leys!

ALSO BIG THANKS TO:

Trustees and all our wonderful volunteers who help make Dovecote Children & Families project happen

Catalyst Housing Group

Reaching Communities Lottery Community Fund



Oxford Food Hub

Pye Settlement Charity

Christ Church

Blackbird Leys Parish Council

St John's College

Merton College

Robert & Margert Moss Charitable Trust

National Lottery Reaching Communities Small Grants

Oxfordshire Community Development Foundation

Oxford City Council Community Impact Fund

***All our funders for their valuable support
Peter Stevenson for examining the accounts
All parents and carers of our users and children and
young people who make it all worthwhile!!!!***

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE CIO
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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4	Independent Examiner's Report
5	Statement of Financial Activities
6	Balance Sheet
7	Notes to the Financial Statements
8	Statement of Financial Activities 2021/22 (for comparative purposes)
9	Detailed Income & Expenditure Account

Registered Charity No: 1172048

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE CIO
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1

TRUSTEES

Amie Prior
Jacob Brain
Rachel Partlett
Tara Collier
Hilary Miles
Craig Logan
Dwayne John

REGISTERED OFFICE

The Dovecote
Nightingale Avenue
Blackbird Leys
Oxford
OX4 5BU

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Peter J Stevenson FCA

BANKERS

Barclays Bank plc
Oxford

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Charitable Status

Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered in England, number 1172048.

Trustees

The Trustees who have held office at any point during the period ended 31 March 2023 and to the date of this report are as follows:

Rachel Partlett (Chair)	Amie Prior (Secretary)
Jacob Brain	Tara Collier
Hilary Miles	Craig Logan
Dwayne John	

Structure, Governance and Management

The Committee was originally established under a Constitution adopted in 2007. The charity formed in 2017 acquired the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body.

Additional trustees may be appointed by the Committee; all new trustees are offered appropriate training in order to fulfil their role.

Objectives and activities

The object of the charity is to provide facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children during out of school hours and school holidays.

The charity also aims to advance the education and training of persons in the provision of such care, education and recreational facilities.

Achievements and performance

The charity has been able to more normal levels of activity, and to make plans for broadening its appeal and relevance within the local community. In the past year it has attracted £77,469 grants and donations for its core work, including funding over 3 years from National Lottery totalling £48,020 under the Reaching Communities programme, of which £15,866 had been applied at the balance sheet date. The lottery year runs from January; in subsequent periods the charity will be required to fund a larger proportion of the total project costs.

Full details of achievements and future plans may be found on the charity's website.

Public benefit

The Trustees of the charity have had due regard both to the objectives of the charity, as set out above, and also to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties. All activities are undertaken in furtherance of the charity's objects, as outlined above.

Risk management

The principal risks the charity may face are perceived to be inadequate future funding and the possibility of safeguarding issues arising in the children's activities. To mitigate these risks, more than sufficient future funding has been secured in the short term, and appropriate safeguarding measures have been put in place.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Financial Review

Income for the year totalled £84,751 (2022 £50,962) and expenditure £53,328 (2022 £51,450). The net surplus of £31,423 (2022 deficit of £488) has been added to, or deducted from, the fund balances, resulting in reserves carried forward of £157,053 of which £32,214 (2022 £NIL) were restricted funds and £55,000 (2022 £45,000) were funds designated for redundancy costs in the event of the charity being wound up.

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report, and have therefore continued to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Plans for Future Periods

With the Reaching Communities support, the charity plans to develop further its partnership and outreach work, and to provide more offsite facilities for local families. It will develop and expand its holiday playscheme and its specialist facilities, whilst maintaining its core services, as described on the charity's website.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the Trustees 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (information needed by the independent examiner in connection with preparing his report) of which the charity's examiner is unaware, and each Trustee has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken in order to make himself aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

Peter J Stevenson FCA has signified his willingness to continue in office and a resolution to re-appoint him as examiner will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on 18 May 2023

And signed by order of the Trustees by



Amie Prior
Trustee and Secretary

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee CIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to state on the basis of Procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Peter J. Stevenson

Peter J. Stevenson
Chartered Accountant

8 Harbord Road
Oxford
OX2 8LJ

Date: 18th May 2023

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Totals £	2022 Totals £
INCOME				
Grants and donations	74,690	2,779	77,469	35,196
Activities for generating funds:				
Fees and hirings	0	7,073	7,073	7,921
Book sales	0	0	0	320
Other income				
Furlough payments	0	0	0	7,423
Refunds	0	85	85	97
Interest	0	124	124	5
TOTAL INCOME	74,690	10,061	84,751	50,962
EXPENDITURE (Note 3)				
Fundraising and publicity	763	3,774	4,537	1,086
Charitable activities				
Staff costs	35,048	5,179	40,227	42,392
Activity costs	3,360	0	3,360	3,541
Property costs	3,305	0	3,305	3,150
Office costs	0	731	731	386
Professional fees	0	1,168	1,168	895
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	42,476	10,852	53,328	51,450
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	32,214	-791	31,423	-488
Funds b/f at 1st April 2022	0	125,630	125,630	126,118
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2023	£32,214	£124,839	£157,053	£125,630

The notes on page 3 form part of these accounts.

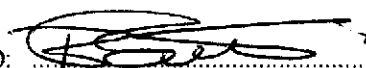
All activities are continuing; there are no gains and losses other than those recognised through the Statement of Financial Activities.

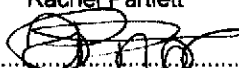
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	4	500	500
Bank deposit a/c		55,601	55,479
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>102,002</u>	<u>73,571</u>
		158,103	129,550
CURRENT LIABILITIES	5		
Deferred income		0	3,000
Creditors		<u>1,050</u>	<u>920</u>
		1,050	3,920
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>157,053</u>	<u>125,630</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>£157,053</u>	<u>£125,630</u>
FUND BALANCES			
Restricted funds	6	32,214	0
Designated funds		55,000	45,000
Other unrestricted funds		<u>69,839</u>	<u>80,630</u>
		<u>£157,053</u>	<u>£125,630</u>

NB Designated funds represent a provision for redundancy costs
in the event of the charity being wound up

These accounts were approved by the Management Committee on 18 May 2023

SIGNED: 
Rachel Partlett

SIGNED: 
Amie Prior

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

1. Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Annual Report. All the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body were transferred in at 1st April 2017.

2. Accounting policies**(a) Income is included in the SofA when:**

the entity becomes entitled to the resources, it is probable that the income will be received, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(b) Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the entity to pay out resources.**3. Expenditure**

Expenditure includes the Independent Examiner's fee £400 (2022 £400); no trustees were paid or committee expenses reimbursed (2022 NIL), and there were no related party transactions in either year. No employees' emoluments exceeded £60,000 in either year; the average number of employees was 5 (2022: 5).

	2023 £	2022 £
4. Debtors		
Payments in advance: insurance	500	500
	£500	£500

5. Creditors

Deferred income: grants	0	3,000
HM Revenue & Customs	0	0
Other creditors	1050	920
	£1,050	£3,920

6. Restricted funds

The restricted fund surplus represents the unexpended balance of Lottery Fund monies at year-end.

7. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. Under all scenarios reviewed the charity has sufficient reserves to continue operating as a going concern for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report, and consequently has adopted this basis in preparing the accounts.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

FOR COMPARATIVE PURPOSES

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2022 Totals £
INCOME			
Grants and donations	31,387	3,809	35,196
Activities for generating funds:			
Fees and hirings	0	7,921	7,921
Book sales	0	320	320
Other income			
Furlough payments	0	7,423	7,423
Refunds	0	97	97
Interest	0	5	5
TOTAL INCOME	31,387	19,575	50,962
EXPENDITURE			
Fundraising and publicity	0	1,086	1,086
Charitable activities			
Staff costs	40,124	2,268	42,392
Activity costs	3,541	0	3,541
Property costs	3,150	0	3,150
Office costs	0	386	386
Professional fees	0	895	895
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	46,815	4,635	51,450
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-15,428	14,940	-488
Funds b/f at 1st April 2021	15,428	110,690	126,118
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2022	£0	£125,630	£125,630

DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	2022/23		2021/22	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Fees	3,703		4,893	
Rentals	900		558	
Book sales	0		320	
Refunds	85		97	
Restricted grants:				
Oxford City Council	2,000		18,887	
Blackbird Leys Parish Council	500		2,500	
Awards for All	10,000		10,000	
Reaching Communities: Lottery Fund	48,020		0	
Oxfordshire Community Foundation	11,170		0	
J A Pye Charitable Settlement	2,000		0	
Doris Field Charitable Trust	1,000		0	
Unrestricted grants and donations:				
Catalyst Housing Group	0		2,500	
Other	2,779		1,309	
Furlough payments	0		7,423	
Building Management fees	2,470		2,470	
Bank interest	124	84,751	5	50,962
EXPENDITURE				
Wages	7,108		9,927	
Training, travel and subsistence	720		465	
Services Coordinator: salary + NI	32,400		32,000	
Fundraising fee	3,774		1,086	
Equipment, workshops & trips	3,360		3,074	
Rent	2,600		2,600	
Insurance	550		550	
Repairs	155		0	
Accountancy and bookkeeping	400		400	
Payroll charges	531		495	
Inspection and DBS check fees	237		187	
Telephone (inc. insurance)	475		386	
Advertising	763		0	
Miscellaneous	255	53,328	280	51,450
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	£31,423		-£488	

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE CIO
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

INDEX

Page 1-3	Report of the Trustees
4	Independent Examiner's Report
5	Statement of Financial Activities
6	Balance Sheet
7	Notes to the Financial Statements
8	Statement of Financial Activities 2021/22 (for comparative purposes)
9	Detailed Income & Expenditure Account

Registered Charity No: 1172048

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE CIO
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1

TRUSTEES

Amie Prior
Jacob Brain
Rachel Partlett
Tara Collier
Hilary Miles
Craig Logan
Dwayne John

REGISTERED OFFICE

The Dovecote
Nightingale Avenue
Blackbird Leys
Oxford
OX4 5BU

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Peter J Stevenson FCA

BANKERS

Barclays Bank plc
Oxford

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Charitable Status

Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered in England, number 1172048.

Trustees

The Trustees who have held office at any point during the period ended 31 March 2023 and to the date of this report are as follows:

Rachel Partlett (Chair)	Amie Prior (Secretary)
Jacob Brain	Tara Collier
Hilary Miles	Craig Logan
Dwayne John	

Structure, Governance and Management

The Committee was originally established under a Constitution adopted in 2007. The charity formed in 2017 acquired the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body.

Additional trustees may be appointed by the Committee; all new trustees are offered appropriate training in order to fulfil their role.

Objectives and activities

The object of the charity is to provide facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children during out of school hours and school holidays.

