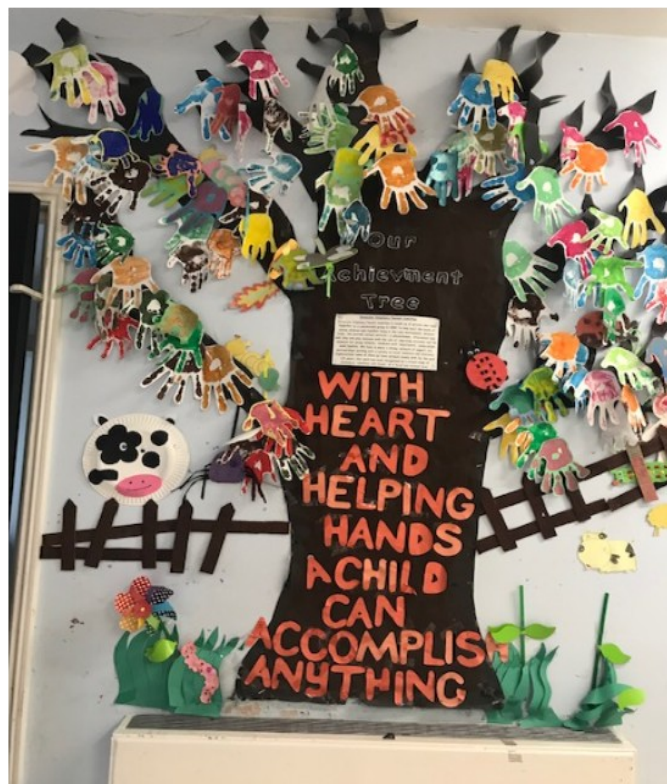


Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee Annual Report 2022 – 2023

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

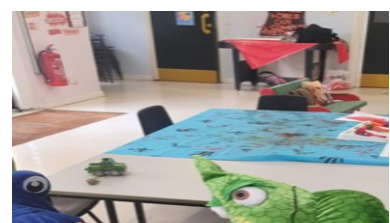
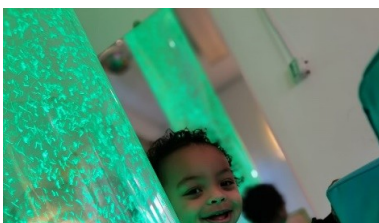
Stay & Play

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

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.

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.

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.

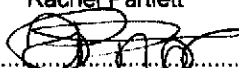
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

	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