

THE PARASOL PROJECT

England & Wales · Charity number 1188736

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-03-24

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

Contact

Address The Parasol Project
Maltfield Road
Headington
Oxford
OX3 9RG

Phone 01865742816

Email info@parasolproject.org

Website www.parasolproject.org

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE THROUGHOUT OXFORDSHIRE WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY AND/OR LEARNING DIFFICULTIES, AND IN PARTICULAR BUT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING, FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 30 ("THE BENEFICIARIES"), THROUGH THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR INCLUSIVE AND AGE APPROPRIATE PLAY, RECREATION AND OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION, BEING FACILITIES OF WHICH THE BENEFICIARIES MAY HAVE NEED BY REASON OF THEIR AGE, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES AND/OR THEIR DISABILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE, BUT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING, BY:(A) PROMOTING THE BENEFICIARIES' EDUCATIONAL, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL BEING AND DEVELOPMENT, THEREBY HELPING TO IMPROVE THE BENEFICIARIES' QUALITY OF LIFE(B) PROVIDING TRULY INCLUSIVE, FUN AND SAFE PLACES WHERE THE BENEFICIARIES CAN SPEND TIME WITH THEIR FRIENDS(C) PROMOTING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIESAND IN SUCH OTHER WAYS AS THE CHARITY TRUSTEES THINK FIT.

Activities: The charity provides inclusive play and leisure activities for children, teenagers and young adults from Oxford and surrounding areas. Disabled and non-disabled children, teenagers and young adults participate in activities together primarily during school holidays. Some activities - dance, youth group and Parasol Plus for young adults - run throughout the year.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- Oxfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£429,500	£437,365	-	-
2024-03-31	£433,935	£389,065	-	-
2023-03-31	£292,110	£333,460	-	-
2022-03-31	£226,672	£257,076	-	-
2021-03-31	£0	£0	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anna Louise Hemphill	Chair	2024-06-17
Amanda Jane Kerr		2025-10-06
Anne Michaela Schuster		2020-03-24
Anneke Hackmann		2021-09-15
Deborah Hunter		2025-10-06
Jeremy John Bloomfield		2023-01-30

THE PARASOL PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1188736

Accounts



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1188736

The Parasol Project CIO

Executive Summary

The Parasol Project CIO (“the charity”) has now been in operation for 29 years. Parasol facilitates activities to our beneficiaries (disabled, non-disabled and disadvantaged children and young people). More recently, the Parasol Adult service has been developed in response to demand for Parasol-style activities for young adults who are too old to attend our Teen services. We elected to develop community facing projects that supported disabled participants in delivering services that make a positive contribution to our local community. For two years we piloted several activities with Parasol and Northway communities, then, in September 2023, we secured three-year funding from the National Lottery Community Fund to run a full (36-week) term-time programme. This means that we now deliver services year-round (term-time and school holidays).

During 2024/25 our income was £429,500 (£433,935 in 2023/24) and expenditure increased to £437,365 (£389,065 in 2023/24). This caused a **deficit** of £7,865 for the year. Total reserves for 2024/25 **decreased** to £91,849 (£99,714 in 2023/24). The charity has a sufficient financial stability with yearly income from: (1) Oxfordshire County Council Short Breaks funding of £101,000, secured until 2027 with a likely extension to 2031; (2) yearly fees of around £70,000 - £80,000; and (3) the National Lottery Community Fund of £70,000 per annum, £237,247 over three-years (2023-2026).

The full Statement of Financial Activities can be found on page 15 of this Report.

Our numbers: This year Parasol supported a total number of 245 beneficiaries. Of those 245 beneficiaries, 61% have some form of disability. In the spirit of inclusion, the Charity also works with other disadvantaged children and young people. For example, siblings of disabled children, children in care, young carers, and young refugees. All of these groups of children/young people experience significant issues due to their circumstances and benefit greatly from being involved in the activities offered by The Parasol Project. An additional 171 members of the Northway community attended our events/activities.

Our output for 2024-2025:

During school holidays - Easter, Summer and Christmas and the 3 half-term weeks:

- 41 days of Holiday Playscheme at Tower Playbase for an avg. no. of 31 children (5-12yrs) each day.
- 43 days of Holiday Choice Days for an avg. no. of 33 teens and young adults (13-18yrs) each day.
- 243 individuals attended 4 celebration events (Family Day, Children's Day, Volunteers Day, Easter Day).

During term-time - Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays:

- 38 Youth Club sessions attended by 40 different individuals, avg. no. 30 a session.
- 38 B-Active Wellbeing Club (dance fitness or spinning) for 14 individuals, avg. no. 10 a session.
- 38 B-Creative Club (making/crafting/trading) sessions for 12 individuals, avg. no. 6 a session.
- 38 Parasol Enterprise (social action group: litter picking etc.) for 13 individuals, avg. no. 6 a session.
- 38 Stay and Play sessions for 72 parents/carers and toddlers, avg. no. 32 a session.
- 38 Knit and Natter Club sessions for 13 individuals, avg. no. 6 a session.
- 38 Tuesday Lunch Club sessions for avg. no. 31 individuals lunching per session.
- 38 Wednesday Lunch Club sessions for avg. no. 33 individuals lunching per session.
- 38 Thursday Lunch Club sessions for avg. no. 72 individuals lunching per session.
- Produced/delivered six community Newsletters (once every 2-months) to 1,000 Northway residents.

Parasol Youth Volunteering Programme - Year-round:

- Parasol also trained and supported 43 young people in completing 7,468 hours of volunteering.
- 30 volunteers attended a 5-day team building outdoors adventure residential at Kilvrough in Wales.
- 37 volunteers completed at least 1 AQA accreditation in volunteering (36 completed at least 2).
- 15 volunteers are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards: Bronze (7), Silver (8).
- 11 vols were employed by Parasol; 4 found employment elsewhere; 10 went to university or college.



The Parasol Project CIO

INCLUDE

INVOLVE

INSPIRE

Reference and Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number: 1188736

Registered Charity Number up until 2022: 1055914

Registered Office: Tower Playbase, Maltfield Road, Northway, Oxford, OX3 9RG

Email: info@parasolproject.org / **Website:** www.parasolproject.org / **Phone:** 01865 742816

Trustees: Dan Wadsworth (Chair) – Resigned June 2024
Anna Hemphill (Chair) – Appointed June 2024
Rebecca Denson-Cleaver
Anne Schuster
Jerry Bloomfield
Anneke Hackmann

Key Management Personnel: Dan Norey - Executive Director

Contents of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Executive Summary	1
Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025	3
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Parasol Project CIO	14
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025	15
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025	16

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

By a resolution dated March 31 2021 the Trustees of the Parasol Project CIO (Charity No: 1188736) agreed to take on the assets, liabilities and functions of the unincorporated charity, the Parasol Project (Charity No: 1055914) ("the Transferor"). In so doing the Trustees of the Transferor charity have sought to take advantage of the added level of security available to Charitable Incorporated Organisations ("CIO's"). The corporate nature of the CIO offers the Trustees Limited Liability and the new Constitution provides the charity with a greater sense of security and freedom to work with a wider range of disabled and non-disabled children, teenagers and young adults in the years ahead. As will be seen from the remainder of this Report, the Parasol Project's Mission and Objectives are broadly unchanged, and our passion for supporting those who use our services is undiminished.