The charity also aims to advance the education and training of persons in the provision of such care, education and recreational facilities.

Achievements and performance

The charity has been able to more normal levels of activity, and to make plans for broadening its appeal and relevance within the local community. In the past year it has attracted £77,469 grants and donations for its core work, including funding over 3 years from National Lottery totalling £48,020 under the Reaching Communities programme, of which £15,866 had been applied at the balance sheet date. The lottery year runs from January; in subsequent periods the charity will be required to fund a larger proportion of the total project costs.

Full details of achievements and future plans may be found on the charity's website.

Public benefit

The Trustees of the charity have had due regard both to the objectives of the charity, as set out above, and also to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties. All activities are undertaken in furtherance of the charity's objects, as outlined above.

Risk management

The principal risks the charity may face are perceived to be inadequate future funding and the possibility of safeguarding issues arising in the children's activities. To mitigate these risks, more than sufficient future funding has been secured in the short term, and appropriate safeguarding measures have been put in place.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Financial Review

Income for the year totalled £84,751 (2022 £50,962) and expenditure £53,328 (2022 £51,450). The net surplus of £31,423 (2022 deficit of £488) has been added to, or deducted from, the fund balances, resulting in reserves carried forward of £157,053 of which £32,214 (2022 £NIL) were restricted funds and £55,000 (2022 £45,000) were funds designated for redundancy costs in the event of the charity being wound up.

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report, and have therefore continued to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Plans for Future Periods

With the Reaching Communities support, the charity plans to develop further its partnership and outreach work, and to provide more offsite facilities for local families. It will develop and expand its holiday playscheme and its specialist facilities, whilst maintaining its core services, as described on the charity's website.

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The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (information needed by the independent examiner in connection with preparing his report) of which the charity's examiner is unaware, and each Trustee has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken in order to make himself aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

Peter J Stevenson FCA has signified his willingness to continue in office and a resolution to re-appoint him as examiner will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on 18 May 2023

And signed by order of the Trustees by



Amie Prior
Trustee and Secretary

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee CIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to state on the basis of Procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Peter J. Stevenson

Peter J. Stevenson
Chartered Accountant

8 Harbord Road
Oxford
OX2 8LJ

Date: 18th May 2023

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Totals £	2022 Totals £
INCOME				
Grants and donations	74,690	2,779	77,469	35,196
Activities for generating funds:				
Fees and hirings	0	7,073	7,073	7,921
Book sales	0	0	0	320
Other income				
Furlough payments	0	0	0	7,423
Refunds	0	85	85	97
Interest	0	124	124	5
TOTAL INCOME	74,690	10,061	84,751	50,962
EXPENDITURE (Note 3)				
Fundraising and publicity	763	3,774	4,537	1,086
Charitable activities				
Staff costs	35,048	5,179	40,227	42,392
Activity costs	3,360	0	3,360	3,541
Property costs	3,305	0	3,305	3,150
Office costs	0	731	731	386
Professional fees	0	1,168	1,168	895
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	42,476	10,852	53,328	51,450
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	32,214	-791	31,423	-488
Funds b/f at 1st April 2022	0	125,630	125,630	126,118
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2023	£32,214	£124,839	£157,053	£125,630

The notes on page 3 form part of these accounts.

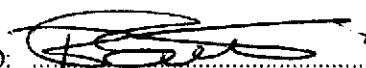
All activities are continuing; there are no gains and losses other than those recognised through the Statement of Financial Activities.

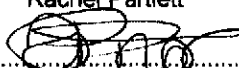
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	4	500	500
Bank deposit a/c		55,601	55,479
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>102,002</u>	<u>73,571</u>
		158,103	129,550
CURRENT LIABILITIES	5		
Deferred income		0	3,000
Creditors		<u>1,050</u>	<u>920</u>
		1,050	3,920
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>157,053</u>	<u>125,630</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>£157,053</u>	<u>£125,630</u>
FUND BALANCES			
Restricted funds	6	32,214	0
Designated funds		55,000	45,000
Other unrestricted funds		<u>69,839</u>	<u>80,630</u>
		<u>£157,053</u>	<u>£125,630</u>

NB Designated funds represent a provision for redundancy costs
in the event of the charity being wound up

These accounts were approved by the Management Committee on 18 May 2023

SIGNED: 
Rachel Partlett

SIGNED: 
Amie Prior

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

1. Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Annual Report. All the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body were transferred in at 1st April 2017.

2. Accounting policies**(a) Income is included in the SofA when:**

the entity becomes entitled to the resources, it is probable that the income will be received, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(b) Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the entity to pay out resources.**3. Expenditure**

Expenditure includes the Independent Examiner's fee £400 (2022 £400); no trustees were paid or committee expenses reimbursed (2022 NIL), and there were no related party transactions in either year. No employees' emoluments exceeded £60,000 in either year; the average number of employees was 5 (2022: 5).

	2023 £	2022 £
4. Debtors		
Payments in advance: insurance	500	500
	£500	£500

5. Creditors

Deferred income: grants	0	3,000
HM Revenue & Customs	0	0
Other creditors	1050	920
	£1,050	£3,920

6. Restricted funds

The restricted fund surplus represents the unexpended balance of Lottery Fund monies at year-end.

7. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. Under all scenarios reviewed the charity has sufficient reserves to continue operating as a going concern for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report, and consequently has adopted this basis in preparing the accounts.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

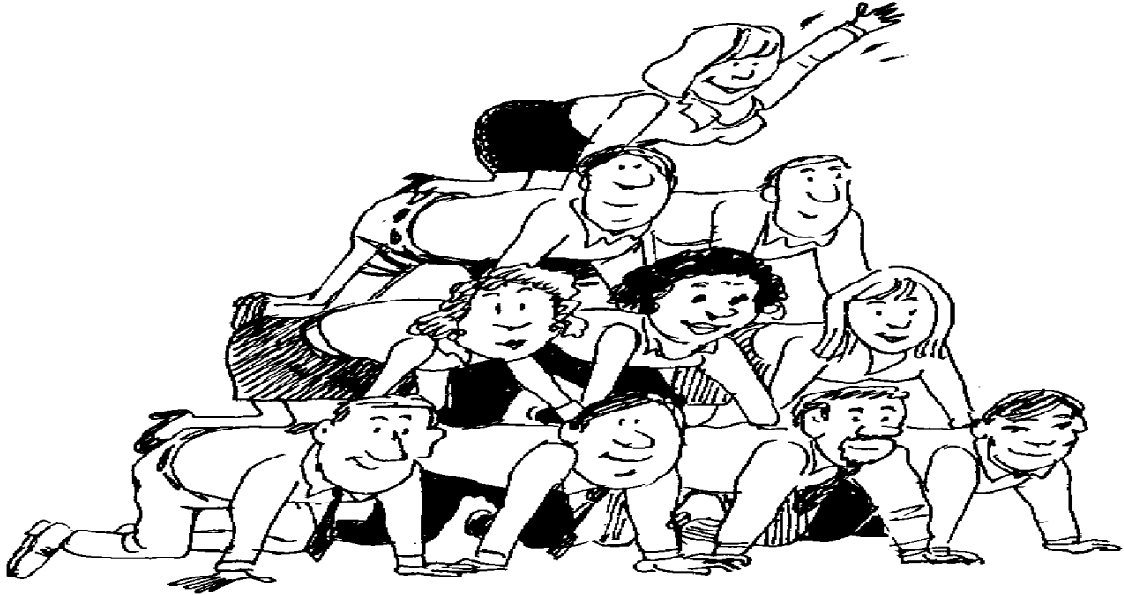
FOR COMPARATIVE PURPOSES

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2022 Totals £
INCOME			
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Activities for generating funds:			
Fees and hirings	0	7,921	7,921
Book sales	0	320	320
Other income			
Furlough payments	0	7,423	7,423
Refunds	0	97	97
Interest	0	5	5
TOTAL INCOME	31,387	19,575	50,962
EXPENDITURE			
Fundraising and publicity	0	1,086	1,086
Charitable activities			
Staff costs	40,124	2,268	42,392
Activity costs	3,541	0	3,541
Property costs	3,150	0	3,150
Office costs	0	386	386
Professional fees	0	895	895
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NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-15,428	14,940	-488
Funds b/f at 1st April 2021	15,428	110,690	126,118
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2022	£0	£125,630	£125,630

DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	2022/23		2021/22	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Fees	3,703		4,893	
Rentals	900		558	
Book sales	0		320	
Refunds	85		97	
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Awards for All	10,000		10,000	
Reaching Communities: Lottery Fund	48,020		0	
Oxfordshire Community Foundation	11,170		0	
J A Pye Charitable Settlement	2,000		0	
Doris Field Charitable Trust	1,000		0	
Unrestricted grants and donations:				
Catalyst Housing Group	0		2,500	
Other	2,779		1,309	
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Wages	7,108		9,927	
Training, travel and subsistence	720		465	
Services Coordinator: salary + NI	32,400		32,000	
Fundraising fee	3,774		1,086	
Equipment, workshops & trips	3,360		3,074	
Rent	2,600		2,600	
Insurance	550		550	
Repairs	155		0	
Accountancy and bookkeeping	400		400	
Payroll charges	531		495	
Inspection and DBS check fees	237		187	
Telephone (inc. insurance)	475		386	
Advertising	763		0	
Miscellaneous	255	53,328	280	51,450
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		£31,423		-£488

Accounts



Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee Annual Report 2021 – 2022

Registered Charity No: 1172048



Why Dovecote Children & Families Project is Important

There are very few initiatives engaging with families in Greater Leys. The Dovecote centre is based in the centre of the estate is the only provider of out of school play facilities for young children and children with disabilities aged 4 to 14 years old,

along with being the only provider of these schemes for children aged 4 to 8 across the Leys estate with an estimated population of 1153 within this age range.

As a community owned and run project, we have been fortunate to have the ability to flex in order to meet the needs of the Leys community. We provide holistic services that meet the multiple-needs of local residents, build trusting relationships, provide low-cost services and attract people that are highly committed to making their community a better place to live.

- Good quality play experiences, supporting children and young people to achieve good physical and mental health.
- Inclusive, safe play opportunities where children and young people develop self-confidence and life skills preparing them for a creative and positive adulthood.
- Families, young children and children with disabilities are supported to overcome social exclusions and isolation
- Training and assistance for volunteers to support current provision, and initiate and develop new projects
- User involvement in design, delivery and management of services to meet locally identified need rather than externally perceived needs.
- Skilling up and local capacity building, sign posting local families to access training, support and resources to learn new skills, gain self-esteem and confidence and increase wellbeing.

Achievements to Date

The guiding principle underlying all our work is consultation with, and involvement of children, young people and families. A key aim is to maximise the use of the Dovecote a valuable community resource. For Dovecote to be vibrant, fun, local community resource owned by the community in which it seeks to serve – whose lives it enhances.

