

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024



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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Trustees

E Boggis (appointed 10 October 2024)

P Ecclestone (resigned 31 August 2024)

N Gibson

R Lindsay (appointed 25 January 2024)

F M Nolan

C N Pugh

D Scott (appointed 5 October 2023, resigned 11 October 2024)

T D Williams (appointed 5 October 2023)

Company registered number

09187469

Charity registered number

1175019

Registered office

Cambridgeshire Music

New School Road

Histon

Cambridge

CB24 9LL

Independent examiner

C P J Dougherty FCA

Lakin Rose Limited

Chartered Accountants

Cambridge House

Camboro Business Park

Girton

Cambridge

CB3 0QH

A LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR

As I reflect on my new role as Chair of Trustees at Cambridge Acorn Project, I feel an immense sense of pride and gratitude. This year marks our tenth anniversary – a significant milestone that speaks to the enduring importance of our mission and the deep commitment of our staff. Their dedication, compassion and resilience continue to inspire me every day.

This year has also seen a strengthening of our governance. We now have a larger, highly engaged board of trustees who bring energy, insight and responsiveness to their roles. It has been a privilege to work alongside such thoughtful and committed individuals.

Looking ahead, one of our key priorities as a board is to support with diversifying our fundraising efforts. Together with fundraising staff, we aim to grow our unreserved funds, ensuring the charity has the flexibility and sustainability it needs to meet the growing needs of the communities we serve.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this remarkable organisation – staff, trustees including Pippa Ecclestone our previous chair who has now retired, partners, funders, and the families we work with. Here's to the next chapter.



Nichole Gibson, Chair



A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

August 2024 marked our tenth anniversary (although we legally became a charity in October 2017). Our charitable missions remains “to relieve the suffering of children and families in Cambridgeshire and surrounding localities facing trauma or emotional distress by the provision of a therapeutic model of social work”. There are four key words that jump out, “suffering”, “trauma”, “therapeutic” and “social work” capturing our approach to that mission perfectly.

Children should not suffer. They should live happy, enriched, joyful, and fulfilling lives. Unfortunately, we know that this is not always the case and the suffering of children is increasing currently - the NHS now estimates that 1 in 5 children have a “probable mental disorder” ([NHS, 2023](#)). This, then, amounts to around 20% of all our children in the UK. There are many reasons why children can, and do, suffer, and Cambridge Acorn Project works with a wide range of children, across different projects, to support them when they are in distress. Our work is dedicated to the principle that no child should suffer, and we adapt and innovate projects to meet and address suffering where we find it. In relation to this, our core work, as it has been since we first began, is to provide long-term therapy to children and young people who have suffered trauma, typically as a result of abuse and/or neglect. Back in 2019 we started to develop our ‘Moon Project’ to offer a new and innovative approach to support these children in a panoramic way as the consequences of trauma and abuse ripple across the lifecourse and beyond. The children we support on this project have not only experienced trauma and abuse, they also come from financially disadvantaged backgrounds, which leads to a double jeopardy in terms of their experiences, but also in terms of lack of access to some of the tools evidence suggests can help to address, and to overcome, suffering. For example, the [NHS ‘Every Mind Matters’](#) project suggests parents and caregivers to ‘encourage the interests’ of their children. Yet, it is not always possible, through no fault of their own, for all families to do this. In the Moon Project, therefore, we take a holistic, panoramic, approach to supporting these children, offering support around enrichment activities, education, resources for the home, and more, in order to help promote recovery from trauma and abuse over the longer term.

This leads into another key word, or phrase, from our mission, “social work”. Our charity was founded on social work principles - as described by the [International Federation of Social Workers](#), “social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion,

and the empowerment and liberation of people”. One of the key implications of this is that suffering cannot be addressed in the therapy room alone as it often has environmental, or ecological, causes and our work is designed and set up to address this as you will see from the panoramic model featured in the summary section of this report. This brings us on to the final term, ‘therapeutic’. What unites all of our projects, and all of our work, is the suffering of children and young people. What also unites all these is our bedrock, namely a therapeutic approach which, when correctly applied, can tackle suffering in many of its awful forms. However, a true therapeutic approach is unique and bespoke to an individual person. Some people find nature walks, for example, therapeutic, for other people it is gaming, or for others, playing competitive sports and there are naturally different reasons people find each of these things healing and therapeutic because each of us is unique as a person and we all have different personality traits.

Cambridge Acorn Project believes, to our deepest core, that, whilst any child can suffer, none should. Belief in this idea is central in the therapeutic process, in the ideal and the concept of healing, of ending suffering and tackling distress in all its forms. No one organisation could ever hope to end the suffering of children alone, it requires a collective effort and a collective belief in the therapeutic ideal, and the human actions behind that ideal - empathy, compassion, kindness, understanding, and personalisation. Central to this is the spread of therapeutic messaging, and a therapeutic approach, across our societies, so there is less blame, less judgement, less cruelty, less coercion, less malice. A key task over the coming years is to help spread of a kind of therapeutic mycorrhizal network, a constellation of caring individuals and communities who invite compassion and understanding into the lives of children and young people. Children and young people deserve better than the lives we are currently giving them - Cambridge Acorn Project’s core mission, in our own small corner of the world, is to be part of the process of describing, and delivering, what that world may ultimately look like.

Thank you to every single child and family who we have had the privilege of supporting over the last decade and thank you to our staff, students and volunteers and every person, partner, and funder who has made this possible.



Matt Edge, CEO



IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023 - 2024



we provided support to more than
700 children and families



this is a
**103% increase in the amount of children
we supported compared to last year**



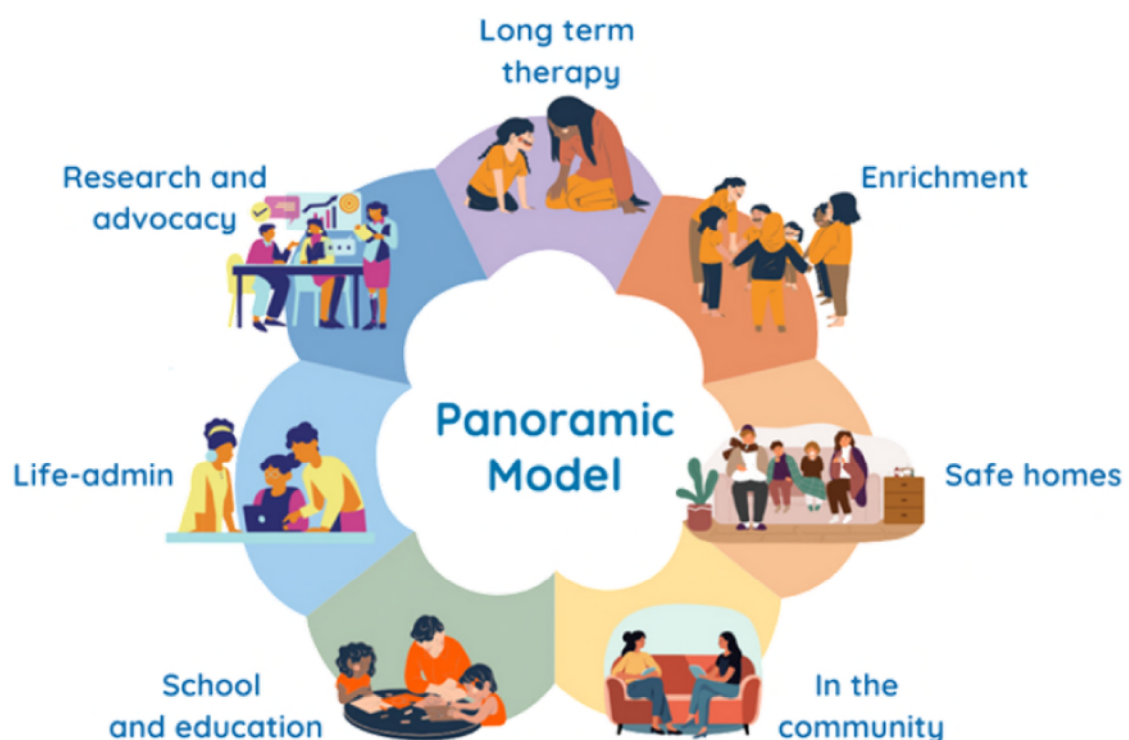
we worked with children in more than
100 schools
across Cambridgeshire



we supported
11 training placements
for therapy and counselling students

SUMMARY

At Cambridge Acorn Project we envision a world where every child has everything they need to thrive. In working towards this, we provide support to children and families affected by trauma and financial hardship. We listen to what people tell us they need and we work compassionately with them to provide meaningful therapeutic support. Our Panoramic Model follows the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidelines for working with children and families following abuse and neglect, and offers different strands of support:



"It was really helpful because I learnt lots of things to help me when being angry or sad or when something is going on at home. And, 'cause I really missed my dad we talked about it and now I'm in touch with him and I think these [sessions] have helped me for that. Everything was amazing and I'm really thankful" - Child

Trauma can steal opportunities from children and families. We work to break injustices and inequality stemming from trauma, adverse childhood experiences and financial hardship by promoting emotional recovery for children and families. We work in Cambridge (city), East Cambridgeshire, South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. Many of the neighbourhoods in these districts that we work fall into the 20-30% most deprived neighbourhoods in the UK (Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2019), and Cambridge continues to be the most unequal city in the UK (Centre for Cities, 2018). In addition, this year 59.3% of the children we have supported have accessed Free School Meals (FSM) and/or Pupil Premium (PP). While FSM and PP are not the only indicators of poverty - many families who do not qualify for FSM still live below the poverty line - this data highlights the severe economic hardship faced by the children and families we support.



A fundamental priority for Cambridge Acorn Project is to have a broad understanding of trauma and adverse childhood experiences to ensure that we can support children and their families who struggle to access support elsewhere. This year we have supported more than 700 children and families including those who have experienced domestic homicide, and domestic, sexual, emotional and physical abuse and neglect. As well as this, we have supported children who have experienced single-incident trauma such as house fires, floods or traumatic loss. Many of the families we support have experienced profound intergenerational trauma and therefore it remains vital that we work within and beyond the therapy room, working to support whole families, to tackle these inequalities.

“This service has provided a lifeline to our children. The difference this has made also has a systemic and positive impact on the whole family” - School

During 2023/24, we continued to expand our Street Level Trauma Response System which comprises our rapid-response wellbeing drop-in hubs embedded in local communities in Cambridge, Soham, Huntingdon, and Northstowe, where families can drop-in and access on the day support delivered by qualified therapists, social workers and trained peer support volunteers. We continue to work towards tackling healthcare inequalities by visiting children in whatever school they are based to ensure equitable access to our support. As evidence of this, we have provided support to children and young people in more than 100 primary and secondary schools and colleges across the county this year. We have also continued to expand our bespoke Panoramic model which utilises flexible funding to put in place long-term, bespoke, needs-led therapeutic support following NICE Guidelines for working with children and families post abuse and neglect. As part of this we have grown our enrichment and casework provision to meet the needs of more children and families.

**“It’s really supportive and helpful. Knowing I can off load any concerns I have and feel I am listened to. The advice given has helped me tremendously”
-Parent at drop-in hub**

We have also strengthened our links with other local organisations and groups, which has helped us expand our enrichment projects and provide more children with direct access to enrichment opportunities. This year, we launched our own school and community projects such as ‘Artscaping’, in partnership with Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination, and ‘Conservation and Conversation’ in collaboration with Abbey People. Building on our enrichment work, we have also been able to provide a Children and Young People’s Social Prescriber, facilitated by NHS East Cambs Integrated Neighbourhood, to work with schools and the primary care network in East Cambs.

Finally, we have reinforced our research focus and service evaluation, including through a collaboration with Anglia Ruskin University examining the use of a block stacking mobile game as a preventative wellbeing intervention. This has been kindly funded by Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Integrated Care System and Anglia Ruskin University.

“The relationship between my child and her therapist was wonderful” - Parent

OUR WORK WITH CHILDREN

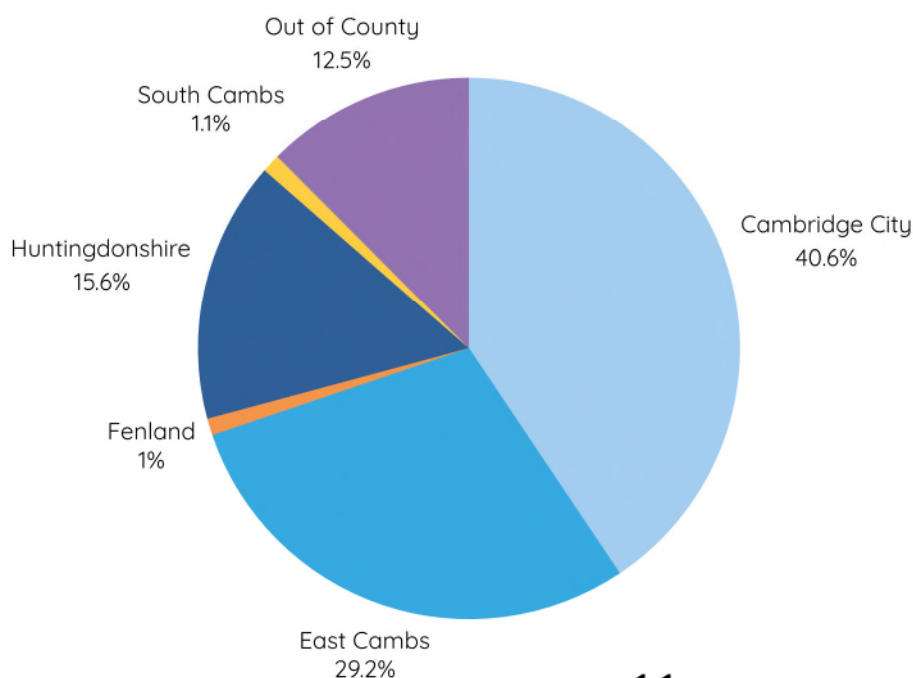
In the academic year 2023 - 2024 we worked with **711 children** (including through our research projects and those currently going through our assessment process). This is a **103% increase in the number of children supported**, compared to the previous year.

Across all of our projects, only 2.8% of children disengaged during their treatment, demonstrating our exceptionally high adherence rates and reinforcing the positive experience we provide for children.

Almost half of children (346) were supported through our district level projects providing therapy and/or panoramic packages of support to children and their families. 99 children were supported through our targeted abuse recovery project 'The Moon Project' which supports children who have experienced sexual and/or domestic abuse. 189 children were supported via our enrichment projects (including social prescribing) and a further 75 via our research projects. 2 children were supported via our specialist services accessing either Video Interaction Guidance (VIG) or casework.

**"I got my thoughts and feelings out that I needed to
and it helped me get stronger. Nothing needs improving"**
- Child

We support children across the county taking our provision to where the children are based ensuring easy access to support and tackling healthcare access inequality. The following chart shows which districts in Cambridgeshire the children we support live.



59.2%

were of primary
school age

38.3%

were of secondary
school age

“It was good because they didn’t judge me on anything I said about my life and stuff” - Child

51%

identified as female

48%

identified as male

1%

identified as transgender, non-binary, or any other idenger identity

We continue to aim to reach children who are most in need, as well as children from diverse backgrounds.

- Extant data shows that 24% of children we supported in 2023 - 2024 had an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or a formal diagnosis, 12.5% were on the school Special Educational Needs (SEN) register, 16.2% had suspected but undiagnosed Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).
- 59.3% of children accessed Free School Meals, similarly 61% of children accessed Pupil Premium.

Data for the **Moon Project**, a specialist project supporting children who have experienced domestic and/or sexual abuse shows that 72.4% of children accessed Free School Meals and 77.8% accessed pupil premium.