The Trustees now present their report with the financial statements of the Parasol Project CIO ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 October 2019).

Our vision

The Parasol Project wants to see a world where every disabled child and young person can enjoy the same rights and opportunities as their non-disabled peers, including access to out of school play, social and creative activities.

Our mission

To support young disabled people to have 'full and effective participation and inclusion in society' (UN Convention on the Rights of the Person with Disabilities), to unlock their potential and be more confident, independent and compassionate individuals.

Our values

We believe that disabled children and young people should enjoy the same rights and opportunities as other children and young people as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including access to activities that suit their needs, abilities and aspirations. Disabled peoples' engagement with culture and the arts alongside and on equal terms with their non-disabled peers is an important element of an inclusive society.

The importance of inclusivity

In the spirit of inclusion, we also work with a number of other disadvantaged groups including siblings of those with disabilities, children in care, care leavers, young carers, and refugees. Parasol has developed a unique inclusive culture allowing us to proactively encourage these differing groups to share and take ownership of our activities. This has a powerful impact on participants, families, staff and the community around us.

Parasol Young Volunteers Feedback 2025... *"I feel incredibly lucky to have been part of this project."*

"I feel like part of a community and proud of my role."

"The best thing has been doing my bit, like helping other people, gives me a sense of pride."

"Best bit... going outside - being with nature – gardening, just love being outside volunteering."

"Teaching new people [cooking volunteers] how we take turns to be a sous chef."

"I enjoy being part of supporting those who struggle, to play an important role in their community."

"I feel incredibly accomplished as we help the community grow."

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

1. Objectives and Activities

As set out in the charity's constitution, The Parasol Project's objectives are to provide facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupations for children and young people with physical or learning difficulties, alongside their non-disabled peers. Such facilities are to be comparable to those available to the children and young people's non-disabled siblings and contemporaries and are to promote: (1) their educational, physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing, and, (2) equal opportunities.

In planning the work of the Charity, the Trustees take due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit, including the guidance "Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)". The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity meets that guidance in that it offers its activities to any child or young person with physical or learning difficulties and indeed makes every effort to reach out to those families who for economic and/or social reasons find it challenging to provide appropriate and inclusive leisure or recreational activities for their children. The Trustees are happy that participants in the charity's activities are from a very wide spectrum of social and economic backgrounds, particularly those at risk of social exclusion, and this is fundamental to improving their wellbeing by making them feel valued, involved, and participating in age-appropriate activities.

Our activities: include a variety of indoor/outdoor educational and creative activities such as: arts; crafts; residential; adventure sports; fitness; music; film; bushcraft; growing food; cooking and healthy eating. We believe our USP is that each year we train/support 30-45 young volunteers, to help run our service.

During school holidays - Easter, Summer and Christmas and the 3 half-term weeks:

- Holiday Playscheme for children (5-12yrs) at Tower Playbase.
- Holiday Choice Days for teenagers (13-18yrs) at various locations.
- Four yearly celebration events (Family Play Day, Children's Day, Volunteers Day, and Easter Day).

During term-time - Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays:

- Youth Club.
- B-Active Wellbeing Club (dance fitness and/or Spinning class).
- B-Creative Club (making/crafting/trading).
- Parasol Enterprise (social action group: litter picking, gardening, delivering newsletters etc.).
- Parents and Toddlers / Stay and Play sessions.
- Knit and Natter Club.
- Tuesday Lunch Club.
- Wednesday Lunch Club.
- Thursday Lunch Club.
- Northway Community Newsletter.

Parasol Youth Volunteering Programme - Year-round:

- Support and train young people to volunteer for Parasol on all our activities and services.
- Collaborative partnerships (e.g., two-year research project with Oxford University called Shaping Destiny).
- Week-long team building outdoors adventure residential at Kilvrough in Wales.
- Support volunteers to complete AQA accreditation in volunteering and other disciplines.
- Support volunteers to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.
- Support volunteers to go on to employment either with Parasol or elsewhere.

"The generosity of the project as a whole is amazing plus the staff are always kind and helpful, very easy to approach and talk to. Also if it wasn't for the project we would not have anything to eat. I thank God! (often)."

"It gets me out of the house. I recently had a life changing injury and became extremely agoraphobic so am slowly getting out. I cannot shop alone or walk for long. These meals are really helpful, a real-life saver for me and my partner (who is also recovering from a serious illness) and have often been our only source of daily food."

"I have become quite isolated since the Pandemic and don't get out much, and these projects have improved my confidence and reminded me that chatting to other people is good for my mental health."

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

2. Beneficiaries of the Work

Our beneficiaries are primarily aged from 5-18 years old and our volunteers range in age up to 32. Many live in a variety of challenging circumstances, and may have significant challenges, physical disabilities, autism, learning difficulties and some also have challenging behaviour. These children, young people and young adults can face a series of practical and complex barriers which often results in exclusion from active participation in society. This can have a profound impact on their lives.

In the spirit of inclusion, the Charity also works with other disadvantaged children. For example, siblings of disabled children and young people, children in care, young carers and young refugees. All of these groups of children experience significant issues due to their circumstances and benefit greatly from being involved in the activities offered by The Parasol Project.

3. Equal Opportunities Statement

The Parasol Project is committed to providing equality of opportunity for the children, young people, adults, volunteers, professional practitioners, families and carers with whom it works. It values and respects their diversity. Parasol welcomes difference in its staff and volunteers. It is also working to create equal access to opportunities for paid employment and voluntary involvement while continuing to base selection and promotion solely on the ability to meet the requirements of the post. This is irrespective of race, colour, ethnic or national origins, religion, disability, gender, sexuality, age, marital status, responsibility for dependants, economic status or political views. The Parasol Project is committed to taking active steps to address and eliminate unfair or unlawful discrimination or prejudice where these are identified in the organisation's procedures or practices.