Focus of our project is providing young children including children with disabilities, young people and families' access to affordable good quality, safe, secure play and social opportunities and experiences not normally accessible and access to them. When the new estate was established, consultation took place with local residents. The need for stay and play sessions and out of school play facilities was identified along with family social and parenting support groups. The outcome of the consultation was the creation of the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Management Committee made up of local parents who developed the Dovecote project, which has been successfully running for 22 years working with over 1000 families.

With the commitment and dedication of the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee, volunteers and staff currently we have achieved the following project developments in the 23 years we have been operating:

- An afterschool club three sessions per week, 16 children per session, including children with disabilities aged 4 to 12 years old
- Easter and summer playschemes for up to 40 children including children with disabilities per session
- Half term playschemes (subject to funding) for up to 16 children

- Twice weekly Stay & Play sessions for young mums and dads with young children
- Purpose built sensory room for children with disabilities and their families
- Strong partnership work with a wide range of voluntary and statutory organisations supporting vulnerable children and families
- Strong partnership work with Mable Pritchard Special Needs School to support young children with disabilities experiencing exclusion to accessing local services to participate in our afterschool club and schemes.
- Setting up Leys News a free community newsletter distributed to every household in Blackbird Leys. Today the Leys news is an independent community newspaper reach 5000 household every month
- Development of Dovecote Afloat – narrow boat project bringing the magic of canals and nature to young people from the Leys (Sadly due to funding this project came to an end in August 2016) *Sadly due to funding this project is no longer running*
- Purpose built sensory rainbow garden
- Provide support, training and volunteering opportunities
- Extension of centre garden providing a larger outside play area
- Awarded Outstanding Grade by Ofsted 2009
- Finalist Groundwork Community Award – Best Community Project on a Social Housing Estate 2018
- Finalist Children & Young People's Award 2016

Volunteers play a vital part role in the running of our project. Without their help and commitment there would not be a Dovecote project. All activities are offered to families at below cost to ensure accessibility and affordability to all young children and families living in the Leys. It is encouraging to see young children develop; many have gone on to become volunteers helping in our project. Several have been supported to access training to become qualified play workers working in our schemes before pursuing a career in child care. Our current board of trustees consists of two young men, former users of the Dovecote from the age of 4 years old along with helping deliver services on a volunteer basis for several years.

Click on the following link to view a video of Dovecote project;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ai_I5Lg34BY

Project Management

We the Dovecote Voluntary Parent management committee receive regular reports and updates from the Children & Families Services Manager Carol Richards. We hold up to six business meeting per year along with training and informal meetings taking place when required. Committee is elected at our AGM. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic our meetings have been limited this year. Accounts are prepared by a qualified accountant and signed off at our AGM. Day to day activities of the project is managed and developed in consultation with the committee by Carol. Children and young people play a lead role in planning and development of project.

We also employ two part-time afterschool club play workers and have a good bank of regular seasonal play staff. Stay and play sessions are delivered by our wonderful volunteer Alison Logan, supported by Carol. We also have a very good network of parents/carers and supporters who are always willing to help when they can.

Vision, Mission and Values

OUR VISION – *A world where all children and young people are equal*

OUR MISSION – *provide services, support and opportunities that support the*

*Improvement of the descending spiral of deprivation
and
inequality, setting a path for lasting growth*

OUR VALUES – *We pride ourselves in giving a safe
and*

*welcoming environment in order to
give our
users the ability to development
themselves
and break the cycle of undesirable
peer
pressure.*

We support children and young people in their personal development and to build positive relationships. Together we enable children and young people to reach their full potential and realise their ambitions. We are ambitious for the lives of the children and young people we work with. The services we provide to families and children aspire to better lives. We have built trusting relationships within the community over many years. We have maintained this trust by being dependable and consistent in our delivery of services and support.

Our Contact Details

Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee, Registered Charity number 1172048,
Dovecote Centre, Nightingale Avenue, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 7BU

Tel: 01865 712299 Mobile: 07974234661

E-mail: leysdvpc@hotmail.com Website: www.dovecoteproject.com

facebook:leysdvpc

Office Hours

Current office hours vary

Trustees

Rachel Partlett – Chairperson; Amie Prior – Secretary; Jacob Brain, Tara Collier, Craig Logan, Hilary Miles and Dwayne John

Dovecote Team

Carol Richards:	Children & Families Services Co-ordinator
Sharon Bishop	Play Assistant
Amanda Mackenzie	Former afterschool club Leader

Along with a range of seasonal staff throughout the year

Volunteers

Alison Logan

Mr Peter J Stevenson, MA FCA, has independently examined our accounts

Chairs Report

I am pleased to present our annual report for 2020-21 and to say express my relief that there is a light at the end of this pandemic storm. It is clear the impact of the pandemic has been felt by all. I am pleased to say that the past twelve months have been much better than the previous twelve months when the pandemic was at its worse. We have been able to resume delivery of our vital services i.e., stay and play and afterschool club sessions and playschemes

I am also pleased to report that we have been reassured by Amy Eckersley, Catalyst new Community Facilities Coordinator that we will have use of the Dovecote under the same terms and agreement as we currently have for the foreseeable future. Amy and Carol held a zoom call earlier in March to discuss the changes that may take place when the merger with Catalyst and Peabody Housing is complete later this year. Apart from a new organisation Asylum Children together using the upstairs office there will not be any other changes in the users of Dovecote. In the future It is hoped that a pre-school can be found to make use of the purpose-built pre-school room.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all Trustees who continue to serve, support and scrutinise the Charity's work. Without their dedication and commitment which is very much valued and appreciated, there would not be a Dovecote project.

2021 has shown itself to be challenging and uncompromising. So are we in building a society that works better for all disadvantage children and families.

Treasurers Report

2021/22 financial accounts have been prepared by our long-standing accountant Peter J Stevenson MA FCA

Covid-19 has provided challenges to us financially as it has to everyone. We are fortunate with the support of the Government furlough scheme to have secured enough funds to continue delivering Dovecote Children & Families project until March 2023.

I would like to thank Carol for all her hard work and dedication in raising the funds needed to secure the delivery of the project for the coming year

Secretary

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone here tonight attending Annual General Meeting tonight. The goal of my report is to outline the activities, achievements and development of our project and future vision and aspirations going forward

The world is changing fast. Life is more uncertain than ever before. More challenging. More complex. Covid-19 brought an extraordinary sting to the year's tail, turning vulnerable children's and parents lives upside down in ways we had never imagined.

Working directly with children, young and families remains central to our approach. Using what we learn from our direct practice means we can find solutions to the bigger, universal problems disadvantage children, young people and families face on a daily basis

Easter & Summer Playschemes

Unlike April 2021 we were able to deliver our Easter playscheme. The was delivered for one week. Due to covid restrictions we were only able to support 10 children to attend

Again, unlike the summer of 2021 our summer scheme was able to run as usual this year, i.e., first four weeks of the school holiday period. We had a total of 26 children attend weeks one and two and 23 children attend weeks three and four. Our themes for this year's scheme were bugs life, jungle, sport and dinosaurs and fun week.

Children had the opportunity to enjoy a variety of activities, opportunities and experiences; a variety of art and crafts, cooking, sensory play, outside creative play, team games, sports games, colouring competitions, sand art, making slime, making bracelets, bouncy castle fun, parachute games and much more

End of the scheme was celebrated with a family, carer and staff day trip to Bournemouth. It was decided under the current circumstances to have a trip to beach out in the open with no queuing and close contact with lots of other people. For some the trip was the only opportunity for them to escape from the challenges of living in one of Europe's largest housing estates especially after almost eighteen months of lockdown. 19 adults and 28 children participated having lots of fun and quality family time together. Despite the weather being rather disappointing, overcast everyone who attended had a fantastic day out.

Holiday playschemes benefit disadvantaged children by enabling them to connect with friends and sympathetic adults, have experiences that broaden their horizons and give them memories to embrace and share.

Our schemes provide critical access to cultural events, recreational spaces, and entertainment for children and their families living in a nationally recognised area of disadvantage.

New research reveals what we already know is that holiday playschemes have a wider impact on child health and well-being than previously believed. The research

was carried out by Northumbria University in Newcastle, the research, which claims to be the 'largest-ever' study into holiday clubs in England, finds that holiday provision benefits children and their parents beyond combating hunger. Holiday playschemes provide a number of social and health benefits including providing children a safe place to play.

For further information on the above research follow the link below;

<https://newsroom.northumbria.ac.uk/pressreleases/holiday-clubs-provide-far-more-benefits-beyond-just-providing-food-study-reveals-2524327>

Afterschool Club

Despite the challenges faced during the pandemic our afterschool club has gone from strength to strength. We have had many new children joining us in the past year along with our regular attendees. Attendance each session is almost at full capacity

Benefits of afterschool club activities

- Sociable, confident kids. Mixing with existing friends in a new environment helps children learn to share and appreciate each other's talents and abilities. ...
- Smarter kids. After-school activities can play a huge part in supporting academic learning. ...
- Safer, happier kids.

Why are after school clubs important?

- Joining after school activities gives children the opportunity to make new friends and socialise with other children outside their school. They learn how to act in different situations, play more fairly, and focus on working as a team rather than for themselves.

Taking part in after-school clubs can give primary school children from poorer families a boost in academic performance and provide them with important social skills. According to published by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies and funded by the Nuffield Foundation, after-school clubs stood out among a wide range of out of school activities as having positive benefits for young children, making the case for ongoing investment in these clubs as a way to help close the education gap

The research found that attending after-school clubs was associated with positive outcomes for disadvantaged children. On average, they achieved a two-point higher total score in their end of primary school assessments in English, maths and science than their peers who did not attend such groups.

For further information on the above research follow the link below:

<https://theconversation.com/after-school-clubs-help-poorer-primary-pupils-get-ahead-57851#:~:text=With%20disadvantaged%20children%20missing%20out,through%20promoting%20positive%20social%20skills>

Stay & Play

We were very fortunate to restart our stay and play sessions September 2022. Both sessions Monday and Wednesdays are extremely busy. We have been blessed to have had the opportunity support new mums and many lockdown babies to

socialise, learn new skills, access new opportunities, be less afraid of trying new things and meeting new people, overcome the feeling of loneliness, isolation and much more.

Stay & play sessions offer the following;

- a. Group leaders ensure a smooth-running of our sessions where your child will be able to explore and play safely.
- b. Children learn best when they are having fun and our groups offer a wide-range of play activities and educational toys to assist your child's developmental needs.
- c. A choice of activities are offered depending on seasons and the interests of the children in the group.
- d. Our sessions offer fun outdoor play experience and exploring outside is keenly encouraged
- e. Sessions include free-play, messy play, arts and crafts, healthy snack and sensory play in our purpose-built sensory room. These opportunities and experiences will help your child by; encouraging speech and language, encouraging sharing and turn-taking and exploring new and exciting activities.