16 children supported also had a **Child Protection plan**, 14 had **Child In Need** plans (CIN), 94 were accessing **Targeted Services** (Early Help)

17 children were a **Looked After Child** (LAC), 6 children had been **adopted** and 9 were living with extended family under a **Special Guardianship Order**

In 2023 - 2024 we supported 87.1% of children with a White background (including children with Roma ethnicity), 2.1% of children with a Black, Black British, Caribbean or African background, 1.6% of children with an Asian or Asian British background, 8.4% of children with a Mixed or Multiple Ethnicity background and 0.8% of children identifying as other. Our data shows that we reach children with backgrounds broadly in line with residents of Cambridgeshire as reported in the 2021 Census. However, we continue to have an over representation of children with Mixed or Multiple Ethnicity backgrounds and an underrepresentation of children from an Asian backgrounds. We continue to explore how we engage with different communities and work to ensure that our staff body represents the communities that we serve.

The following bar chart summarises the frequency of referral reasons across the entire child cohort we have supported this year. The most frequent referral reasons was mental health and/or physical health difficulties occurring in 68.9% of all referrals. Abuse was the second most common reason for referral occurring in 35.4% of cases. The table to the right highlights different types of abuse and how the frequency with which these were cited as a reason for referral into our service with domestic abuse being the most common. Behavioural difficulties were the third most common referral reason being cited in 28.8% of all cases referred.

Abuse	% of referrals
Domestic	29
Emotional	14
Physical	6
Neglect	5
Sexual	4
CSE	1

Single incident trauma: animal attack, burglary, house flood/fire, road traffic accident

Sibling difficulty: sibling mental health, sibling with complex needs

Attachment difficulties: disruptive attachment, attachment difficulties

Parent difficulties: parent childhood trauma, parent mental health difficulties, parent substance misuse, parent ill health, parent in prison

Family breakdown: abandonment, separation/divorce

Mental and physical health difficulties: anxiety, emotional regulation difficulties, low confidence, low mood, self harm, relationship difficulties, traumatic medical procedure

Environmental difficulties: social isolation/deprivation, housing, family law difficulties, debt

Educational difficulties: learning disability/SEND, school refusal

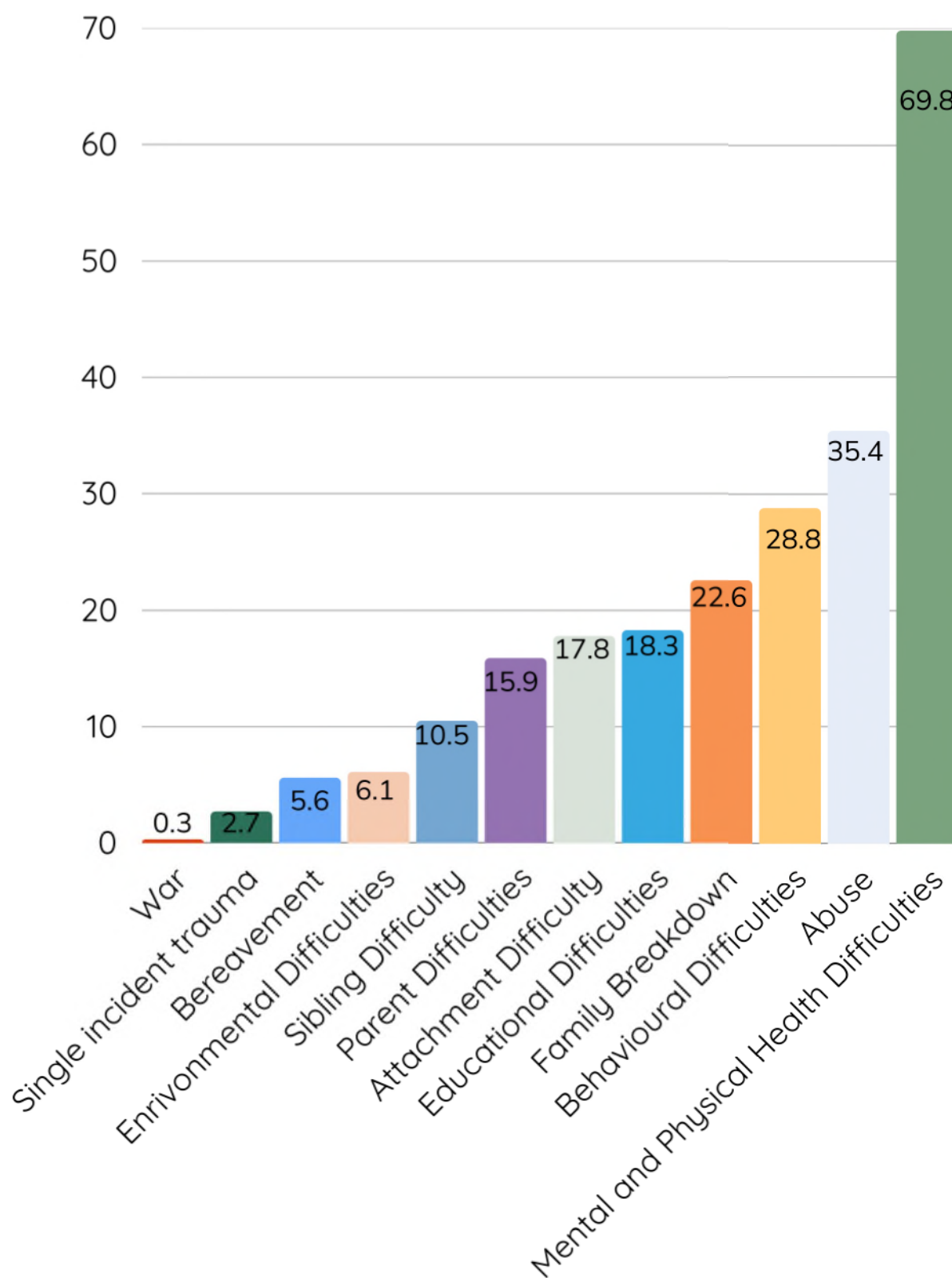
Behavioural difficulties: inappropriate sexual behaviour, child to parent violence, substance misuse, behavioural difficulties

Bereavement: traumatic bereavement, bereavement

Abuse: child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse

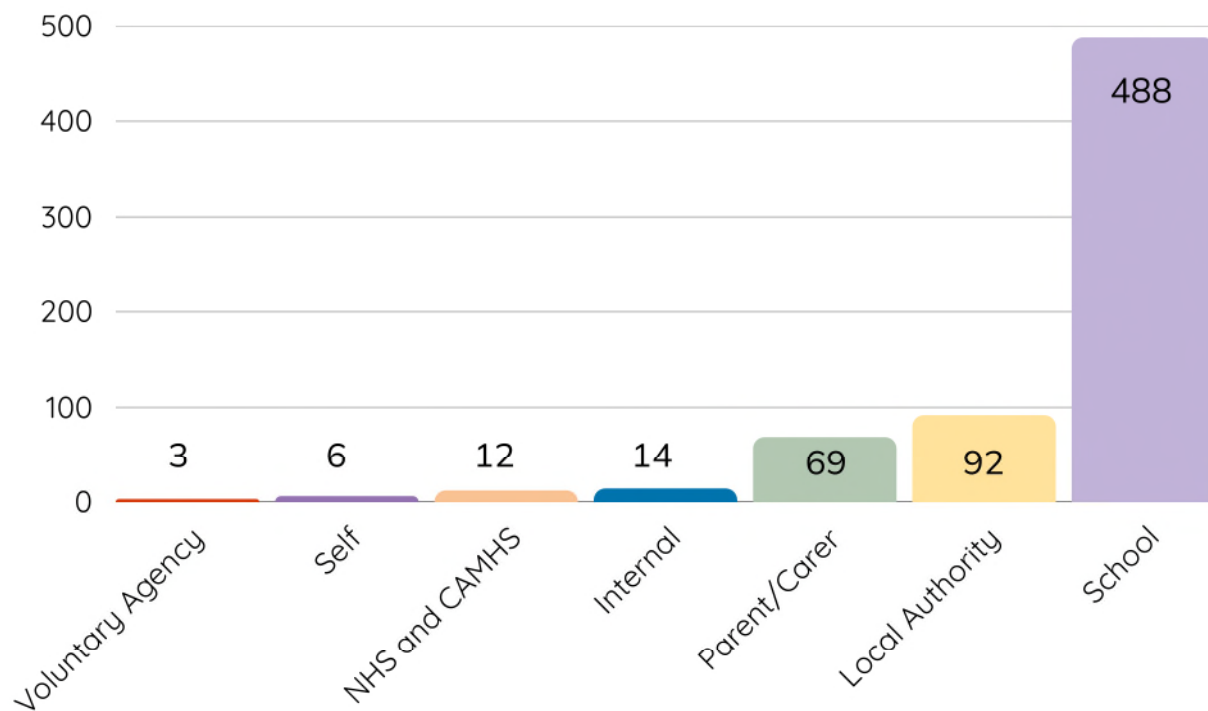
War: war

Frequency of referral reasons (percentages)



“Really felt [therapist] went above and beyond with aiding a challenging and upsetting situation. The team were shining stars”
- School

Referrals continue to be made directly via our website and through our drop-in hubs ensuring easy access to our support. Schools remain our largest referrer, however, the Local Authority and NHS made 104 referrals highlighting the continuing lack of support for children who have experienced complex trauma within statutory and commissioned services. In the Moon Project (supporting children who have experienced domestic and/or sexual abuse) referrals from the Local Authority and NHS account for more than 40% of all referrals).