4. Quality Assurance

All policies are reviewed annually to ensure they remain relevant and up to date. We have a quality assurance system and policies for health and safety, children and vulnerable adults' protection, safeguarding, equal opportunities, whistleblowing and handling of disclosure information. We are committed to improving quality and minimising risk while delivering excellent value for money in all aspects of our work. We are conscious of the need to strike a realistic balance between administration and service delivery, and to ensure that whilst having a good protective framework of systems and procedures, we nevertheless devote most of our energies and resources to deliver an effective range of services. The effectiveness of our services are regularly monitored and evaluated (consultation with stakeholders), firstly to acknowledge what we do well and secondly, to review and learn from what is not working so well. This ensures we use our resources effectively and provide the best service to our beneficiaries.

5. Background of the Charity

The Parasol Project was launched as an independent unincorporated charity in 1996 and was set up by parents of disabled children in order to fill a gap in provision. On March 24 2020 a new charity, The Parasol Project CIO, was registered at the Charity Commission. This charity has a constitution based on that recommended by the Charity Commission and objectives that allow Parasol to work with young adults. On April 1, 2022 the assets & liabilities and activities of the original charity were transferred to The Parasol Project CIO and the Charity's activities have continued as before. Our profile and reputation has continued to grow during this time in the field of youth volunteering and inclusive practice.

6. Parasol Project Staff

The Parasol Project has capacity to deliver its activity programme with the support from highly skilled and experienced staff. Our team of Enablers (support staff) ensure activities are safe and supportive by handling personal care needs, supporting young people in managing challenging behaviour and modelling positive communication. In an average year Parasol would maintain a team of around 40 Enablers to support our holiday and term time activities. We continue to have a full office staff team, all of whom have stayed working for The Parasol Project for many years.

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

7. Achievements and Performance (2024-2025)

Each year, Parasol facilitates activities with our beneficiaries, after school and during the 11 weeks of school holidays. More recently, we were able to expand our services to include both Parasol disabled adults and Northway residents. This new community facing programme happens during the daytime (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays) during term-time. This additional 38-weeks mean that we now deliver services year-round.

This year, our team of enthusiastic Enablers and Volunteers have delivered an exciting range of inclusive activities to 245 beneficiaries: 113 children aged 5-12, and 132 young people aged 13-31. Of the 245 beneficiaries, 61% have some form of disability, and many others are from other disadvantaged groups including: siblings of disabled children, children in care, young carers, and young refugees. Additionally, 171 Northway residents attended various activities/events.

	Activities Delivered	Details
1	Holiday Playscheme	A full programme (41 days) of activities for an avg. no. of 31 disabled and non-disabled children (5-12yrs) each day.
2	Holiday Choice Days	A full programme (43 days) of activities for an avg. no. of 33 disabled and non-disabled teenagers and young adults (13-25yrs) each day.
3	4 Celebration Events	239 people attended one or more of our 4 events (Northway Family Playday, Children's Day, Easter Day, and/or our Volunteers Celebration Day).
4	Youth Club	38 youth club sessions (based around volunteering, art, board games, cooking, and eating together): 40 different individuals, avg. no. 30 a session.
5	B-Active Club	38 weekly dance fitness or spinning class: 14 individuals, avg. 10 a session.
6	B-Creative Club	38 weekly creative sessions (crafting and making things to sell/trade to fundraise for Parasol): 12 individuals, avg. no. 6 a session.
7	Parasol Enterprise	38 weekly social action group sessions (litter picking, gardening, cleaning, and delivering the newsletter etc.): 13 individuals, avg. no. 6 a session.
8	Stay and Play	38 weekly parents and toddlers' sessions (music, singing, dancing and sensory play): 72 individuals, avg. no. 32 a session.
9	Knit and Natter	38 weekly community sessions (being creative, making items/crafts, making friends, and sharing a meal together): 10 individuals, avg. no. 6 a session.
10	Tuesday Lunch Club	38 weekly sessions. Volunteers make food (salads/baguettes') for staff, participants & Northway residents, avg. no. 31 a session (incl. take aways).
11	Wednesday Lunch Club	38 weekly sessions. Volunteers make food (salads/baguettes') for staff, participants & Northway residents, avg. no. 33 a session.
12	Thursday Lunch Club	38 weekly sessions. Volunteers make food (salads/baguettes') for staff, participants & Northway residents, avg. no. 72 a session (incl. take aways).
13	Community Newsletter	Once every two months we produce and deliver a local 'what's on' Community Information Newsletter to 1,000+ Northway residents.
14	Volunteer Project	Full details below (page 7)

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Parasol Youth Volunteering Programme

- This year Parasol trained and supported 43 young people. They completed 7,468 hours of volunteering.
- 30 volunteers attended a 5-day team building outdoors adventure residential at Kilvrough in Wales.
- 37 volunteers completed at least 1 AQA accreditation in volunteering (36 completed at least 2).
- 15 volunteers are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards: Bronze (7), Silver (8).
- 11 vols were employed by Parasol; 4 found employment elsewhere; 10 went to university or college.

The Parasol Youth Volunteering Project was designed specifically to include, involve and inspire those who are rarely afforded volunteering opportunities. The programme puts scaffolding support and opportunities in place to help individuals build their capabilities, confidence, identity, resilience and self-worth.

With regular funding support from Oxford City Council and other Trusts and Foundations, we were able to develop the project to a point that long term funding could be secured from the Henry Smith Charity (2019-2026). This allowed us to hire a full-time project coordinator.

Our dedication to inclusive practice means that we use consultation and feedback constantly to ensure children/young people are being properly supported, feel heard and are given the best possible opportunity to participate positively. This regular consultation, consistently resulting in tangible adaptations to activities and procedures in response to feedback over a prolonged period, have created a culture of positive participation.

Parasol young volunteers play a vital role in promoting this culture. Our volunteers help collect feedback from other young people, act as role models of positive participation, help conduct informal feedback, and run our steering group youth panel (which helps select and plan our activities). They also fundraise for trips and take part in formal consultations.

Our volunteering project allows young people to choose their level of involvement. We do this by offering different levels of responsibility (see image on the right). As young people progress, they move through from Role Model, to Volunteer, to Senior Volunteer. And, for those who need more support (from 19+yrs), they can move on to being Workforce Volunteers. All volunteers undertake AQA Accreditations, receive training, and take part in supervision and appraisals.



Successful Volunteering Outcomes

Volunteers Fundraising: Volunteers made items to raise funds for Parasol. This included making: Bunting, Elderflower Cordial; Lanterns; Jewellery; Cutlery boxes; Fridge magnets; Toasties; and Northway Chutney (a recipe passed down from one of our elder volunteers). Volunteers also wrote letters to several Trusts.