Aim of Stay and Play sessions

Be Healthy- Much of the play, especially for the older children, is physically active at sessions helping develop physical health. Additionally, there is a very strong ethos of promoting healthy eating, with snack time consisting of only fruit, which develops a healthy lifestyle and encourages the parents to support the children to follow a healthy lifestyle. Through playing, learning and developing in a supportive environment, where parents are helped to promote these activities, children are nurtured and remain mentally and emotionally healthy.

Stay Safe -Through playing with their children and enjoying time with other parents, parents' bond better with their children and develop support networks to help them cope with parenthood and learn new skills, which will reduce the occurrences of maltreatment, neglect and violence.

Enjoy & Achieve -Through both structured and unstructured, children become more socially independent and socially able making them ready to engage fully in school when they are old enough. Through these same process's children are able to develop personally and socially while enjoying recreation.

Make a Positive Contribution - Stay and Plays are social environments where children are encouraged to develop positive relationships with other children and behave appropriately in play. Through play children are encouraged to be more independent which helps them develop self-confidence.

Funding

See attached 2020/2021 financial report prepared by Peter Stevens, MA FCA

Equal Opportunities

We are fully committed to caring for children in a multi-cultural/racial community.
We give the following undertaking and declare that:

We will treat the children in our care with equal concern and without prejudice to their religious persuasion, racial origin, cultural background, gender, disability or special needs.

The Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee is committed to taking positive and proactive steps to ensure that we provide a safe and caring environment, free from discrimination for everyone in our community; we provide facilities that promote and reflect cultural and social diversity and are equally accessible to all.

We are proud of our record of success in including children with various specific physical intellectual or behavioural needs in our activities and we are fortunate to have a very good partnership with the Parasol Project. Parasol is based on the belief that children with disabilities are children first. With the help of enablers provided by Parasol, we are able to better meet the needs of children with disabilities in our playschemes.

Acknowledgements:

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all the people, groups and organisations who have contributed to the continued success of the Dovecote projects over the past year. Without your help and support the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee would not have succeeded in continuing to deliver good quality, low-cost play experiences and opportunities for the children, including children with disabilities, young people and families living in one of Europe's largest social housing estates Blackbird Leys.

Finally

A huge thanks to all our staff for the great job they do providing a fun, happy, friendly, welcoming, secure, challenging and stimulating environment for the children, young people and families of the Leys!

ALSO BIG THANKS TO:

The Trustees and Members of the Management
Committee

Our wonderful volunteer; Alison Logan

Catalyst Housing Group

Oxford City Council
National Lottery Community Fund
Oxford Food Hub
Woodward Charitable Trust
Greensquare Housing
All Souls College
Doris Field Charitable Trust

All our funders for their valuable support

*Peter Stevenson for examining the accounts
All parents and carers of our users and children and
young people who make it all worthwhile!!!!*

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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Registered Charity No: 1172048

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

TRUSTEES

Amie Prior
Jacob Brain
Rachel Partlett
Tara Collier
Hilary Miles
Craig Logan
Dwayne John

REGISTERED OFFICE

The Dovecote
Nightingale Avenue
Blackbird Leys
Oxford
OX4 5BU

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Peter J Stevenson FCA

BANKERS

Barclays Bank plc
Cowley
Oxford

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Charitable Status

Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee is a charity, registered in England, number 1172048.

Trustees

The Trustees who have held office at any point during the period ended 31 March 2022 and to the date of this report are as follows:

Rachel Partlett (Chair)
Amie Prior (Secretary)
Jacob Brain
Tara Collier
Hilary Miles
Craig Logan
Dwayne John

Structure, Governance and Management

The Committee was originally established under a Constitution adopted in 2007. The charity formed in 2017 acquired the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body.

Additional trustees may be appointed by the Committee; all new trustees are offered appropriate training in order to fulfil their role.

Objectives and activities

The object of the charity is to provide facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children during out of school hours and school holidays.

The charity also aims to advance the education and training of persons in the provision of such care, education and recreational facilities.

Achievements and performance

The charity has been very successful in attracting grants for its core work, not only for immediate use but also to support its work in the following period. The staff were generally on furlough for the first half of the year, and consequently activity levels have remained below the previous norm.

Public benefit

The Trustees of the charity have had due regard both to the objectives of the charity, as set out above, and also to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties. All activities are undertaken in furtherance of the charity's objects, as outlined above.

Risk management

The principal risks the charity may face are perceived to be inadequate future funding and the possibility of safeguarding issues arising in the children's activities. To mitigate these risks, more than sufficient future funding has been secured in the short term, and appropriate safeguarding measures have been put in place. Risk assessments have been carried out in accordance with Government regulations in respect of the Health and Safety of staff and volunteers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Financial Review

All the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body were transferred to the charity as at 1 April 2017, and totalled £85,032, of which £2,194 were restricted funds.

Income for the year totalled £50,962 (2021 £87,610), and expenditure £51,450 (2021 £49,729). The net deficit forward of £125,630 of which £NIL (2021 £15,428) were restricted funds and £45,000 (2021 £40,000) funds designated for redundancy costs in the event of the charity being wound up.

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report, and have therefore continued to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. They regularly monitor the impact that Covid-19 continues to have on current operations, and the likely long-term effects on reserves.

Plans for Future Periods

The charity plans to continue to provide the existing services in furtherance of its core objectives, but recognises that the raising of funds for its work in future will be increasingly challenging.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the Trustees 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (information needed by the independent examiner in connection with preparing his report) of which the charity's examiner is unaware, and each Trustee has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken in order to make himself aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of that information.

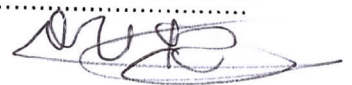
Independent Examiner

Peter J Stevenson FCA has signified his willingness to continue in office and a resolution to re-appoint him as examiner will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on 16 May 2022

And signed by order of the Trustees by

Amie Prior
Trustee and Secretary



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee CIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2022, which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to state on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Peter J. Stevenson OBE

Peter J. Stevenson
Chartered Accountant

8 Harbord Road

Oxford
OX2 8LJ

Date: 16th May 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

INCOME	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	2022 Totals	2021 Totals	
Grants and donations	31,387	3,809	35,196	55,010	
Activities for generating funds:					
Fees and hirings	0	7,921	7,921	3,551	
Book sales	0	320	320	0	
Other income					
Furlough payments	0	7,423	7,423	29,028	
Refunds	0	5	5	0	
Interest	0			21	
TOTAL INCOME	31,387	19,575	50,962	87,610	
EXPENDITURE (Note 3)					
Fundraising and publicity	0	1,086	1,086	2,010	
Charitable activities					
Staff costs	40,124	2,268	42,392	40,334	
Activity costs	3,541	0	3,541	1,379	
Property costs	3,150	0	3,150	3,150	
Office costs	0	386	386	317	
Professional fees	0	895	895	895	
Charitable donations	0	0	0	250	
Sensory garden	0	0	0	1,394	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	46,815	4,635	51,450	49,729	
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-15,428	14,940	-488	37,881	
Funds b/f at 1st April 2021	15,428	110,690	126,118	88,237	
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2022	£0	£125,630	£125,630	£126,118	

The notes on page 3 form part of these accounts.

All activities are continuing; there are no gains and losses other than those recognised through the Statement of Financial Activities.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022

	2022	2021
FIXED ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors and prepayments	500	500
Bank deposit a/c	55,479	45,474
Cash at bank and in hand	73,571	87,934
	<u>129,550</u>	<u>133,908</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Deferred income	3,000	7,000
Creditors	920	790
	<u>3,920</u>	<u>7,790</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>125,630</u>	<u>126,118</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>£125,630</u>	<u>£126,118</u>
FUND BALANCES		
Restricted funds	0	15,428
Designated funds	45,000	40,000
Other unrestricted funds	80,630	70,690
	<u>£125,630</u>	<u>£126,118</u>

NB Designated funds represent a provision for redundancy costs in the event of the charity being wound up

These accounts were approved by the Management Committee on 16 May 2022

SIGNED:

Rachel Partlett

SIGNED:

Amie Prior

1. Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Annual Report. All the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body were transferred in at 1st April 2017.

2. Accounting policies

(a) **Income** is included in the SoFA when:

the entity becomes entitled to the resources, it is probable that the income will be received, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(b) **Liabilities** are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the entity to pay out resources.

3. Expenditure

Expenditure includes the Independent Examiner's fee £400 (2021 £400); no trustees were paid or committee expenses reimbursed (2021 NIL), and there were no related party transactions in either year. No employees' emoluments exceeded £60,000 in either year; the average number of employees was 5 (2021: 5), although staff generally were furloughed for the first half of the year.

4. Debtors

	2022	2021
£	£	£
Payments in advance: insurance	500	500
	£500	£500

5. Creditors

Deferred income: grants	3,000	7,000
HM Revenue & Customs	0	0
Other creditors	920	790
	£3,920	£7,790

6. Restricted funds

All restricted fund grants included in the accounts were fully expensed during 2021/22.

7. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. Under all scenarios reviewed the charity has sufficient reserves to continue operating as a going concern for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report, and consequently has adopted this basis in preparing the accounts.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021
FOR COMPARATIVE PURPOSES

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Totals 2021
INCOME			
Grants and donations	48,217	6,793	55,010
Activities for generating funds:			
Fees and hirings	0	3,551	3,551
Other income			
Furlough payments	0	29,028	29,028
Interest	0	21	21
TOTAL INCOME	48,217	39,393	87,610
EXPENDITURE			
Fundraising and publicity	0	2,010	2,010
Charitable activities			
Staff costs	28,260	12,074	40,334
Activity costs	1,379	0	1,379
Property costs	3,150	0	3,150
Office costs	0	317	317
Professional fees	0	895	895
Charitable donations	0	250	250
Sensory garden	1,394	0	1,394
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	34,183	15,546	49,729
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	14,034	23,847	37,881
Funds b/f at 1st April 2020	1,394	86,843	88,237
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2021	£15,428	£110,690	£126,118

DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	2021/22	2020/21
INCOME		
Fees	4,893	1,081
Rentals	558	0
Book sales	320	0
Refunds	97	0
Restricted grants:		
Oxford City Council	18,887	14,000
Blackbird Leys Parish Council	2,500	1,200
Awards for All	10,000	10,000
Oxfordshire Community Foundation	0	2,550
Tambour Foundation	0	19,167
Other	0	2,500
Unrestricted grants:		
Catalyst Housing Group	2,500	5,593
Other	1,309	
Furlough payments	7,423	29,028
Building Management fees	2,470	2,470
Bank interest	5	21
EXPENDITURE		
Wages	9,927	8,280
Training, travel and subsistence	465	54
Services Coordinator: salary + NI	32,000	32,000
Fundraising fee	1,086	2,010
Sensory Garden (grant funded)	0	1,394
Equipment, workshops & trips	3,074	1,219
Rent	2,600	2,600
Insurance	550	550
Accountancy and bookkeeping	400	400
Payroll charges	495	495
Inspection and DBS check fees	187	126
Telephone	386	317
25th anniversary donation	0	250
Miscellaneous	280	34
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	-£488	£37,881

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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4	Independent Examiner's Report
5	Statement of Financial Activities
6	Balance Sheet
7	Notes to the Financial Statements
8	Statement of Financial Activities 2020/21 (for comparative purposes)
9	Detailed Income & Expenditure Account

Registered Charity No: 1172048

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

TRUSTEES

Amie Prior
Jacob Brain
Rachel Partlett
Tara Collier
Hilary Miles
Craig Logan
Dwayne John

REGISTERED OFFICE

The Dovecote
Nightingale Avenue
Blackbird Leys
Oxford
OX4 5BU

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Peter J Stevenson FCA

BANKERS

Barclays Bank plc
Cowley
Oxford

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Charitable Status

Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee is a charity, registered in England, number 1172048.