“My counsellor was very respectful, not treating me differently/looking down on me because of my situation, and I felt very comfortable speaking up about concerns...I really enjoyed it, and it was the most relaxing and comfortable part of my week. It was very emotional parting ways.” - Child

UNDERSTANDING OUR IMPACT WITH CHILDREN

To better understand the impact of our services and to enhance them in a way that is client-led and meaningful, we utilise a variety of evaluation tools. These include feedback forms from clients and families, qualitative research, and standardised assessments like the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQ) and the Measure Yourself Concerns and Wellbeing (MYCaW). In this impact report, we present a snapshot of the feedback collected this year, focusing on our family and school survey, as well as the evaluation of a long-term service, 'The Moon Project,' and a new initiative, 'Social Prescribing for Children and Young People.'

"Just fantastic, highly recommend"
- Parent (family survey)



94% of responding families said it was certainly true that our services were good, 6% said this was partly true (family survey)



90.0% of responding schools said it was certainly true that our services were good, 9.1% said this was partly true (school survey)

96.1% of responding schools said that we had helped students with their mental health (school survey)



78.8% of responding schools said that our services helped children increase their attendance and 90.9% reported improvement in engagement (school survey)



we worked with children in more than 100 schools across Cambridgeshire



“The longevity of the support is extremely beneficial for the students that need that level of support and helps reassure those young people who need to build working relationships before therapeutic support can be fully successful. The service overall was excellent, I have established a great working relationship with [therapist] and am immensely confident that the support she is providing student is of extremely high quality” - School (school survey)

MOON PROJECT

In 2023 - 2024 this project supported 90 children in Cambridge who had experienced domestic and/or sexual abuse. Panoramic support including long term therapy was provided along with enrichment opportunities and case work support for families.

Our paired t-test reported in the table below shows statistically significant positive improvement in the SDQ subscale of emotional problems. The SDQ emotional problems subscale is made up of five items relating to depression, worry, fear, nervousness, and somatic symptoms. Although the change in this cohort does not meet the commonly recognised threshold for clinical significance (a 3-point change), its statistical significance, combined with the severity of the young people's complex trauma, illustrates its importance and highlights the positive impact of this service. It is important to recognise that for this cohort of young people, a small change can still have meaningful and real-world positive implications.

	SDQ Emotional Subscale
Number of completed SDQ results by parent/carer (total number of CYP in project 90)	15
Mean change*	-1.067
P value**	0.030
**cut off value for statistical significance is $p=0.05$. When the p value is less than 0.05 then the null hypothesis "there is no difference between pre and post scores" can be rejected (Sullivan, 2016)	

"The therapist was incredible with my son. Taking time to nurture him so he was comfortable talking about his trauma and abuse but also vitally supporting us in the best professional capacity she could. She was open, honest, and supported myself regularly too. She has been the only therapist that's fully understood, empathised and validated the complexities my son has been, and is going through. She's a real asset to the organisation and always went above and beyond to support us and ensure continuity with his therapy, sourcing the much needed funding to continue supporting him rather than leaving it to come to an end. Just outstanding!"

- Parent of a child accessing Moon Project

SOCIAL PRESCRIBING*

In 2023 - 2024 the East Cambridgeshire NHS Integrated Neighbourhood generously funded a Social Prescriber for Children and Young People hosted by Cambridge Acorn Project. This Social Prescriber worked within schools and the primary care network in East Cambs supporting 70 children and young people providing personalised packages of support and running a youth club provision in Soham.

The top 5 categories of concerns across all the themes were: school and education (69%), family and relationships (23%), physical activity or exercise (21%), social interaction (18%) and emotional concerns (16%). Importantly, this project has received further funding from East Cambridgeshire Integrated Neighbourhood enabling the continuation of CYP social prescribing across East Cambs secondary schools and primary care networks in 2024 - 2025. In cases where there was no change or there was deterioration in the MYCaW, this was due to a significant and traumatic life event such as a bereavement or where the practitioner was not fully able to respond to the concern e.g. supporting with having a bigger house.

	Concern 1	Concern 2	Wellbeing
Number of results (total CYP supported through social prescribing project = 70)	56	47	56
Mean change*	-1.5	-1.3	-1.0
P value**	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05
% of participants showing improvement	80%	64%	68%
% of participants showing no change	13%	9%	27%
% of participants showing deterioration	7%	11%	6%
*greater than 1 change is considered to be clinically significant (Guyatt et al., 1998, Juniter et al., 1994)			
**cut off value for statistical significance is p=0.05. When the p value is less than 0.05 then the null hypothesis "there is no difference between pre and post scores" can be rejected (Sullivan, 2016)			

*This analysis has been undertaken externally by NHS East Cambridgeshire Integrated Neighbourhood who funded this project.

OUR WORK WITH ADULTS

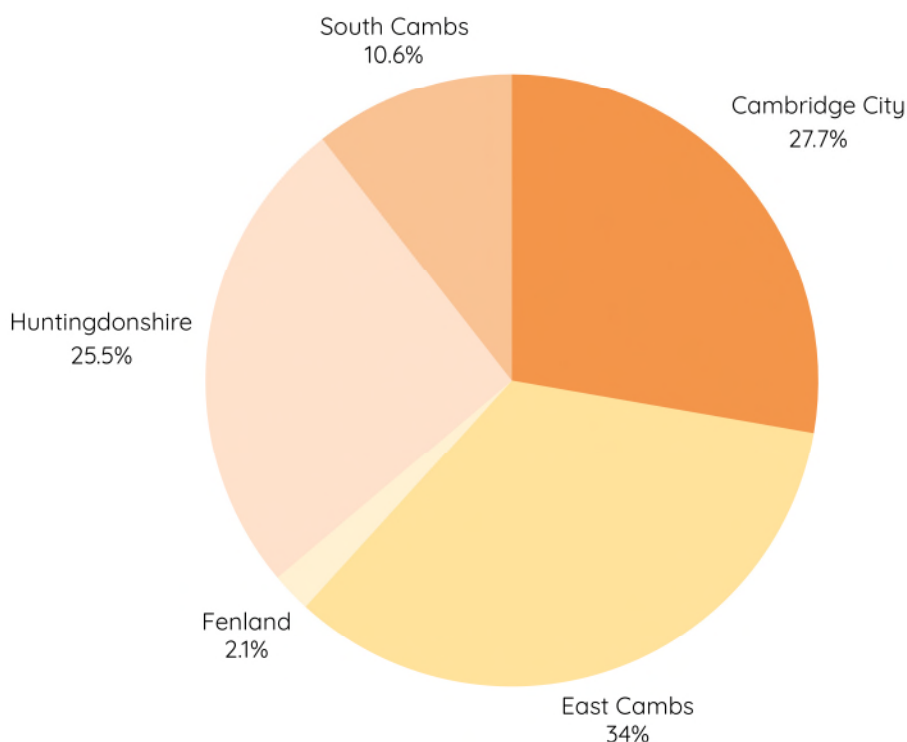
Cambridge Acorn Project provided support to 94 parents and carers

including long term counselling, casework support, and regular weekly support at a hub.