Volunteers Work Experience: Volunteers also undertook work experience at various locations, including: South Oxford Family Room; the Children's Hospice (Helen and Douglas House); Oxford Food Hub; Oxford United Football Club; OXSRAD Sports Centre; and Oxford Pegasus Theatre.

Volunteers Partnering with other Organisations: For example, last year, volunteers partnered with Oxford University. Parasol Workforce Volunteers/dancers went on a creative process to answer the research question: How do we become what we become? They performed in the Courtyard of Radcliffe Observatory as the finale of the collaborative two-year project with Oxford University called Shaping Destiny.

Volunteers undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Awards: In order to extend opportunities for our young people we became a registered Duke of Edinburgh provider in July 2023.

Growing Volunteers into Employees: Each year a significant number of our volunteers go on into employment either with Parasol or elsewhere. Our volunteering project has been successful in growing our own employees. For example, last year, we noted that 10 of Parasol's 40 employed staff had started out with us as volunteers.

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

Our 2023-2026 term-time Community Hub and Volunteering Programme (funded by the National Lottery) means that we now offer year-round services (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays). Activities include: B-Creative Club; Parasol Enterprise (Social Action Group); Youth Club; Tues / Weds / Thurs Lunch Clubs; B-Active Club; Parents and Toddlers Stay and Play Group; Knit and Natter Club; Northway Family Fun Day; Children's Celebration Day; Volunteers Celebration Day; and, new in 2025, our Easter Family Fun Day. Importantly, this term-time project provides work experience and volunteering opportunities for Parasol Adult Workforce Volunteers and Northway residents. Volunteering increases individuals' belief in themselves and their potential. Parasol provides a safe/inclusive space to have fun, get involved, meet others and make friends. This helps build strong relationships in and across the Parasol and Northway communities.

There are many vulnerable and isolated people in Northway. It appears that our free community services (newsletters, celebration events, weekly groups, activities, and free food) help encourage those most in need to join our Northway Community hub. Here is what has gone particularly well during 2024-2025.

The three weekly Lunch Clubs have gone well: Due to demand (and thanks to the Lottery Uplift Fund), we were able to run three weekly Lunch clubs (Tues/Weds/Thurs) instead of the originally proposed one. We had success in terms of numbers regularly attending and the feedback from club members. In total, this year, we facilitated 114 Lunch Club sessions to 132 unique individuals. Average numbers lunching each session: 31 on Tuesdays; 33 on Wednesdays; and 72 on Thursdays. We were delighted to note that more self-assured members of the community were coming down from the tower block to pick up lunch for themselves and a neighbour (someone vulnerable), effectively helping us reach the hardest to reach in our community. The Lunch Clubs are playing a central role by providing: (a) healthy food to some of those in need in our community; (b) more opportunities for the volunteers to be productive and feel good about themselves; and (c) more opportunities to build relationships across both communities. As one Lunch Club participant told us... *"These meals are really helpful, a real-life saver for me and my partner (who is also recovering from a serious illness) and have often been our only source of daily food."*

Parent and Toddler Stay and Play group has also gone well: This 'free' group has (for the second year) been an overwhelming success, in terms of numbers regularly attending and feedback from group members. The total number of unique individuals taking part in this project this year was 72 (36 parents/carers and 36 babies/toddlers), with an average turnout of 32 individuals each week. Each Friday morning the group play, dance, and sing. They also use our sensory room and play in our well-equipped garden, weather permitting. Alongside this, we run a very popular children's clothes swap shop which creates a real buzz. Parents/carers told us... *"Great activities, thoughtful staff and such a helpful resource for parents with young children."* – *"It's really useful to have a break from being on my own with the kids."* – *"It's helped me be more confident as a parent of young children, and keeps me sane!"* Community cohesiveness in action.

The numbers and feedback from this community project have also gone well: The average number of individuals attending one of the 9 weekly sessions, in year 2, was 178. Of those, a significant number (112) completed a year-end survey. Of those 112 survey responders, the majority (60%) were between the ages of 25 and 54; 3% were aged between 55 and 64; 4% were aged between 65 and 74; and, 2% were aged between 75 and 84; the remainder, 33% (36 individuals) were disabled adult community hub volunteers and weekly Youth Club members and volunteers under 25 years old.

Participants indicated one or more reasons why they come along to our community hub project. For example, 72% of the 112 survey responders ticked that they come along to meet others and make friends; 71% ticked to have fun; 65% to feel part of the community; 58% to have something to look forward to; 49% to improve mental wellbeing; 46% to feel better about themselves; 44% to learn new skills; and finally, 33% come along to improve their health. We were delighted to discover that, according to the 112 survey responders, this project has 'often' or 'all of the time' had a positive impact on individuals wellbeing. More specifically...

88% of survey responders/participants state that this project increased their sense of community;
82% of survey responders state that this project increased their sense of belonging;
84% state that this project increased their mental wellbeing; and,
83% state that this project increased their emotional wellbeing.

As our expected outcome was 80%, findings indicate that we exceeded expected outcomes in year 2.

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

8. Evaluation Feedback

Community project members evaluation feedback: Q: *Since being involved, what, if anything, has changed about how you feel about yourself and your life?* “This project has made me feel more confident” - “More optimistic” - “More social” - “Less isolated” - “I have hope for the future” - “My mental health is so much better than it was before Parasol” - “Happier about myself” - “Tuesdays have turned into my main social day” - “Made my life happier” - “My outlook on life has been more positive” - “It’s helped me grow as a person.”

Best thing - the Community: “The sense of community, it’s wonderful” - “I feel more connected to people in this community” - “It’s very inclusive” - “Isolated people get to feel a part of a community” - “Great place to visit, always friendly” - “It’s perfect” - “It’s connected me with my neighbours” - “Helped me become part of my community. Something I was looking for since I moved here.”

Best thing - the Lunch Clubs: “The yummy food” - “A lovely atmosphere and it is a pleasure to eat great and healthy food which has been prepared by Parasol’s Young Adult users, as well as to chat to others during the meal. The young people clearly love this activity and have gained lots of skills by being in the Lunch Club!”

Best thing - the weekly Stay and Play session: “Meeting other mothers for a sense of community” - “Having something to look forward to, having a safe space for my baby to meet other babies and it gets me out [of] the house” - “Provide snacks for children, care for adults too. Such a lovely space” - “My baby and I feel noticed and cared about” - “Staff are amazing.” - “It’s brilliant! Great activities, thoughtful staff and such a helpful resource for parents with young children” - “It’s really useful to have a break from being on my own with the kids” - “I feel I can relax. I have a chat with other mums and share experiences with others about growing problems” - “Helps develop communication and friendship between children and parents” - “My kid and I really, really enjoy it. It gives me a rest both physically and mentally.”