Trustees

The Trustees who have held office at any point during the period ended 31 March 2022 and to the date of this report are as follows:

Rachel Partlett (Chair)
Amie Prior (Secretary)
Jacob Brain
Tara Collier
Hilary Miles
Craig Logan
Dwayne John

Structure, Governance and Management

The Committee was originally established under a Constitution adopted in 2007. The charity formed in 2017 acquired the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body.

Additional trustees may be appointed by the Committee; all new trustees are offered appropriate training in order to fulfil their role.

Objectives and activities

The object of the charity is to provide facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children during out of school hours and school holidays.

The charity also aims to advance the education and training of persons in the provision of such care, education and recreational facilities.

Achievements and performance

The charity has been very successful in attracting grants for its core work, not only for immediate use but also to support its work in the following period. The staff were generally on furlough for the first half of the year, and consequently activity levels have remained below the previous norm.

Public benefit

The Trustees of the charity have had due regard both to the objectives of the charity, as set out above, and also to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties. All activities are undertaken in furtherance of the charity's objects, as outlined above.

Risk management

The principal risks the charity may face are perceived to be inadequate future funding and the possibility of safeguarding issues arising in the children's activities. To mitigate these risks, more than sufficient future funding has been secured in the short term, and appropriate safeguarding measures have been put in place. Risk assessments have been carried out in accordance with Government regulations in respect of the Health and Safety of staff and volunteers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Financial Review

All the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body were transferred to the charity as at 1 April 2017, and totalled £85,032, of which £2,194 were restricted funds.

Income for the year totalled £50,962 (2021 £87,610), and expenditure £51,450 (2021 £49,729). The net deficit forward of £125,630 of which £NIL (2021 £15,428) were restricted funds and £45,000 (2021 £40,000) funds designated for redundancy costs in the event of the charity being wound up.

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report, and have therefore continued to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. They regularly monitor the impact that Covid-19 continues to have on current operations, and the likely long-term effects on reserves.

Plans for Future Periods

The charity plans to continue to provide the existing services in furtherance of its core objectives, but recognises that the raising of funds for its work in future will be increasingly challenging.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the Trustees 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (information needed by the independent examiner in connection with preparing his report) of which the charity's examiner is unaware, and each Trustee has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken in order to make himself aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of that information.

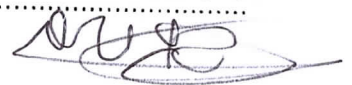
Independent Examiner

Peter J Stevenson FCA has signified his willingness to continue in office and a resolution to re-appoint him as examiner will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on 16 May 2022

And signed by order of the Trustees by

Amie Prior
Trustee and Secretary



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee CIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2022, which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to state on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Peter J. Stevenson O.A.

Peter J. Stevenson
Chartered Accountant

8 Harbord Road
Oxford
OX2 8LJ

Date: 16th May 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

INCOME	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Totals	2022	Totals	2021
Grants and donations	31,387	3,809	35,196			55,010
Activities for generating funds:						
Fees and hirings	0	7,921	7,921			3,551
Book sales	0	320	320			0
Other income						
Furlough payments	0	7,423	7,423			29,028
Refunds	0	5	5			0
Interest	0					21
TOTAL INCOME	31,387	19,575	50,962			87,610
EXPENDITURE (Note 3)						
Fundraising and publicity	0	1,086	1,086			2,010
Charitable activities						
Staff costs	40,124	2,268	42,392			40,334
Activity costs	3,541	0	3,541			1,379
Property costs	3,150	0	3,150			3,150
Office costs	0	386	386			317
Professional fees	0	895	895			895
Charitable donations	0	0	0			250
Sensory garden	0	0	0			1,394
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	46,815	4,635	51,450			49,729
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-15,428	14,940	-488			37,881
Funds b/f at 1st April 2021	15,428	110,690	126,118			88,237
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2022	£0	£125,630	£125,630			£126,118

The notes on page 3 form part of these accounts.

All activities are continuing; there are no gains and losses other than those recognised through the Statement of Financial Activities.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022

	2022	2021
FIXED ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors and prepayments	500	500
Bank deposit a/c	55,479	45,474
Cash at bank and in hand	73,571	87,934
	<u>129,550</u>	<u>133,908</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Deferred income	3,000	7,000
Creditors	920	790
	<u>3,920</u>	<u>7,790</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>125,630</u>	<u>126,118</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>£125,630</u>	<u>£126,118</u>
FUND BALANCES		
Restricted funds	0	15,428
Designated funds	45,000	40,000
Other unrestricted funds	80,630	70,690
	<u>£125,630</u>	<u>£126,118</u>

NB Designated funds represent a provision for redundancy costs in the event of the charity being wound up

These accounts were approved by the Management Committee on 16 May 2022

SIGNED:

Rachel Partlett

SIGNED:

Amie Prior

1. Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Annual Report. All the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body were transferred in at 1st April 2017.

2. Accounting policies

(a) Income is included in the SoFA when:

the entity becomes entitled to the resources, it is probable that the income will be received, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(b) Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the entity to pay out resources.

3. Expenditure

Expenditure includes the Independent Examiner's fee £400 (2021 £400); no trustees were paid or committee expenses reimbursed (2021 NIL), and there were no related party transactions in either year. No employees' emoluments exceeded £60,000 in either year; the average number of employees was 5 (2021: 5), although staff generally were furloughed for the first half of the year.

4. Debtors

	2022	2021
£	£	£
Payments in advance: insurance	500	500
	£500	£500

5. Creditors

Deferred income: grants	3,000	7,000
HM Revenue & Customs	0	0
Other creditors	920	790
	£3,920	£7,790

6. Restricted funds

All restricted fund grants included in the accounts were fully expensed during 2021/22.

7. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. Under all scenarios reviewed the charity has sufficient reserves to continue operating as a going concern for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report, and consequently has adopted this basis in preparing the accounts.

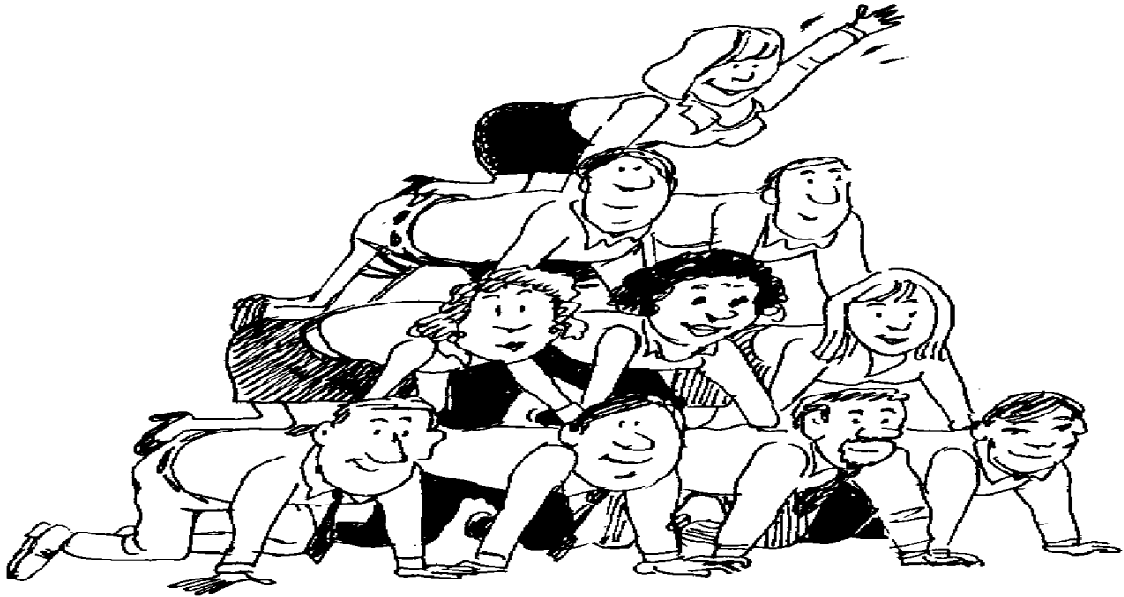
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021
FOR COMPARATIVE PURPOSES

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Totals 2021
INCOME			
Grants and donations	48,217	6,793	55,010
Activities for generating funds:			
Fees and hirings	0	3,551	3,551
Other income			
Furlough payments	0	29,028	29,028
Interest	0	21	21
TOTAL INCOME	48,217	39,393	87,610
EXPENDITURE			
Fundraising and publicity	0	2,010	2,010
Charitable activities			
Staff costs	28,260	12,074	40,334
Activity costs	1,379	0	1,379
Property costs	3,150	0	3,150
Office costs	0	317	317
Professional fees	0	895	895
Charitable donations	0	250	250
Sensory garden	1,394	0	1,394
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	34,183	15,546	49,729
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	14,034	23,847	37,881
Funds b/f at 1st April 2020	1,394	86,843	88,237
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2021	£15,428	£110,690	£126,118

DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	2021/22	2020/21
INCOME		
Fees		
Rentals	4,893	1,081
Book sales	558	0
Refunds	320	0
Restricted grants:	97	0
Oxford City Council		
Blackbird Leys Parish Council	18,887	14,000
Awards for All	2,500	1,200
Oxfordshire Community Foundation	10,000	10,000
Tambour Foundation	0	2,550
Other	0	19,167
Unrestricted grants:	0	2,500
Catalyst Housing Group	2,500	5,593
Other	1,309	
Furlough payments	7,423	29,028
Building Management fees	2,470	2,470
Bank interest	5	21
EXPENDITURE	50,962	87,610
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	-£488	£37,881
Wages	9,927	8,280
Training, travel and subsistence	465	54
Services Coordinator: salary + NI	32,000	32,000
Fundraising fee	1,086	2,010
Sensory Garden (grant funded)	0	1,394
Equipment, workshops & trips	3,074	1,219
Rent	2,600	2,600
Insurance	550	550
Accountancy and bookkeeping	400	400
Payroll charges	495	495
Inspection and DBS check fees	187	126
Telephone	386	317
25th anniversary donation	0	250
Miscellaneous	280	34

Accounts



Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee Annual Report 2020 – 2021

Registered Charity No: 1172048

Dovecote project is a Community led project set up in 1996 delivering inclusive, engaging, integrated and effective services meeting the needs of disadvantaged young children and families. Also, to make effective use of The Dovecote Centre – a purpose-built building for young children and family activities built as part of the Single Regeneration Project for the development, Greater Leys. The building is owned by a local housing consortium. The Dovecote is seen as a focus point providing support to families, a place to build positive lasting friendships and for

some children a place to escape the daily tension and anxieties of family life, along with being a base providing activities and services tailored to meet the needs identified by local residents

Play is a critical way child come to understand themselves and the world around them.