The data in this section does not include adults who accessed one-off or less frequent support via the wellbeing hubs that are part of the Street-Level Trauma Response System (see following chapter).

“So kind and patient and understanding, it really feels like they want to help and are there for you, not just a number. It’s invaluable, so helpful, an absolute lifeline when the world feels crazy and impossible to navigate” - Parent

We support adults across the county through our panoramic support model as well as offering adult counselling delivered by our student practitioners at our new head office in Histon.



89.9%

of adults supported identified as female

10.1%

of adults supported identified as male

Referral Reasons (%)

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Domestic Abuse (35) | 6. Low Mood (17) |
| 2. Parent Mental Health (30) | 7. Low Confidence (14) |
| 3. Anxiety (22) | 8. Child's Behaviour (13) |
| 4. Emotional Abuse (19) | 9. Family Law Difficulties (13) |
| 5. Parental Separation (18) | 10. Relationship Difficulties (13) |

82.5% of adults supported reported experiencing significant financial hardship

10 adults provided with long term counselling through our trainee placement programme

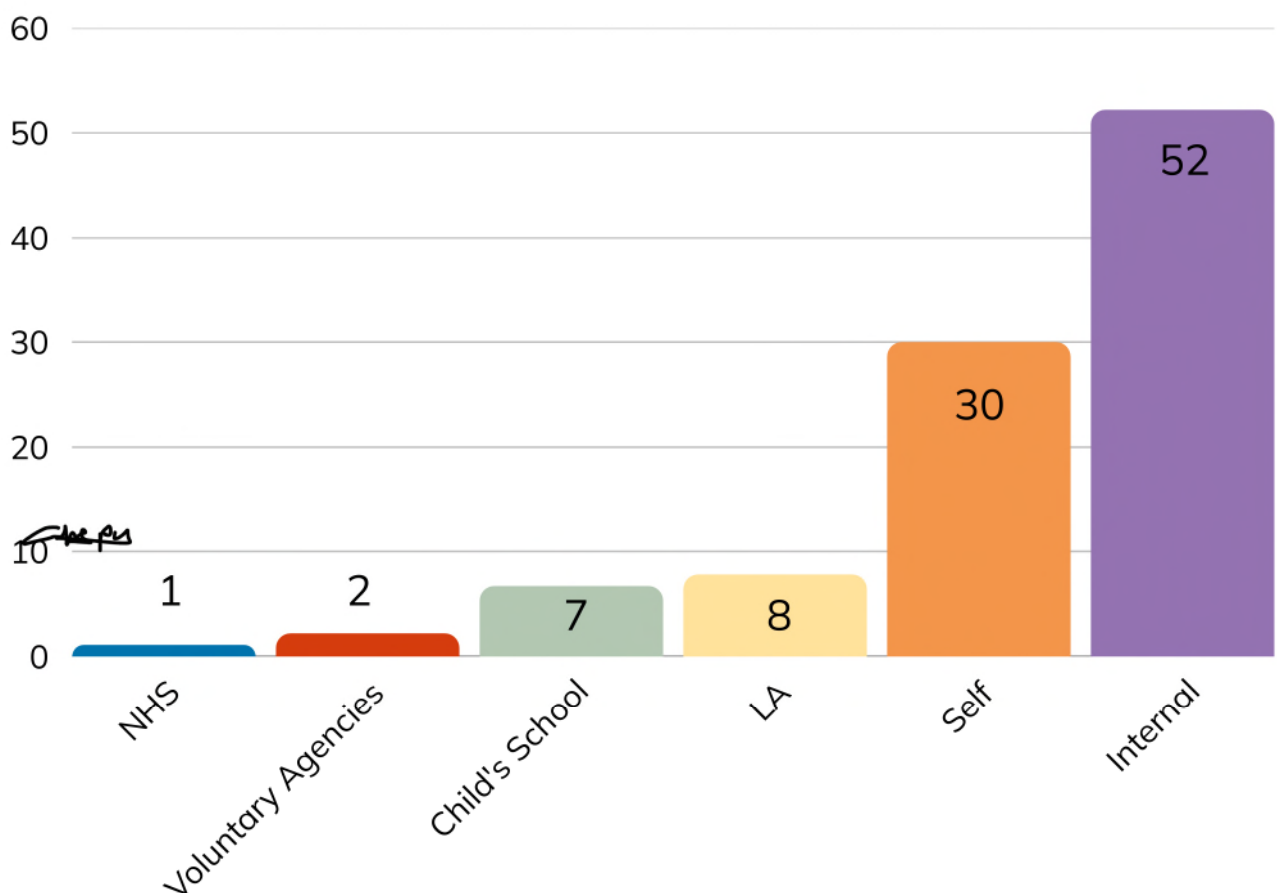
- The adults supported were aged between 18 and 74 highlighting the range of adults supported including extended family such as grandparents with Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs).
- 98.5% of adults identified as White and 1.5% of adults identified as having a Mixed of Multiple Ethnicity. Our data shows that we support an over representation of White adults compared to the general population of Cambridgeshire according to 2021 census data. We continue to explore how we engage with parents from different backgrounds and ensure we have diversity within our staff body.

“The support has changed my life in many ways, that I can show up whoever I am that day. That I’m heard. The people really try and do make such a difference. They listen without any judgement, just ways to help. They’re so kind, always welcoming and always at your pace. Forever grateful. Truly heart felt thank you” - Parent

“Just being able to speak and get what’s in my head out and getting help and support to try help my situation, being able to get advice has helped me loads, feeling more comfortable just having someone to speak to weekly has helped me to not keep it all to myself making me down. I feel a lot better in myself knowing I have someone here I can talk to. I can’t thank everyone enough for listening and helping me and my family” - Parent

The table below reports our referral sources with our internal referral pathway continuing to be the most popular route for adults to be referred with more than 50% of adults accessing services after having contact with us through our ongoing work with their child or via our Street Level Trauma Response System.

Almost 10% of referrals for adult support were made by the NHS or Local Authority with Targeted Support (Early Help) being the most common referrer within this group.



UNDERSTANDING OUR IMPACT WITH ADULTS

To assess our impact and ensure our services remain client-led and meaningful, we use various evaluation tools, including client and family feedback forms, qualitative research, and standardised assessments like Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires and Measure Yourself Concerns and Wellbeing. In this impact report, we are presenting a snapshot of the feedback received this year focussing on our feedback surveys and in depth analysis of our rapidly growing casework support. There is more on our impact delivered through our family support in the next chapter on Street Level Trauma Response System.

“All my troubles before Christmas has partly disappeared because of Cambridge acorn project and I couldn’t be more grateful.” - Parent (Casework)



100% of responding adults reported they felt listened to and 100% would recommend our service to a friend who needed similar support.



“It was quite daunting for me at first but I honestly can’t believe the progress I have made within myself. I feel like I have healed and made sense of some past traumas and even though they sometimes still haunt me, I now know that feeling will pass.” - Parent (Adult Counselling)

CASEWORK

The following table demonstrates (using paired T tests) that our casework project achieved clinically and statistically significant positive change improving both the primary concern and overall wellbeing. This was not achieved for the secondary concern.

	Concern 1	Concern 2	Wellbeing
Number of results (total number of families supported is 52)	9	6	9
Mean change*	-2.11	-0.67	-1.33
P value**	0.0033	0.2354	0.0165
% of participants showing improvement	88.89	50	77.78
% of participants showing no change	11.11	33.33	11.11
% of participants showing deterioration	0	16.67	11.11
Concern Themes	Life circumstance: 56% Family & Relationships: 22% Domestic Abuse: 11%	Life circumstance: 83% Mental Health Concern: 17%	
*greater than 1 change is considered to be clinically significant (Guyatt et al., 1998, Juniter et al., 1994)			
**cut off value for statistical significance is p=0.05. When the p value is less than 0.05 then the null hypothesis "there is no difference between pre and post scores" can be rejected (Sullivan, 2016)			

This data identifies clinically and statistically significant effects for the people for whom we have complete data. In addition, it provides relevant trends and insights into the possible positive impact for the wider population supported through this project. As this is a small sample, it is hard to distinguish precise and generalisable conclusions with high levels of confidence for the whole project population; however, as this sample is representative, this increases the trustworthiness of the results and mitigates bias. .