Best thing - its free: “The fact that it’s free! Nothing is free these days. And that you are offering stuff to the community” - “It is amazing, such good food and toddler group for free, with the right motivation to help.”

Children/young people evaluation feedback: During 2024, we consulted with children and young people beneficiaries, to find out if being involved with Parasol had made a positive impact on their wellbeing. We were pleased to learn that over 80% of 102 survey responders felt that Parasol had helped them: (1) feel good about themselves; (2) feel happier; (3) more confident; and (4) more independent - ‘often’ or ‘all of the time’.

Q: What is the best thing about coming to Parasol? “Feeling that you’re not the only person with your type of disability and that there is support for me” - “Sharing positive experiences” - “Made me more independent” - “Optimistic” - “Parasol has given me more perspective” - “Parasol definitely helped me learn to be myself.”

Q: Since being involved with Parasol, what, if anything, has changed about how you feel about yourself and your life? “My self-esteem has improved” - “More confident in myself” - “Express how I feel more” - “I can cope with change better” - “I’m more independent” - “More open to trying new things” - “I feel more positive and in control” - “More able to face challenges” - “More comfortable around other people.”

Parents/carers evaluation feedback: In 2025, thirty-three parents/carers also completed an evaluation survey. A significant percentage ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that attending Parasol had impacted their child’s ability to: be proactive: (88%); be interactive: (86%); work in a team: (90%); express their needs and wants (77%); manage their own feelings (82%); build positive relationships (91%); & sense of independence (96%).

Q: What is the best thing about your child being involved in Parasol? “Lifelong friendships” - “Feeling like part of a family” - “The skill development” - “A life line” - “The broadening of life experiences.”

Q: Those that fund our charity want to hear (directly from parents/carers) if our service has impacted families lives for the better. What would you tell them? “Volunteering opportunities have developed my son’s empathy, commitment and leadership skills” - “An essential service” - “Parasol has saved our sanity” - “It gives our daughter & others a sense of belonging and purpose” - “It’s helped him to be more aware of others and to have more empathy” - “Parasol has changed my daughter, making her more responsible, active, happy” - “A wonderful charity that has helped myself/family. I don’t know what I would have done without them.”

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

8. Evaluation Feedback (continued)

Volunteers' evaluation findings and feedback: In 2024/2025, we surveyed our 43 volunteers. We created specific questions to discern their perception of themselves/their lives. The first 14 questions were from the Warwick and Edinburgh Mental Well Being Scale. The lowest possible score is 14 (14x1point: *'none-of-the-time'*) and the highest possible score is 70 (14x5points: *'all-of-the-time'*). Academics note a score of 40 and below indicates probable depression. To measure change, each participant was asked to answer the same questionnaire twice. The first, as a baseline, that was then compared to data gathered at the year-end.

Expected outcomes: 80% of volunteers indicate a positive shift upwards in their perception of how they are feeling about various aspects of their lives.

Result: 3 of our 5 outcomes were fully achieved, and, 2 of our outcomes were partially achieved.

Outcome 1: Expect 80% of volunteers to increase their mental well-being (**Result was 71% - Mostly Achieved**)

Outcome 2: Expect 80% of volunteers to reduce issues of isolation (**Result was 100% - Achieved**)

Outcome 3: Expect 80% increase understanding of how to build positive relationships (**Result 86% - Achieved**)

Outcome 4: Expect 80% increase confidence, responsibility/work in a team (**Result was 77% - Mostly Achieved**)

Outcome 5: Expect 80% of volunteers to increase their sense of independence (**Result 80% - Achieved**)

Outcome-1 in detail: Expect that at least 80% (32 out of the 43 vols) increase their mental wellbeing:

Initial baseline scores were concerning, as 18 of the 43 individuals scored 47 points or below (indicating low mood or depression). Two thirds (12 of these 18 low scorers) increased their scores significantly (by 6 to 27 points) and only one person's WEMWBS scores started low (38 points), stayed low (40 points) at year-end. The remainder, 5 volunteers' scores, stayed within +/- 5 points. It could therefore be argued that the majority of those 'most in need' (those starting with low mood / depression) benefited significantly from volunteering. Overall, 71% (30 of the 43) individuals/volunteers' mental wellbeing scores increased. Of those, 20 volunteers' scores increased by more than 5 points; 14 volunteers' scores increased by 6 to 17 points and 6 volunteers' scores increased by 20 points or more. Great news; however, this falls short of our expected outcome 80% (34 vols). Although these results are impressive, Outcome 1 was not fully achieved (low by 9%).

WEMWBS findings show that now, post-intervention, more volunteers feel: optimistic; useful; cheerful; relaxed; loved; confident; interested in others; have energy to spare; deal with problems well; think clearly; feel good about themselves; feel close to others; more able to make up their own minds; and, more interested in new things *'often'* or *'all of the time.'* (Full Youth Volunteering Report May 2025 is available on request).

Q: What is the best thing about coming to Parasol? *"Being with friends" - "Having fun" - "The positive atmosphere" - "The sense of community" - "Contributing to a team" - "Feeling like I'm making a difference" - "The environment is very inclusive" - "The general vibe and how everyone is super friendly" - "Extremely inclusive" - "Being able to help others" - "I love getting involved" - "Being involved and helping others."*

Q: What would have happened if you hadn't been involved with Parasol? Many comments like... *"I would feel bored" - "Unhappy" - "Isolated" - "Burnt out" - "Less sense of belonging" - "Less motivated" - "Less able to express myself" - "Less useful" - "Less confidence in social situations" - "Less able to communicate with others" - "Less confident interacting with people" - "I would be sad all the time" - "Would be really struggling" - "Wouldn't be able to gain experience and help others" - "Wouldn't have tried to be social" - "Wouldn't be where I am today" - "Wouldn't have felt like I was making any kind of difference"*

Q: Since being involved with Parasol, what, if anything, has changed about how you feel about yourself and your life? Many comments like: I feel more... *"Sociable" - "Healthy/Happier" - "Motivated" - "Independent" - "Confident in myself and my abilities" - "Positive and optimistic about life" - "Relaxed and relieved" - "Excited for future" - "The future seems brighter" - "Have been able to adapt myself better to different situations" - "My social skills have increased" - "Taught me to be kind and considerate" - "More able to understand difficult emotions" - "Taught me that it's rewarding to put myself out there."*

"I feel incredibly lucky to have been part of this project."

"I feel like part of a community and proud of my role."