Play is a vital component of a child's life.

A child's capacity for positive development will be inhibited or constrained if denied access to a range of stimulating play opportunities.

Through play children explore their physical and social environment, ideas and concepts, and learn how to deal with situations that trouble or frighten them.

Through play children learn what cannot be explicitly taught.

Play is to be ranked outside education in terms of its fundamental role in enabling children to engage positively with the complexities of the world around them.



The Need

Our project focuses on Blackbird and Greater Leys estates (the Leys); with a population of over 13,000 people in eight Super Output Areas. The 2015 Indices of Deprivation placed the Leys among the 10% most deprived areas in England. There are 5,100 households living in the Leys, nearly one in five is headed by lone parents, over double Oxford's average. Over 50% are under 29; over 40% of children live in poverty affecting their educational attainment. Over 50% of residents have no or low qualifications (22% Oxford average). While 41% of working age adults' work in low skill routine or semi-routine occupations.

Need for local accessible good quality support is supported in The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 Oxford City Results

https://www.oxford.gov.uk/downloads/file/6758/indices_of_deprivation_2019_oxford_report

Oxford remains the most deprived of the five Oxfordshire districts. Over the same period Cherwell has become relatively more deprived and South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire have remained similarly ranked.

Oxford has one LSOA within the 10 per cent most deprived areas nationally (Northfield Brook, Oxford)

Why Dovecote Children & Families Project is Important

There are very few initiatives engaging with families in Greater Leys. The Dovecote centre is based in the centre of the estate is the only provider of out of school play facilities for young children and children with disabilities aged 4 to 14 years old, along with being the only provider of these schemes for children aged 4 to 8 across the Leys estate with an estimated population of 1153 within this age range.

As a community owned and run project, we have been fortunate to have the ability to flex in order to meet the needs of the Leys community. We provide holistic services that meet the multiple-needs of local residents, build trusting relationships, provide low-cost services and attract people that are highly committed to making their community a better place to live.

- Good quality play experiences, supporting children and young people to achieve good physical and mental health.
- Inclusive, safe play opportunities where children and young people develop self-confidence and life skills preparing them for a creative and positive adulthood.
- Families, young children and children with disabilities are supported to overcome social exclusions and isolation
- Training and assistance for volunteers to support current provision, and initiate and develop new projects
- User involvement in design, delivery and management of services to meet locally identified need rather than externally perceived needs.
- Skilling up and local capacity building, sign posting local families to access training, support and resources to learn new skills, gain self-esteem and confidence and increase wellbeing.

Achievements to Date

The guiding principle underlying all our work is consultation with, and involvement of children, young people and families. A key aim is to maximise the use of the Dovecote a valuable community resource. For Dovecote to be vibrant, fun, local community resource owned by the community in which it seeks to serve – whose lives it enhances.

Focus of our project is providing young children including children with disabilities, young people and families' access to affordable good quality, safe, secure play and social opportunities and experiences not normally accessible and access to them. When the new estate was established, consultation took place with local residents. The need for stay and play sessions and out of school play facilities was identified along with family social and parenting support groups. The outcome of the consultation was the creation of the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Management Committee made up of local parents who developed the Dovecote project, which has been successfully running for 22 years working with over 1000 families.

With the commitment and dedication of the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee, volunteers and staff currently we have achieved the following project developments in the 23 years we have been operating:

- An afterschool club three sessions per week, 16 children per session, including children with disabilities aged 4 to 12 years old
- Easter and summer playschemes for up to 40 children including children with disabilities per session
- Half term playschemes (subject to funding) for up to 16 children
- Weekly Stay & Play sessions for young mums and dads with young children
- Purpose built sensory room for children with disabilities and their families
- Strong partnership work with a wide range of voluntary and statutory organisations supporting vulnerable children and families
- Strong partnership work with Mable Pritchard Special Needs School to support young children with disabilities experiencing exclusion to accessing local services to participate in our afterschool club and schemes.
- Setting up Leys News a free community newsletter distributed to every household in Blackbird Leys. Today the Leys news is an independent community newspaper reach 5000 household every month
- Development of Dovecote Afloat – narrow boat project bringing the magic of canals and nature to young people from the Leys (Sadly due to funding this project came to an end in August 2016) *Sadly due to funding this project is no longer running*
- Purpose built sensory rainbow garden
- Provide support, training and volunteering opportunities
- Extension of centre garden providing a larger outside play area
- Awarded Outstanding Grade by Ofsted 2009
- Finalist Groundwork Community Award – Best Community Project on a Social Housing Estate 2018
- Finalist Children & Young People's Award 2016

Volunteers play a vital part role in the running of our project. Without their help and commitment there would not be a Dovecote project. All activities are offered to families at below cost to ensure accessibility and affordability to all young children and families living in the Leys. It is encouraging to see young children develop; many have gone on to become volunteers helping in our project. Several have been supported to access training to become qualified play workers working in our schemes before pursuing a career in child care. Our current board of trustees consists of two young men, former users of the Dovecote from the age of 4 years old along with helping deliver services on a volunteer basis for several years. We feel the value of our project is best attested to by the users themselves;

- “Grown in confidence & independence”
- “Learning new skills and being able to socialise with other children”
- “The best thing is having fun with teachers”
- “Interacted with new people and made new friends”
- “I loved everything at Dovecote playscheme”
- “G has learnt so much during her time at playscheme”

- “He was kept active and entertained with lots of activities and new people. This is good for his social skills. I don’t feel any improvement is needed. You all do an amazing thing for children and their families”.

Click on the following link to view a video of Dovecote project

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ai_I5Lg34BY&list=PLG3qKpQvraECmbUB7_ZziPO7l9nI2vTS2&index=1

Project Management

We the Dovecote Voluntary Parent management committee receive regular reports from the Children & Families Services Manager Carol Richards. We hold up to six business meeting per year along with training and informal meetings taking place when required. Committee is elected at our AGM. Accounts are prepared by a qualified accountant and signed off at our AGM. Day to day activities of the project are managed and developed in consultation with the committee by Carol. Children and young people play a lead role in planning and development of project. We also employ two part-time afterschool club play workers and have a good bank of regular seasonal play staff. Stay and play sessions are delivered by volunteers Maureen Sim and Alison Logan, supported by Carol. We also have a very good network of parents/carers and supporters who are always willing to help when they can.

The Objects of Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee are;

The Objects of the CIO are:

- To provide the necessary facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children and young people including children with disabilities.
- To advance the education and training of the persons in the provision of such care, education and recreational facilities.

Our Contact Details

Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee, Registered Charity number 1172048,
Dovecote Centre, Nightingale Avenue, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 7BU - Tel: 01865 712299 Mobile: 07974234661

E-mail: leysdvpc@hotmail.com Website; www.dovecoteproject.com

facebook:leysdvpc

Office Hours

Monday to Thursday 9.00 am until 4.30 pm.

Trustees

Rachel Partlett – Chairperson; Amie Prior – Secretary; Jacob Brain, Tara Collier, Craig Logan, Hilary Miles and Dwayne John

Dovecote Team

Carol Richards:	Children & Families Services Co-ordinator
Amanda Mackenzie	Play Leader
Sharon Bishop	Play Assistant

Along with a range of seasonal staff throughout the year

Playscheme Staff

Kady Wenborn	Play Leader
Amanda MacKenzie	Assistant
Sharon Bishop	Assistant

Mr Peter J Stevenson, MA FCA, has independently examined our accounts

Chairs Report

I am pleased to present our annual report for 2019-20 albeit very brief. The past twelve months have been challenging to say the least. Local residents of the Leys have been hit pretty hard by the pandemic's long economic fallout.

The pandemic will have a lasting HARMFUL impact on the mental health of families, children and young people for many years to come.

The Furlough scheme introduced by the government in April last year has been a live saver for our project. It enabled us to retain our current staff and pay essential wages to families to keep a roof over their heads, feed their families and pay essential bills. Along with help secure the delivery of our project

I would like to say a huge thank you to all Trustees for their valued input and huge contributions to the on-going success of the project. Without their dedication and commitment which is very much valued and appreciated, there would not be a Dovecote project.

Last but by no means least a thank you to our Children's and Families Service Manager Carol Richards for her commitment, drive, and continued hard work she has given and continues to give the project

Treasurers Report

2020/21 financial accounts have been prepared by Peter J Stevenson MA FCA our accountant for many years now.

I would like to reiterate what our chair Rachel has said, without the government furlough scheme we would be in a very bleak financial situation. Had this support not been available we would have no doubt had to have made staff redundant.

It will be an extremely challenging time ahead for our project as it will be for most local charities and voluntary organisations raising the necessary funds to delivery vital services to vulnerable families.

We are fortunate to have secured the necessary funding need to allow our project to continue until March 2022. This includes a three-month project wind up period

and employers' responsibilities (see attached). Children & Families Services Manager is working very hard to secure long term funding for the project.

Secretary

Even more so this year, it is an honour, as Secretary, to be presenting this report on the activities of the Dovecote Children & Families project over the past 12 months. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all members to our Annual General Meeting tonight. The goal of my report is to outline the activities, achievements and development of our project and future vision and aspirations going forward

The past year has been very challenging to say the least! Despite dealing with a Global Pandemic, we were able to continue supporting vulnerable children and families albeit it very limited. What services we were able to deliver, i.e., half term playschemes, some afterschool club sessions, delivery of art and craft resources and some food parcels were very much appreciated by children and families.

Last but by no means least a huge thank you to our cohesive, enthusiastic, dedicated Trustees who work hard and give their time despite busy hectic lives to keep this vital project going for the community of the Leys, a nationally recognised area of disadvantage

Easter & Summer Playschemes

I'm sure you will not be surprised to read that sadly both schemes were not able to run this year due to the pandemic. Instead, we were put together and delivered 35 art and craft activity packs for current and past users of our service. Along with provided these families with some foodbank packages of food to these families.