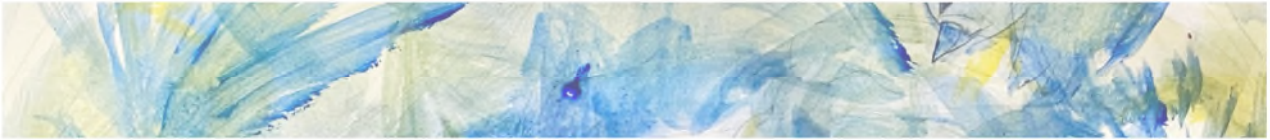
STREET LEVEL TRAUMA RESPONSE SYSTEM

Our Street Level Trauma Response System is designed to provide immediate, on the day, access to help and support for families. This is a vital service using a local community based model to tackle the current mental health crisis, where access to support is limited and waiting times are long. This system of support is delivered through our five family wellbeing drop-in hubs and outreach services embedded within local communities across Cambridgeshire. The hubs operate across the week in Huntingdon (Moody Mondays), Soham (Tea, Toast & Chat), Cambridge (Welcoming Wednesdays & Frazzled Fridays) and Northstowe (Thoughtful Thursdays).

“They listened to me and made me feel like my feelings were valid. They offered help and support which I so desperately needed. I could also take my son to group when he was suspended and they were really good with him too. You are all so welcoming and friendly. You’ve helped me when I was at completely rock bottom and I am incredibly grateful for everything they’ve done and continue to do for me and my family”
- Parent at drop-in hub

Our hubs are staffed by social workers, therapists, caseworkers and trained peer support volunteers enabling us to provide a range of support to families to tackle the inequalities stemming from trauma and poverty including: emotional support, assessments for accessing panoramic support, case work and life admin support including theraplanning (attachment and therapeutic activities and psychoeducation to support families), free legal clinic referrals, and onward referrals to other services.

392 family contact sessions delivered across our hubs in 2023/24. Children were present in 141 sessions.



The most frequently discussed concerns were: child mental health, child behaviour, schooling difficulties, EHCP difficulties, housing and domestic abuse



We provided extended casework and life admin to 52 families to support with maintaining safe homes.



We delivered 18 legal clinic sessions for families in partnership with Tees Law.

“When I walk into the drop in sessions it’s just amazing the staff that run it and also the amount of support I’ve been given is so good I’ve had so many problems regarding my son and the help has made me feel like I’m not alone. I’m glad I found the drop in sessions, if I hadn’t I wouldn’t be as far along with my son as I am now and also the help with getting me moved to a more suitable house” - Parent at drop-in hub

Two of our hubs are run in collaboration with local partners to ensure that our hubs are sustainable and increase community infrastructure. In Huntingdon we work with Huntingdon Community Action Projects, Huntingdon Town Council, and Huntingdon Parish. In Cambridge, we work with Abbey People and are kindly supported by Cambridgeshire County Council’s Library services.

As part of our Casework service we run a legal clinic based in Cambridge in partnership with Tees Law. Through this multi-year partnership we are able to provide Family Law and SEND legal advice to support the families we are working with.

A number of other services also provide services at our hubs so that families can get support using a single front door, preventing additional time and labour being spent on going from service to service to find the right support. These services include: Richmond Fellowship, Arts and Minds, SENDIASS, IMPAKT, SUN Network, and Cambridgeshire Skills,.

“I hope Cambridge Acorn Project continues forever so it can find people like me and change their lives too.” - Parent supported by the Street Level Trauma Response System and Caseworker

CASE STUDY

Paul came to our drop-in hub looking for urgent help during a really difficult time. He is the grandfather of Jimmy, who had recently been placed in his care by children's social services because of domestic abuse and trauma in Jimmy's birth family. Paul was in crisis, both he and Jimmy needed immediate therapeutic support to cope with the effects of Jimmy's trauma, which was understandably affecting the whole family.

We were able to offer a wide range of help through our panoramic support model. This included long-term therapy for both Jimmy and Paul, as well as Paul visiting our weekly hub sessions during particularly challenging moments. We also introduced a part of our service called "theraplanning," which involves creating resources to strengthen the impact of therapy at home. For Paul and Jimmy, this meant making a therapeutic nightlight together, to help Jimmy feel safer at night and overcome his fear of the dark.

The support had positive results. Jimmy was able to work through some of his trauma, and, eventually, he was able to return to live with his mother once her situation became stable.

"I wanted to email to say a huge thank you on behalf of [Jimmy] and me. I know Jimmy has really benefitted from his weekly sessions with [therapist]. He spoke highly of [therapist] and enjoyed his weekly sessions... He has started to understand what went on. I have been on a massive journey thanks to [therapist]. I know I had to do lots of the work but [therapist] was instrumental in helping me. Her thoughtfulness, memory, kindness and awareness were astonishing. The broken man you saw all those months ago at [centre name] has been healed and repaired. I still have a journey to travel but am in a place to achieve this."
- Grandparent

PRIORITIES FOR 2024/25

Street Level Trauma Response System



In the coming year we will continue to focus on developing our Street Level Trauma Response Systems including expanding our hub infrastructure across the county, increasing our outreach capacity and related casework support tackling inequitable access and ensuring that more families can access support quickly when they need it. We will focus on growing the hubs as a single front door through which children and families can access onwards referrals for our more intensive services.

Research and Academic Partnerships

A key focus is expanding our impact beyond our direct front line services through our research activities and academic partnership. Building on the success of our previous and current research projects, including our quasi-experimental study with Anglia Ruskin University, we will continue to work with academic partners in leading universities across the country in order to ensure that our research activities are rigorous and reliable. We will continue to work with universities in order to provide real-world research opportunities for Master's students as well as undertaking and publishing our own innovative therapeutic research activities.



Panoramic Model



Our evidence based panoramic model which follows NICE Guidelines on working with children post abuse and neglect is central to our commitment to continue to deliver transformative children's mental health support. Through this way of working we can ensure that children and families can access a constellation of therapeutic services delivered through an overarching therapeutic plan bespoke to their individual needs. Key to delivering this model is obtaining flexible funding and advocating that funding should not be siloed to specific interventions but rather be used in a person-centred way that meets individual children and families in a way that is meaningful and effective for them.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Become a corporate partner



By partnering with us, your organisation can make a real difference in your local community. As a small charity working on the front line, your support has a direct and lasting impact. Whether you organise **workplace fundraisers**, take on **team challenges**, or choose us as your **Charity of the Year**, every contribution counts.

We'll be with you every step of the way, offering support, sharing updates, and celebrating the difference you are making. To find out more, contact **Kate Weir** at kate.weir@cambridgeacornproject.org.

“ Working with the charity has provided an opportunity for our creative team to develop their skills... It has been really rewarding seeing how our skills and fundraising have supported the team to establish themselves within the community and reach as many people as possible. ”

Rachel Pomfret, Senior Manager at Just Digital

Support us in the community

There are so many ways you can help, whether on your own or with friends, colleagues, or community groups. Take part in a local event, run your own fundraiser, or volunteer your time at one of our activities. However you choose to get involved, you'll be helping us to support children and families when they need it most.

Setting up a JustGiving page is quick and easy, and Gift Aid can boost your donations at no extra cost. If you'd like to make a long-term impact, consider setting up a small monthly donation—every little bit helps us plan for the future.



GET IN TOUCH TODAY

We'd love to hear from you! Get in touch with our Fundraising Manager, Kate Weir, at kate.weir@cambridgeacornproject.org.uk to chat about how you or your organisation can support our work.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the charity qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

Policies and objectives

The principal objects of the charity are to relieve the needs of children and families in Cambridgeshire and surrounding localities suffering from in particular but not exclusively trauma or emotional distress by the provision of a therapeutic model of social work. In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

The charity's prime concern is the mental health of children and families and we work to address inequalities in wellbeing due to distress (historical/traumatic and/or contemporary/environmental) across Cambridgeshire. Our main activity is one to one therapeutic work with children who have experienced trauma and/or emotional distress and we also offer support to their families, including, as an activity, whole family work. We also offer 'structural' sessions to address emerging inequalities in wellbeing connected to the environment. We also undertake groupwork and we are looking to pilot new initiatives connected to children's mental health and wellbeing, such as looking at environmental and emotional enrichment. Typically, our principle activities involve direct, face-to-face, work with vulnerable children and families.