"Helping other people, gives me a sense of pride."

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

9. Financial Review

During 2024/25 our income was £429,500 (£433,935 in 2023/24) and expenditure increased to £437,365 (£389,065 in 2023/24). This caused a deficit of £7,865 for the year.

Reserves at the end of the year to March 31 2025 stood at £91,849 (2024 £99,714), a decrease compared to the previous year. Section 11 on Reserves expands on our concerns and plans for next year.

As a small charity, Parasol depends on raising funds on a year by year basis to provide the vital funding that tops up the regular grant funding received from Oxfordshire County Council of £101,000, and £10,000 from Oxford City Council. We are also in receipt of three-year funding from the Henry Smith Charity (£37,000 per annum), approximately £33,000 per year from the Healthy Activity and Food fund, and, new three-year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund of approximately £72,000 per annum. Together, all these funds provide a certain amount of financial stability for the charity.

10. Future Plans

Holiday activities - Parasol are commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council SHORT BREAKS to provide 80 holiday activity sessions (40 child, 40 teen) up to April 2027 with a likely extension to 2031.

Supported places - We plan to continue accessing the government's Healthy Activities and Food programme (HAF) in order to provide free places to families in receipt of free school meals during Easter, Summer and Xmas school holidays.

Community facing activities - Our National Lottery funding for our COMMUNITY HUB project comes to an end in Sept 2026 and we are planning to apply for further funding in order to give the project enough time to grow and become sustainable. Central to our plans is the development of our offer for disabled adults that have graduated through our Teen service.

Efficiency - In order to manage our increased output we are working to automate systems wherever possible to increase efficiency, maintain high standards and reduce costs wherever possible.

Fundraising - We will continue to raise funds towards creating a multi media space by installing a ceiling mounted projector and screen at our Playbase venue. We are also exploring the possibility of funding a summer house in the garden to provide a breakout space during holiday activities and additional office space during term time.

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

11. Reserves

The Charity's total reserves at March 31 2025 were £91,849 (£99,714 in 2023/24). Of these reserves, £73,800 (2024 - £72,738) are restricted. These funds as set out in Note 13 are only available for specific purposes. £18,049 (2024 - £26,976) are unrestricted funds and are available to be used to support any aspect of the Charity's total expenditure. This is a drop/increase in reserves from last year. It is vital that we continue to identify further funding for the ongoing financial health of the Charity next year.

The Trustees continue to be concerned about reserves and are well aware that the charity remains vulnerable to any changes in the availability of funding to small entities such as The Parasol Project. As stated in this Report, in previous years, the Trustees feel, because of the uncertain nature of other individual and grant revenues, that a target of £100,000 of unrestricted reserves is very reasonable. As can be seen from the financial outcomes for this year, to March 31 2024, an increase in expenses can have an impact on reserves. This is challenging for Parasol as a large proportion of its expenditure relates to staffing which is vital for projects to run.

The Trustees will continue to monitor the financial reports produced by the Office Manager during the year ahead. We will continue to look for more sources of longer term funding to ensure that the Charity can boost its core funding and that the level of the reserves can be rebuilt to one that provides the Executive Director and his staff team with security in making day to day financial decisions. On the other hand, the Trustees are well aware of the difficult economic conditions in which Parasol is currently operating and locating sources of funding will be challenging. The Trustees continue to be aware of the Charity Commissioners' guidance in "Charity Reserves: Building Resilience" and indeed this guidance is what underlies their goal of establishing unrestricted reserves of £100,000.

12. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Parasol Project CIO is a charitable incorporated organisation registered by the Charity Commission and governed by a constitution dated March 24 2020. Anyone over the age of 18 years old and corporate bodies may become members of the charity.

Appointment of New Trustees

The Board seeks to widen its membership and at the same time broaden the skills set that the Board has to draw upon. Among others, new Trustees with skills in fundraising, charity law and human resources would be particularly welcome. If such skills can be found from amongst the parents of users of the charity's services, it would be particularly helpful. Potential Trustees will meet with existing Board Members and will attend at least 2 Trustee Meetings before being considered for appointment as Trustees.

Organisation

The Trustees of the charity are responsible for managing the affairs of the charity. The Trustees are elected from amongst the members of the charity at the Annual General Meeting. One third of Trustees retire at each Annual General Meeting and may stand for re-election. There need to be at least 3 Trustees with no upper limit to the number of Trustees. The members or the Trustees can appoint a new Trustees from among the membership at any time during the year.

Trustee Induction and Training

The Trustees will continue in the coming year to develop an induction process for new members of the Board. This process would include the provision of Charity Commission documents about the responsibilities of Trustees, copies of the charity's governing document, the latest Report and Accounts and induction into the work of the charity, its aims and objectives and the roles and responsibilities of members of the Board and key staff.

Risk Management

The trustees are fully aware of their duty to identify and review risks to which the charity is exposed. Reviewing the charity's principal risks and uncertainties is done informally at its regular monthly/six weekly meetings. In the last two years, the Trustees have become aware of the financial risks that the Charity might face. With the significant financial contribution received from Oxfordshire County Council, the Trustees are aware that there is a financial risk if for any reason this funding ceases to be available.

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

13. Trustees' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

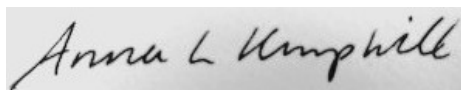
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operations.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which 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 Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on: 13th October 2025

and signed on behalf by:



Anna Hemphill – Trustee (Chair)

The Parasol Project CIO

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Parasol Project CIO

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended March 31 2025 which are set out on pages 15 to 25.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 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 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



J Bull FCA
Chartered Accountant
Wenn Townsend
30 St Giles
Oxford OX1 3LE

Date: 21st October 2025

The Parasol Project CIO

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

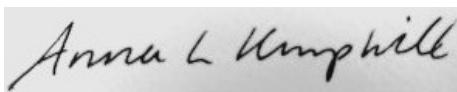
	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income							
Donations and Legacies	2	6,311	343,717	350,028	6,287	343,393	349,680
Charitable Activities	3	76,672	-	76,672	82,205	-	82,205
Investments	4	2,800	-	2,800	2050	-	2050
Other					-	-	-
Total		85,783	343,717	429,500	90,542	343,393	433,935
Expenditure							
Cost of Raising Funds	6	12,878	1,100	13,978	17,271	-	17,271
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	7 & 8	81,832	341,555	423,387	52,949	318,845	371,794
Total		94,710	342,655	437,365	70,220	318,845	389,065
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(8,927)	1,062	(7,865)	20,322	24,548	44,870
Transfer Between Funds					-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		(8,927)	1,062	(7,865)	20,322	24,548	44,870
Reconciliation of Funds:							
Total Funds Brought Forward	14 & 15	26,976	72,738	99,714	6,654	48,190	54,844
Total Funds Carried Forward	14 & 15	£18,049	£73,800	£91,849	£26,976	£72,738	£99,714