We effectively delivered two half term playschemes for children aged 4 to 12 years old, October half term and Christmas. Children had the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of activities and experiencing supporting their learning and development in a safe secure environment. Our schemes also provided children with an opportunity to discuss and explore the impact of the pandemic on them and their families. We focus on this during each scheme to firstly give children the opportunity to talk about the impact on them and secondly to enable us to better understand their needs and that of the families we support. Unfortunately, offsite activities were not possible due to the pandemic.

Afterschool Club

We worked with several agencies to put together a comprehensive Covid-19 risk assessment along with procedures to ensure our users safety along with provide parents/carers with confidence in our ability to keep their children safe. This resulted in us being able to re-start our afterschool club at the beginning of October. Delivering three sessions per week. This was the earliest the landlord of our building (Catalyst) would let us re-start our project.

To our surprise many of our regular re-engaged with us quickly. In spite of many of our families and children struggling with having the confidence in feeling safe and motivated. Children and parents' anxieties have sadly become much higher with many experiencing deep depression as a result of the pandemic. After several weeks of running, we are pleased to say that along with our regulars we had two new children join us.

We were all set to restart our afterschool club after the Christmas break but unfortunately due to the latest lockdown which includes the closure of schools, we are unable to restart.

We closed our doors March 18th. As the country went into lockdown for the first time. After months of negotiations with Catalyst Housing we were able to reopen 6th October. It was so nice to see the return of many of our regulars. It was also very sad to see the negative impact the pandemic had on many of the children's confidence and motivation. Due to a large rise in Covid-19 cases at Windale primary school with all but reception and one other year not at home isolating we sadly had to close for the month of November. Our reopening in December was very much welcomed and appreciated by parents and children. Little did we know that this would be the last month we would operate for the remainder of the year.

Stay & Play

Sadly, we have not been able to deliver any stay and play sessions for 20/21. This sadly will have a lasting devastating impact on the mental health of many parents especially new parents who have not had the support and ability to socialise with other mums. Baby's born during the pandemic may have not met anyone except their parents. Social support from friends, family, community groups and professionals is normally considered vital not only because it provides infants with variety, stimulation and opportunities for learning, but also because it is good for the wellbeing of parents, on whom babies are so dependent....



Aim of Stay and Play sessions

Be Healthy Much of the play, especially for the older children, is physically active at sessions helping develop physical health. Additionally, there is a very strong ethos of promoting healthy eating, with snack time consisting of only fruit, which

develops a healthy lifestyle and encourages the parents to support the children to follow a healthy lifestyle. Through playing, learning and developing in a supportive environment, where parents are helped to promote these activities, children are nurtured and remain mentally and emotionally healthy. **Stay Safe** Through playing with their children and enjoying time with other parents, parents' bond better with their children and develop support networks to help them cope with parenthood and learn new skills, which will reduce the occurrences of maltreatment, neglect and violence. **Enjoy & Achieve** Through both structured and unstructured, children become more socially independent and socially able making them ready to engage fully in school when they are old enough. Through these same process's children are able to develop personally and socially while enjoying recreation. **Make a Positive Contribution** Stay and Plays are social environments where children are encouraged to develop positive relationships with other children and behave appropriately in play. Through play children are encouraged to be more independent which helps them develop self-confidence.

Funding

See attached 2018/2019 financial report prepared by Peter Stevens, MA FCA

Equal Opportunities

We are fully committed to caring for children in a multi-cultural/racial community.
We give the following undertaking and declare that:

We will treat the children in our care with equal concern and without prejudice to their Religious persuasion, racial origin, cultural background, gender, disability or special needs.

The Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee is committed to taking positive and proactive steps to ensure that we provide a safe and caring environment, free from discrimination for everyone in our community; we provide facilities that promote and reflect cultural and social diversity and are equally accessible to all.

We are proud of our record of success in including children with various specific physical intellectual or behavioural needs in our activities and we are fortunate to have a very good partnership with the Parasol Project. Parasol is based on the belief that children with disabilities are children first. With the help of enablers provided by Parasol, we are able to better meet the needs of children with disabilities in our playschemes.

Acknowledgements:

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all the people, groups and organisations who have contributed to the continued success of the Dovecote projects over the past year. Without your help and support the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee would not have succeeded in continuing to deliver good quality, low-cost play experiences and opportunities for the children, including children with disabilities, young people and families living in one of Europe's largest social housing estates Blackbird Leys.

Finally

A huge thanks to all our staff for the great job they do providing a fun, happy, friendly, welcoming, secure, challenging and stimulating environment for the children, young people and families of the Leys!

ALSO BIG THANKS TO:

The Trustees and Members of the Management Committee
All our wonderful volunteers; Maureen Sim, Alison Logan, Jamelia
Tansley

**Catalyst Housing Group
Council**

Oxford University

National Lottery Community Fund

Pye Charitable Settlement

PF Charitable Trust

University

Cumber Family Charitable Trust

City of Oxford Charity

St Peter's Church Wolvercote

Foundation

Blackbird Leys Parish Council

Oxfordshire Community Foundation

Oxford City

Oxford Food Hub

St John's College

Unipart

Christ Church

All Souls College

Queens College

Tambour

Doris Field Trust

All our funders for their valuable support

Peter Stevenson for examining the accounts

*All parents and carers of our users and children and young people who
make it all worthwhile!!!!*

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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6	Balance Sheet
7	Notes to the Financial Statements
8	Statement of Financial Activities 2019/20 (for comparative purposes)
9	Detailed Income & Expenditure Account

Registered Charity No: 1172048

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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Amie Prior
Jacob Brain
Rachel Partlett
Tara Collier
Hilary Miles
Craig Logan
Dwayne John

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Blackbird Leys
Oxford
OX4 5BU

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Peter J Stevenson FCA

BANKERS

Barclays Bank plc
Cowley
Oxford

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Charitable Status

Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee is a charity, registered in England, number 1172048.

Trustees

The Trustees who have held office at any point during the period ended 31 March 2021 and to the date of this report are as follows:

Rachel Partlett (Chair)
Amie Prior (Secretary)
Jacob Brain
Tara Collier
Hilary Miles
Craig Logan
Dwayne John

Structure, Governance and Management

The Committee was originally established under a Constitution adopted in 2007. The charity formed in 2017 acquired the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body.

Additional trustees may be appointed by the Committee; all new trustees are offered appropriate training in order to fulfil their role.

Objectives and activities

The object of the charity is to provide facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children during out of school hours and school holidays.

The charity also aims to advance the education and training of persons in the provision of such care, education and recreational facilities.

Achievements and performance

The charity has been very successful in attracting grants for its core work, not only for immediate use but also to support its work in the following period. The staff were generally on furlough throughout the year, with the result that grants previously secured towards staffing and other general costs have not yet been fully applied.

Public benefit

The Trustees of the charity have had due regard both to the objectives of the charity, as set out above, and also to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties. All activities are undertaken in furtherance of the charity's objects, as outlined above.

Risk management

The principal risks the charity may face are perceived to be inadequate future funding and the possibility of safeguarding issues arising in the children's activities. To mitigate these risks, more than sufficient future funding has been secured in the short term, and appropriate safeguarding measures have been put in place. Risk assessments have been carried out in accordance with Government regulations in respect of the Health and Safety of staff and volunteers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Financial Review

All the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body were transferred to the charity as at 1 April 2017, and totalled £85,032, of which £2,194 were restricted funds.

Income for the year totalled £87,610 (2020 £73,316), and expenditure £49,729 (2020 £58,132). The net surplus of £37,881 (2020 £15,184) has been added to the fund balances, resulting in reserves carried forward of £126,118, of which £15,428 (2020 £1,394) were restricted funds and £40,000 (2020 £36,000) funds designated for redundancy costs in the event of the charity being wound up.

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report, and have therefore continued to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. They regularly monitor the impact that Covid-19 continues to have on current operations, and the likely long-term effects on reserves.

Plans for Future Periods

The charity plans to continue to provide the existing services in furtherance of its core objectives, but recognises that the raising of funds for its work in future will be increasingly challenging.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charity law the Trustees 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

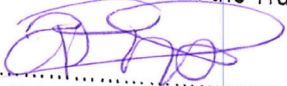
So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (information needed by the independent examiner in connection with preparing his report) of which the charity's examiner is unaware, and each Trustee has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken in order to make himself aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

Peter J Stevenson FCA has signified his willingness to continue in office and a resolution to re-appoint him as examiner will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on 23 June 2021

And signed by order of the Trustees by



 Amie Prior
 Trustee and Secretary

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee CIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021, which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to state on the basis of Procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Peter J. Stevenson

Peter J. Stevenson
Chartered Accountant

8 Harbord Road
Oxford
OX2 8LJ

Date: 23rd June 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2021 Totals £	2020 Totals £
INCOME				
Grants and donations	26,500	11,882	38,382	61,071
Activities for generating funds: Fees and hirings	0	3,551	3,551	12,161
Other income				
Furlough payments	0	29,028	29,028	0
Interest	0	21	21	84
TOTAL INCOME	26,500	44,482	70,982	73,316
EXPENDITURE (Note 3)				
Fundraising and publicity	0	2,010	2,010	2,559
Charitable activities				
Staff costs	21,971	18,363	40,334	44,687
Activity costs	1,379	0	1,379	6,219
Property costs	3,150	0	3,150	3,150
Office costs	0	317	317	497
Professional fees	0	895	895	870
Charitable donations	0	250	250	
Sensory garden	1,394	0	1,394	150
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	27,894	21,835	49,729	58,132
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-1,394	22,647	21,253	15,184
Funds b/f at 1st April 2020	1,394	86,843	88,237	73,053
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2021	£0	£109,490	£109,490	£88,237

The notes on page 3 form part of these accounts.

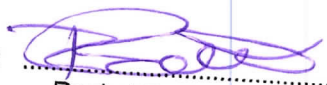
All activities are continuing; there are no gains and losses other than those recognised through the Statement of Financial Activities.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	4	500	500
Bank deposit a/c		45,474	45,453
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>87,934</u>	<u>65,761</u>
		133,908	111,714
CURRENT LIABILITIES	5		
Deferred income		23,628	22,460
Creditors		<u>790</u> 24,418	<u>1,017</u> 23,477
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>109,490</u>	<u>88,237</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>£109,490</u>	<u>£88,237</u>
FUND BALANCES			
Restricted funds	6	0	1,394
Designated funds		35,000	36,000
Other unrestricted funds		<u>74,490</u>	<u>50,843</u>
		<u>£109,490</u>	<u>£88,237</u>

NB Designated funds represent a provision for redundancy costs in the event of the charity being wound up

These accounts were approved by the Management Committee on 23rd June 2021

SIGNED: 
Rachel Partlett

SIGNED: 
Amie Prior

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

1. Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Annual Report. All the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body were transferred in at 1st April 2017.