Achievements and Performance

Review of activities

This has been another year of significant financial growth for Cambridge Acorn Project. Income has increased from £438,466 to £656,835 (a growth of 50%) and expenditure from £434,797 to £657,605 (a growth of 51%). Drilling down further into these figures, salaries, by far our greatest expenditure as we prioritise frontline work, increased by a large 67%, from £274,386 to £457,161. Further, therapist expenses and mileage increased by a significant 47% (from £15,125 to £22,239) and supervision costs by 68% (from £7,370 to £12,379) reflecting both organisational growth and the Cost of Living crisis. Other significant increases in expenditure included Employer's National Insurance (63% increase), Pensions (51% increase) and Rent (59% increase). Despite our growth, and the significant increases in expenditure, we have managed to grow our free reserves to £38,479 in line with the below policy, with our aim to increase this to £52,000 by the end of financial year 2025, which would leave us £38,000 from our target of £90,000.

However, we have to be aware that this is currently a very challenging time for the charitable sector. Our reserves were impacted heavily in the financial year 2022-2023 as a result of our growth, emergence from the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis and recovery from this is slow, however we do have a considered plan to help us emerge from this and look towards a more sustainable future. A further challenge has been that, alongside constant challenges raising funds, the need we serve has continued to grow. During the financial year 2022-2023, we worked with around 350 children and young people. At the end of August 2024, which is also at the end of our financial year 2023-2024, we held over 650 open cases (570 children and 84 adults) across the whole organisation and worked with more than 700 children and families across the year.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank every child and family who has engaged with our services this year. In addition, we would like to also thank everyone who has enabled our work by generously contributing funds or donating resources and time to support Cambridge Acorn Project in the academic year 2023 - 2024 including:

Funding for Individual Families: Buttle UK; Cambridge Aid; Littleport Town Lands; Thomas Parsons Charity

Grants: National Lottery Community Fund; UK Youth Fund; BBC Children in Need; Cambridgeshire Community Foundation; Huntingdon Freeman's Trust; Cambridgeshire County Council; NHS Health Inequalities Challenge Prize; Alan Boswell Charitable Trust; The Church Schools of Cambridge Trust; Help For Children; Leathersellers Foundation; Garfield Weston Foundation; Masonic Charitable Foundation; Schreier Foundation; South Cambridgeshire District Council; Kelly Charitable Trust; The Brook Trust; PEM Charitable Trust; NHS Healthier Futures Fund

Business Partners: Broadfield, Cambridge Charity Fundraisers, Co-op, Histon Feast, Ingleton Wood, Just Digital, Northstowe Half Marathon 2024, PEM, Simon Watson, Singing Allowed, Soham carnival, St Wendred Masonic Lodge Newmarket, Sustainable Tech 4 Good, Tees Law, The Big Give, Velocity Commerce

Partners: Abbey People, Active Play Education, Arts and Minds, Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination, Cambridge United Foundation, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire County Council Library Services, East Cambs Integrated Neighbourhood, Fullscope, Huntingdon Parish, Huntingdon Community Action Projects (HCAP), Huntingdon Church, Huntingdon Town Council, Red Hen, Romsey Mill, and all the schools we have worked with to support children and families.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

Reserves policy

We have been discussing, at Trustee Level, a clearer and updated reserves policy now that we have grown as a charity and our monthly spend is typically in the region of £55,000. Whilst three months reserves under this measure would equate to £165,000, it would not demonstrate prudent and careful thinking if we were just to aim for this level of unrestricted reserves as it would not reflect any 'Plan B' thinking. Therefore, our current plan is to target holding £90,000 in unrestricted reserves which would reflect the organisational structure we had in 2021- 2022 when our annual income was £398,929 and our reserves were also in a

robust place. This would mean that we would be able to maintain a reduced, but not a pure skeleton, service whilst we recovered should we get into financial difficulty. We ended 2023/24 with £38,479 in unrestricted reserves and we are targeting a growth of our reserves by £15,000 each year, meaning that we hope to reach our target of having £90,000 in reserve by 31/08/2028. We have recently taken on a full-time fundraiser, in January 2025, to enable us to meet this target and become more sustainable over the longer term.

Surplus

The Statement of Financial Activities covers the year ended 31 August 2024. The results of the year's operations are set out in the attached financial statements. The net outflow of funds for the year amounted to £770 (2023 - inflow of £3,669). The retained reserves at 31 August 2024 amounted to £114,507 (2023 - £115,277).

Principal risks and uncertainties

There remain significant ongoing risks for small charities such as ourselves. We begin the new year in a solid financial position. However, we are aware that applications to funders have increased, already limited financial resources are in high demand and, alongside that, demand for our work is increasing everywhere. Therefore, we will remain cautious and prudent regarding any financial decisions which are made including increasing our staff costs. However, there is also no doubt that the mental health of children, young people and families is going to be challenged, disrupted and fragmented like never before. We stand ready to do what we can to support our beneficiaries and work tirelessly to increase our offer and improve our services.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to our incredibly passionate, loyal, caring and dedicated workforce - they are the ones who continue to make CAP what it is.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

Cambridge Acorn Project is registered as a charity limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association.

Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Memorandum of Association.

Organisational Structure

Day to day running of the charity is delegated by the Trustees to Dr Matt Edge, CEO and Therapeutic Practitioner, who holds ultimate responsibility and oversight over the charity. Our CEO is closely supported in the daily running of the charity by our Deputy CEO Dr Hannah Chapman. The CEO and Deputy CEO oversee a wide range of clinical and non-clinical staff from a range of backgrounds.

Policies adopted for the Induction of Trustees

Trustee recruitment and induction, stewarded under our Safer Recruitment Policy, is currently carried out by our Deputy CEO in partnership with the existing board of Trustees.

In selecting a person to be appointed as a trustee, consideration is given to how their residence, occupation, employment, specialist knowledge, and personal or professional qualifications may contribute to delivering against the objects of the charity. A periodic trustees' skills audit is also conducted to assess any areas where additional expertise may be required.

New Trustees are formally appointed by the Board of Trustees.

All new Trustees are provided with comprehensive induction and training to become familiar with their roles and responsibilities and Cambridge Acorn Project's work.

Pay Policy for Key Management Personnel

Pay rates for senior staff are set by the Board of Trustees.

Related Party Relationships

No significant/disclosable transactions with related parties.

Financial risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Members' Liability

Cambridge Acorn Project holds insurance which indemnifies Trustees as standard. The Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company 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 its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 23rd May 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



C N Pugh
Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Cambridge Acorn Project ('the charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

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

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities

[applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed: 

Dated: 23rd May 2025

C P J Dougherty FCA

Lakin Rose Limited

Chartered Accountants

Cambridge House

Camboro Business Park

Girton

Cambridge

CB3 0QH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Note	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	336,074	177,182	513,256	336,341
Charitable activities	4	77,291	66,288	143,579	102,125
Total income		413,356	243,470	656,835	438,466
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	-	5,389	5,389	-
Charitable activities		436,827	215,389	652,216	434,797
Total expenditure		436,827	220,778	657,605	434,797
Net movement in funds		(23,462)	22,692	(770)	3,669
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		99,490	15,787	115,277	111,608
Net movement in funds		(23,462)	22,692	(770)	3,669
Total funds carried forward		76,028	38,479	114,507	115,277

The statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
The notes on pages 43 to 59 form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

CAMBRIDGE ACORN PROJECT (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REGISTERED NUMBER: 09187469

	Note		2024 £		2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		23		34
Sub total			23		34
Current assets					
Debtors	11	23,512		17,166	
Cash at bank and in hand		140,968		147,128	
Sub total		164,480		164,294	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(49,996)		(49,051)	
Net current assets			114,484		115,243
Total net assets			114,507		115,277
Charity Funds					
Restricted funds	13		76,028		99,490
Unrestricted funds	13		38,479		15,787
Total funds			114,507		115,277

The charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 23rd May 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



C N Pugh
Trustee

The notes on pages 43 to 59 form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	(6,160)	5,897
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(6,160)	5,897
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	147,128	141,231
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	140,968	141,231

The notes on pages 43 to 59 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. General information

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Cambridgeshire Music, New School Road, Histon, Cambridge, CB24 9LL.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Cambridge Acorn Project meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

2.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

2.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, on a reducing balance basis.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Computer equipment	- 33% reducing balance
--------------------	------------------------

2.5 Liabilities and provision

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

2.6 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

2.7 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. Income from donation and legacies

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	306	84,806	85,112	74,737
Grants	335,768	92,376	428,144	261,604
Total	336,074	177,182	513,256	336,341
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>230,879</i>	<i>105,462</i>	<i>336,341</i>	

4. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Therapy fees	77,291	66,288	143,579	102,125
Total 2023	34,500	67,625	102,125	

5. Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of raising voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Costs of raising voluntary income	5,389	5,389	-

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Provision of therapy	618,614	33,602	652,216	434,797
Total 2023	409,504	25,293	434,797	

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Provision of therapy 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs	496,197	496,197	298,705
Therapist fees	66,053	66,053	85,193
Supervision fees	12,379	12,379	7,370
Therapist expenses	22,239	22,239	15,125
Enrichment expenses	21,746	21,746	2,732
Creative packs	-	-	379
Total 2024	618,614	618,614	409,504
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>409,504</i>	<i>409,504</i>	

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Provision of therapy 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Depreciation	11	11	17
Computer costs	5,582	5,582	6,380
Insurance	1,709	1,709	1,700
Staff training	3,221	3,221	256
Subscriptions	284	284	30
Bad debts	1,360	1,360	960
Room hire	8,463	8,463	5,316
General office expenses	3,472	3,472	2,100
Consultancy	2,636	2,636	3,166
Governance costs	6,864	6,864	5,368
Total 2024	33,602	33,602	25,293
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>25,293</i>	<i>25,293</i>	

7. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Fees payable to the charity's independent examiner for the independent examination of the charity's annual accounts	2,640	2,250

8. Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	457,161	274,386
Social security costs	30,105	18,421
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	8,931	5,898
Total	496,197	298,705

The average numbers of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Employees	25	13

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

9. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year ended 31 August 2024, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 August 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2023 - £NIL).

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 September 2023	540
At 31 August 2024	540
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2023	506
Charge for the year	11
At 31 August 2024	517
Net book value	
At 31 August 2024	23
At 31 August 2023	34

11. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	14,748	10,942
Other debtors	8,764	-
Prepayments and accrued income	-	6,224
Total	23,512	17,166

12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	9,605	8,050
Other taxation and social security	9,139	5,999
Accruals and deferred income	31,252	35,002
Total	49,996	49,051

13. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	15,787	243,470	(220,778)	38,479
Restricted Funds				
Environmental Enrichment	-	10,301	(10,301)	-
Huntingdon Flexible Funding	7,960	1,680	(9,640)	-
Tetris Project	37,015	-	(27,664)	9,351
Moon Project	-	25,000	(8,152)	16,848
Social Prescribing	-	60,000	(36,068)	23,932
Flexible Funding	10,000	14,000	(5,248)	18,752
East Cambs Street-Level Trauma Response System	20,272	111,773	(127,621)	4,424
Huntingdon Street-Level Trauma Response System	-	58,512	(58,512)	-
Cambridge City Street-Level Trauma Response System	6,081	94,407	(98,147)	2,341
South Cambs Street-Level Trauma Response System	9,108	31,816	(40,924)	-
Individuals in Need	1,157	4,376	(5,533)	-

13. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - current year (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Community Therapy	7,897	-	(7,897)	-
Other	-	1,500	(1,120)	380
Subtotal (Restricted funds)	99,490	413,365	(436,827)	76,028
Total of funds	115,277	656,835	(657,605)	114,507

Details of the main funds are as follows:

The Environmental Enrichment (EE) Project is an emotional wellbeing project funded by BBC Children In Need, alongside other funders including the Church Schools of Cambridge Trust, promoting children's mental health through the promotion of enriched experiences.

The Tetris Project, funded in 2022 by the NHS Health Inequalities Challenge Prize and Cambridgeshire County Council's Public Health Team, uses a block stacking game to support Children and Young people experiencing intrusive memories and/or general stress.

The Moon Project, funded in 2022-2023 by Ely South PCN and Cambridgeshire County Council Domestic And Sexual Violence Project (DASV), utilises bespoke packages of support to provide therapeutic and enrichment interventions for children and young people who have experienced Domestic Abuse (DA) post-trauma.

East Cambs Street-Level Trauma Response System (SLTRS) our vanguard project, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, provides a community-based support system to respond to childhood trauma in East Cambs. Funding bespoke, panoramic, packages of support for children and young people who have experienced trauma. In 2023, this was expanded to Huntingdon; Cambridge City and South Cambs.

Flexible Funding, funded by Help for Children alongside other funders, enables flexibly funded bespoke therapeutic packages to support economically deprived children, who

have experienced abuse aiming to reduce symptoms of trauma and promote long-term recovery.

Social Prescribing, funded by East Cambridgeshire NHS Integrated Neighbourhood enables a Social Prescriber, hosted by Cambridge Acorn Project, to work with Children and Young People in East Cambs.

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds	49,386	173,087	(206,686)	15,787
Restricted Funds				
Environmental Enrichment	-	11,887	(11,887)	-
Huntingdon Flexible Funding	-	10,000	-	10,000
Tetris Project	3,489	40,000	(6,474)	37,015
Empathetic Communities	-	49,442	(49,442)	-
Moon Project	33,072	-	(33,072)	-
Flexible Funding	-	14,000	(6,040)	7,960
East Cambs Street-Level Trauma Response System	-	63,167	(42,895)	20,272
Huntingdon Street-Level Trauma Response System	-	40,600	(40,600)	-
Cambridge City Street-Level Trauma Response System	-	6,300	(219)	6,081

13. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
South Cambs Street-Level Trauma Response System	-	10,000	(892)	9,108
Therapeutic Support	8,483	1,370	(9,853)	-
Individuals in Need	1,339	300	(482)	1,157
Inequality Work	6,857	-	(6,857)	-
Community Therapy	7,142	12,300	(14,340)	5,102
Parenting Project	1,840	-	(1,840)	-
Trauma Fund	-	295	-	295
Other	-	5,718	(3,218)	2,500
Subtotal (Restricted funds)	62,222	265,379	(228,111)	99,490
Total of funds	111,608	438,466	(434,797)	115,277

14. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
General funds	15,787	243,470	(220,778)	38,479
Restricted funds	99,490	413,365	(436,827)	76,028
	115,277	656,835	(657,605)	114,507

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
General funds	49,386	173,087	(206,686)	15,787
Restricted funds	62,222	265,379	(228,111)	99,490
	111,608	438,466	(434,797)	115,277

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	23	23
Current assets	104,641	59,839	164,480
Creditors due within one year	(28,613)	(21,383)	(49,996)
Total	76,028	38,479	114,507

Restricted funds relate to the following grants receivable which have been deferred and will be released in future periods as the grant performance conditions are achieved.

East Cambridgeshire Street-Level Trauma Response System £19,800

Cambridge City Street-Level Trauma Response System £8,813

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	34	34
Current assets	132,244	32,050	164,294
Creditors due within one year	(32,754)	(16,297)	(49,051)
Total	99,490	15,787	115,277

Restricted funds relate to the following grants receivable which have been deferred and will be released in future periods as the grant performance conditions are achieved.

Various Street-Level Trauma Response System Funds £27,414

Other restricted funds £4,500

Individuals in Need £840

16. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income/expenditure for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(770)	3,669
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	11	17
Increase in debtors	(6,346)	(1,308)
Increase in creditors	945	3,519
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(6,160)	5,897

17. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand	140,968	147,128
Total cash and cash equivalents	140,968	147,128

18. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	147,128	(6,160)	140,968
	147,128	(6,160)	140,968

19. Pension commitments

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £8,931 (2023 - £5,898). Contributions of £nil (2023 - £nil) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.



Get in touch

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Cambridge Acorn Project

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