2. Accounting policies

(a) **Income Is** included in the SoFA when:

the entity becomes entitled to the resources, it is probable that the income will be received, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(b) **Liabilities** are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the entity to pay out resources.

3. Expenditure

Expenditure includes the Independent Examiner's fee £400 (2020 £400); no trustees were paid or committee expenses reimbursed (2020 NIL), and there were no related party transactions in either year. No employees' emoluments exceeded £60,000 in either year; the average number of employees was 5 (2020: 5), although all staff were furloughed for most of the year.

	2021 £	2020 £
4. Debtors		
Payments in advance: insurance	500	500
	<u>£500</u>	<u>£500</u>

5. Creditors

Deferred income: grants	23,628	22,460
HM Revenue & Customs	0	357
Other creditors	790	660
	<u>£24,418</u>	<u>£23,477</u>

6. Restricted funds

	Sensory Garden	TOTAL
Balance b/f, 1.4.20	1,394	1,394
Income	0	0
	<u>1,394</u>	<u>1,394</u>
Less: expenditure	1,394	1,394
Balance c/f, 31.3.21	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>

7. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. The Trustees continue to monitor the impact that Covid-19 is having on operations, and are taking actions to minimise their effect on the long-term reserves of the charity. Under all scenarios reviewed the charity has sufficient reserves to continue operating as a going concern for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report, so has adopted this basis in preparing the accounts.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

FOR COMPARATIVE PURPOSES

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2020 Totals £
INCOME			
Grants and donations	49,759	11,312	61,071
Activities for generating funds:			
Fees and hirings	0	12,161	12,161
Other income			
Refunds and miscellaneous	0	0	0
Interest	0	84	84
TOTAL INCOME	49,759	23,557	73,316
EXPENDITURE			
Fundraising and publicity	0	2559	2,559
Charitable activities			
Staff costs	40,390	4,297	44,687
Activity costs	6,219	0	6,219
Property costs	3,150	0	3,150
Office costs	0	497	497
Professional fees	0	870	870
Sensory garden	150	0	150
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	49,909	8,223	58,132
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-150	15,334	15,184
Funds b/f at 1st April 2019	1,544	71,509	73,053
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2020	£1,394	£86,843	£88,237

DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	2020/21		2019/20	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Fees	1,081		7,686	
Rentals	0		2,005	
Grants: Oxfordshire County Council	0		1,964	
Grants: Oxford City Council	14,000		14,650	
Grant: Blackbird Leys Parish Council	500		1,800	
Grant: Awards for All	10,000		10,000	
Grant: Gannet Foundation	0		8,645	
Grant: Oxfordshire Community Foundation	2,050		0	
Grant: Tambour Foundation	3,739		0	
Grant: Catalyst Housing Group	0		6,500	
Other grants and donations: restricted	2,500		6,200	
Other grants and donations: unrestricted	5,593		11,312	
Furlough payments	29,028		0	
Building Management fees	2,470		2,470	
Bank interest	21	70,982	84	73,316
EXPENDITURE				
Wages	8,280		12,322	
Training, travel and subsistence	54		162	
Services Coordinator: salary + NI	32,000		32,203	
Fundraising fee	2,010		2,559	
Sensory Garden (grant funded)	1,394		150	
Equipment, workshops & trips	1,219		5,725	
Rent	2,600		2,600	
Insurance	550		550	
Accountancy and bookkeeping	400		400	
Payroll charges	495		470	
Inspection and DBS check fees	126		494	
Telephone	317		469	
25th anniversary donation	250		0	
Miscellaneous	34	49,729	28	58,132
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR				
	£21,253		£15,184	

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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Registered Charity No: 1172048

DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

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Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee is a charity, registered in England, number 1172048.

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The Trustees who have held office at any point during the period ended 31 March 2021 and to the date of this report are as follows:

Rachel Partlett (Chair)
Amie Prior (Secretary)
Jacob Brain
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Craig Logan
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The Committee was originally established under a Constitution adopted in 2007. The charity formed in 2017 acquired the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body.

Additional trustees may be appointed by the Committee; all new trustees are offered appropriate training in order to fulfil their role.

Objectives and activities

The object of the charity is to provide facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children during out of school hours and school holidays.

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Achievements and performance

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DOVECOTE VOLUNTARY PARENT COMMITTEE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Financial Review

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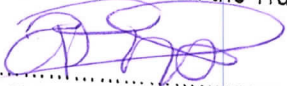
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Independent Examiner

Peter J Stevenson FCA has signified his willingness to continue in office and a resolution to re-appoint him as examiner will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on 23 June 2021

And signed by order of the Trustees by



 Amie Prior
 Trustee and Secretary

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee CIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021, which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to state on the basis of Procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
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 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Peter J. Stevenson

Peter J. Stevenson
Chartered Accountant

8 Harbord Road
Oxford
OX2 8LJ

Date: 23rd June 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2021 Totals £	2020 Totals £
INCOME				
Grants and donations	26,500	11,882	38,382	61,071
Activities for generating funds: Fees and hirings	0	3,551	3,551	12,161
Other income				
Furlough payments	0	29,028	29,028	0
Interest	0	21	21	84
TOTAL INCOME	26,500	44,482	70,982	73,316
EXPENDITURE (Note 3)				
Fundraising and publicity	0	2,010	2,010	2,559
Charitable activities				
Staff costs	21,971	18,363	40,334	44,687
Activity costs	1,379	0	1,379	6,219
Property costs	3,150	0	3,150	3,150
Office costs	0	317	317	497
Professional fees	0	895	895	870
Charitable donations	0	250	250	
Sensory garden	1,394	0	1,394	150
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	27,894	21,835	49,729	58,132
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-1,394	22,647	21,253	15,184
Funds b/f at 1st April 2020	1,394	86,843	88,237	73,053
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2021	£0	£109,490	£109,490	£88,237

The notes on page 3 form part of these accounts.

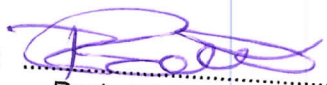
All activities are continuing; there are no gains and losses other than those recognised through the Statement of Financial Activities.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	4	500	500
Bank deposit a/c		45,474	45,453
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>87,934</u>	<u>65,761</u>
		133,908	111,714
CURRENT LIABILITIES	5		
Deferred income		23,628	22,460
Creditors		<u>790</u> 24,418	<u>1,017</u> 23,477
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>109,490</u>	<u>88,237</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>£109,490</u>	<u>£88,237</u>
FUND BALANCES			
Restricted funds	6	0	1,394
Designated funds		35,000	36,000
Other unrestricted funds		<u>74,490</u>	<u>50,843</u>
		<u>£109,490</u>	<u>£88,237</u>

NB Designated funds represent a provision for redundancy costs in the event of the charity being wound up

These accounts were approved by the Management Committee on 23rd June 2021

SIGNED: 
Rachel Partlett

SIGNED: 
Amie Prior

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

1. Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Annual Report. All the assets and liabilities of the former unincorporated body were transferred in at 1st April 2017.

2. Accounting policies

(a) **Income** is included in the SoFA when:

the entity becomes entitled to the resources, it is probable that the income will be received, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

(b) **Liabilities** are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the entity to pay out resources.

3. Expenditure

Expenditure includes the Independent Examiner's fee £400 (2020 £400); no trustees were paid or committee expenses reimbursed (2020 NIL), and there were no related party transactions in either year. No employees' emoluments exceeded £60,000 in either year; the average number of employees was 5 (2020: 5), although all staff were furloughed for most of the year.

	2021 £	2020 £
4. Debtors		
Payments in advance: insurance	500	500
	<u>£500</u>	<u>£500</u>

5. Creditors

Deferred income: grants	23,628	22,460
HM Revenue & Customs	0	357
Other creditors	790	660
	<u>£24,418</u>	<u>£23,477</u>

6. Restricted funds

	Sensory Garden	TOTAL
Balance b/f, 1.4.20	1,394	1,394
Income	0	0
	<u>1,394</u>	<u>1,394</u>
Less: expenditure	1,394	1,394
Balance c/f, 31.3.21	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>

7. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. The Trustees continue to monitor the impact that Covid-19 is having on operations, and are taking actions to minimise their effect on the long-term reserves of the charity. Under all scenarios reviewed the charity has sufficient reserves to continue operating as a going concern for at least 12 months from the date of signing this report, so has adopted this basis in preparing the accounts.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

FOR COMPARATIVE PURPOSES

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	2020 Totals £
INCOME			
Grants and donations	49,759	11,312	61,071
Activities for generating funds:			
Fees and hirings	0	12,161	12,161
Other income			
Refunds and miscellaneous	0	0	0
Interest	0	84	84
TOTAL INCOME	49,759	23,557	73,316
EXPENDITURE			
Fundraising and publicity	0	2559	2,559
Charitable activities			
Staff costs	40,390	4,297	44,687
Activity costs	6,219	0	6,219
Property costs	3,150	0	3,150
Office costs	0	497	497
Professional fees	0	870	870
Sensory garden	150	0	150
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	49,909	8,223	58,132
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-150	15,334	15,184
Funds b/f at 1st April 2019	1,544	71,509	73,053
Total funds c/f at 31st March 2020	£1,394	£86,843	£88,237

DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	2020/21		2019/20	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Fees	1,081		7,686	
Rentals	0		2,005	
Grants: Oxfordshire County Council	0		1,964	
Grants: Oxford City Council	14,000		14,650	
Grant: Blackbird Leys Parish Council	500		1,800	
Grant: Awards for All	10,000		10,000	
Grant: Gannet Foundation	0		8,645	
Grant: Oxfordshire Community Foundation	2,050		0	
Grant: Tambour Foundation	3,739		0	
Grant: Catalyst Housing Group	0		6,500	
Other grants and donations: restricted	2,500		6,200	
Other grants and donations: unrestricted	5,593		11,312	
Furlough payments	29,028		0	
Building Management fees	2,470		2,470	
Bank interest	21	70,982	84	73,316
EXPENDITURE				
Wages	8,280		12,322	
Training, travel and subsistence	54		162	
Services Coordinator: salary + NI	32,000		32,203	
Fundraising fee	2,010		2,559	
Sensory Garden (grant funded)	1,394		150	
Equipment, workshops & trips	1,219		5,725	
Rent	2,600		2,600	
Insurance	550		550	
Accountancy and bookkeeping	400		400	
Payroll charges	495		470	
Inspection and DBS check fees	126		494	
Telephone	317		469	
25th anniversary donation	250		0	
Miscellaneous	34	49,729	28	58,132
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR				
	£21,253		£15,184	