The Parasol Project CIO

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	11	4,082	4,941
Current Assets			
Debtors and Prepayments	12	8,671	10,128
Funds on Deposit		11,773	11,534
Cash at Bank and in Hand		79,660	86,214
		100,104	107,876
Less: Current Liabilities			
Amounts falling due within a year	13	(12,337)	(13,103)
Net Current Assets		87,767	94,773
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		91,849	99,714
Net Assets		£91,849	£99,714
The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted Income Funds	14	73,800	72,738
Unrestricted Income Funds	15	18,049	26,976
		£91,849	£99,714

The financial statements on pages 15 to 25 were approved by the Trustees 13th October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Anna Hemphill

Chair of the Board

The Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2025

1. Accounting Policies

a. Accounting Basis

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on October 2019 and the Charities Act 2011.

The Parasol 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 notes.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

b. Depreciation

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and valued at historical cost. From April 2019 the cost of fixed assets are being written off using the straight line method of depreciation, a change from the previously utilised reducing balance method. The rates of depreciation are:

Office equipment and fittings	25% per annum
Plant and Machinery	25% per annum
Sensory Room Equipment	25% per annum
Leasehold Improvements	10% per annum

c. Income Recognition

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.

Donations and grants are recognised when the charity has been notified of both the amount and settlement date.

Legacies are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate and when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be reliably measured by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank or deposit taking institution.

d. Expenditure Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The allocation of support and governance costs is analysed in note 7.

e. Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

f. Cost of Raising Funds

The cost of generating funds consists of staff costs, subscriptions to on-line fundraising sites, fundraising advertising and associated costs.

The Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2025

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

g. Charitable Activities

The cost of charitable activities includes governance costs and an apportionment of support costs as shown in note 8.

h. Volunteer Time

The value of services donated by volunteers is not reflected in the accounts.

i. Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity. It is not, therefore, liable for tax on income derived from its charitable activities.

j. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted Income Funds

Unrestricted Funds are funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. These comprise a general fund plus designated funds set aside out of unrestricted funds by the Trustees to provide for planned projects and other known contingencies.

Restricted Income Funds

These are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor. Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 14.

k. Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees.

2. Donations and Legacies

	2025 £	2024 £
Local Authority Grants	119,363	165,881
Other Grants (£1,000 and over)	226,399	180,561
Small Grants and Donations (Including Gift Aid)	4,266	3,238
Total	350,028	349,680

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fees received	76,672	-	76,672	82,205
	76,672	-	76,672	82,205

4. Investment Income

The Charity's investment income of £2,800 (2024 - £2,050) arises from bank interest received of £327 and £2,473 room hire.

The Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2025

5. Net Outgoing Resources

This is stated after charging:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation	859	3,973
Independent Examiner's Fees:		
Independent examination	2,220	2,112
Accountancy fees	1,194	1,140
Additional assistance in prior year	4,148	36

6. Cost of Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff	-	-		5,480
Fundraising Admin Fees	225	-	225	235
Fundraising	12,653	1,100	13,753	11,556
	12,878	1,100	13,978	17,271

7. Analysis of Governance and Support Costs

	General Support £	Governance £	Total £	Basis of Apportionment
Equipment and Other Asset Costs	-	-	-	
Building and Accommodation Costs	9,440	-	9,440	Allocated as a %
Office Costs	3,833	-	3,833	Based on Project
Salaries, Teacher Fees & Consultants	98,451	-	98,451	Salary Costs
Other Staff Costs	5,223	-	5,223	
Independent Examination and Accountancy Fees	-	7,562	7,562	Governance
Bad debts	1,295	-	1,295	
	118,242	7,562	125,804	

Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2025

8. Charitable Expenditure Analysis

	Total £	Choice Days £	Residential £	Playbase £	Volunteer Project £	Youth Group £	Child Term £	Adult Parasol £	Governanc e £	Training £	Community £	Building £
Salary Costs	170,720	47,533	-	38,861	23,325	8,765	517	44,010	-	-	3,393	4,316
Choice Day Expenses	39,195	39,195	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teen Residential Expenses	10,849	-	10,849	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult Parasol Expenses	22,385	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,385	-	-	-	-
Playbase Expenses	7,405	-	-	7,405	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teen Youth Group Expenses	5,487	-	-	-	-	5,487	-	-	-	-	-	-
Volunteer Project	7,059	-	-	-	7,059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Project	20,150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,172	-
Building	28,314	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,314
Independent Examination	7,562	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,562	-	-	-
Support costs	118,242	32,484	-	26,558	15,941	5,990	354	30,079	-	1,568	2,319	2,949
Year ended 2025	423,387	119,212	10,849	72,824	46,325	20,239	871	96,474	7,562	1,568	11,884	35,579
Year ended 2024	371,794	123,133	-	95,824	54,589	22,373	7,066	50,892	11,244	1,326	-	-

Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2025

9. Governance costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff	-	-	-	7,956
Independent Examiner's Fee	2,220	-	2,220	2,112
Accountancy Fee	1,194		1,194	1,140
Additional assistance in prior year	4,148	-	4,148	36
	7,562	-	7,562	11,244

Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2025

10. Total Resources Expended

	Staff Costs £	Other Costs £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Charitable Activities	269,172	154,215	423,387	371,794
Cost of Generating Funds	-	13,978	13,978	17,271
	269,172	168,193	437,365	389,065

Staff Costs Comprise:

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries Staff	256,822	206,272
Social Security Costs	8,392	6,886
Pension Costs	3,958	3,714
	269,172	216,872

The average number of staff during the period was 5 (2024 - 4) full time. 56 (2024 - 40) part time and sessional workers have supported the charity's holiday activities and weekly youth and dance groups.

No employees received emoluments of more than £60,000 per annum (2024 - no more than £60,000).

The total remuneration of the key management personnel - the Executive Director - including employer's National Insurance and Pension contributions was £44,026 (2024 - £38,861).

Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2025

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Leasehold Improvements	Sensory Rm Equipment	Plant and Machinery	Fixtures and Fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Cost</u>					
As at April 1 2024	8,592	16,609	15,134	2,060	42,395
Additions in the Year	-	-	-	-	-
As at March 31 2025	8,592	16,609	15,134	2,060	42,395
<u>Depreciation</u>					
As at April 1 2024	3,651	16,609	15,134	2,060	37,454
Provision in the Year	859	-	-	-	859
As at March 31 2025	4,510	16,609	15,134	2,060	38,313
Net Book Value at 31 March 2025	4,082	-	-	-	4,082
Net Book Value at 31 March 2024	4,941	-	-	-	4,941

12. Debtors and Prepayments

	2025 £	2024 £
Activity Fees Receivable	8,671	10,128
	8,671	10,128

13. Creditors: Amounts Falling due Within One Year

	2025 £	2024 £
Tax, National Ins & Pensions	3,658	3,850
Independent Examiner's Fees	3,925	3,150
Accruals and Accounts Payable	4,754	6,103
	12,337	13,103

Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2025

14. Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Income in the Year	Expenditure in the Year	Transfers	Balance at March 31 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Volunteer Project	29,375	42,526	(30,384)	-	41,517
Building and Sensory Room	8,202	1,574	(24,036)	14,260	-
Holiday Activities	750	173,667	(146,374)	-	28,043
Teenage Services	-	10,280	(10,280)	-	-
Adult Services	-	5,637	(66,167)	60,530	-
Northway Community Fund	34,411	110,033	(65,414)	(74,790)	4,240
	72,738	343,717	(342,655)	-	73,800

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income in the Year	Expenditure in the Year	Transfers	Balance at March 31 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Volunteer Project	16,475	67,179	(54,279)	-	29,375
Building and Sensory Room	1,497	33,428	(26,723)	-	8,202
Holiday Activities		140,090	(139,340)	-	750
Teenage Services		8,997	(8,997)	-	-
Adult Services		4,250	(4,250)	-	-
Northway Community Fund		89,449	(55,038)	-	34,411
OCF	15,072	-	(15,072)	-	-
Wheelchair Path	15,146	-	(15,146)	-	-
	48,190	343,393	(318,845)	-	72,738

Represented by:

	Fixed Assets £	Cash at Bank £	Total £
Balance at March 31 2025	4,082	69,718	73,800
Balance at March 31 2024	4,941	67,797	72,738

Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2025

15. Unrestricted Income Funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
Balance at April 1 2024	26,976	6,654
Incoming Resources	85,783	90,542
Expenditure	(94,710)	(70,220)
Balances at March 31 2025	18,049	26,976

Represented by:

Current Assets	30,386	40,079
Creditors and Deferred Income	(12,337)	(13,103)
	18,049	26,976

16. Financial Commitments

As at 31 March 2025 (2024 - Nil) there are no annual commitments under non-cancellable leases.

17. Trustee's Remuneration

No Trustee (2024 - Nil) received or waived any emoluments during the year.

No out of pocket expenses (2024 - Nil) were reimbursed to Trustees in the year.

No related party transactions outside the course of normal business occurred in the year (2024 – Nil).

THE PARASOL PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1188736

Accounts



The Parasol Project CIO

INCLUDE

INVOLVE

INSPIRE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1188736

The Parasol Project CIO

Executive Summary

The Parasol Project CIO ("the charity") has now been in operation for 28yrs. Parasol facilitates activities to our beneficiaries (disabled and disadvantaged children and young people). More recently, the Parasol Adult service has been developed in response to demand for Parasol style activities for young adults who are too old to attend our Teen services. We elected to develop community facing projects that supported disabled participants, in delivering services that make a positive contribution to our local community. For two years we piloted several activities with Parasol and Northway communities, then, in September 2023, we secured three-year funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, to run a full (35-week) term time programme. This means that we now deliver services year-round (term time & school holidays).

During 2023/24 our income was **£433,935** (£292,110 in 2022/23) and expenditure **increased** to £389,065 (£333,460 in 2022/23). This caused a **surplus** of **£44,870** for the year. Total reserves for 2023/24 **increased** to **£99,714** (£54,844 in 2022/23). The charity has a sufficient financial stability with yearly income from:

- (1) Oxfordshire County Council Short Breaks funding of £101,000. Secured for seven years (2024-2031);
- (2) yearly fees of around **£70,000** - **£80,000** each year; and
- (3) the National Lottery Community Fund of £70,000 per annum, £215,740 over three-years (2023-2026).

The full Statement of Financial Activities can be found on page 16 of this Report.

Our numbers: This year Parasol supported a total number of 199 beneficiaries. Of those 199 beneficiaries, **54%** have physical disabilities, learning difficulties and/or Autism. Many of our beneficiaries are siblings of disabled children, children in care, care leavers, young carers and/or young refugees. An additional 295 members of the Northway community attended events/activities.

Our output for 2023-2024:

During school holidays - Easter, Summer and Christmas and the 3 half-term weeks:

- 39 days of Holiday Playscheme at Tower Playbase for an avg. no. of 32 children (5-12yrs) each day.
- 42 days of Holiday Choice Days for an avg. no. of 33 teens and young adults (13-18yrs) each day.
- 270 individuals attended 3 celebration events (Family Day, Children's Day and Volunteers Day).

During term time - Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays:

- 35 Youth Club sessions attended by 38 different individuals, avg. no. 25 a session.
- 35 B-Active Wellbeing Club (dance fitness) for 12 individuals, avg. no. 6 a session.
- 35 B-Creative Club (making/crafting/trading) sessions for 10 individuals, avg. no. 5 a session.
- 35 Parasol Enterprise (social action group: litter picking etc.) for 14 individuals, avg. no. 8 a session.
- 35 Stay and Play sessions for 81 individuals, avg. no. 35 a session.
- 24 Knit and Natter Club sessions for 10 individuals, avg. no. 6 a session (from Sept 2023).
- 12 Tuesday Lunch Club sessions for 45 individuals, avg. no. 24 a session (from Jan 2024).
- 24 Wednesday Lunch Club sessions for 25 individuals, avg. no. 22 a session (from Sept 2023).
- 35 Thursday Lunch Club sessions for 70 individuals, avg. no. 45 a session.
- Produced/delivered six local Newsletters (once every 2-months) to 1,000 Northway residents.

Parasol Youth Volunteering Programme - Year-round:

- Parasol also trained and supported 44 young people in completing 9,567 hours of volunteering.
- 8 volunteers were involved in a collaborative 2-year project with Oxford University - Shaping Destiny.
- 18 volunteers attended a 5-day team building outdoors adventure residential at Kilvrough in Wales.
- 11 volunteers attended a 5-day team building residential on a tall ship sailing from London.
- 30 volunteers completed at least 1 AQA accreditation in volunteering (29 completed at least 2).
- 14 volunteers are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards: Bronze (9), Silver (1) & Gold (4).
- 7 volunteers have gone on to paid employment (3 with Parasol and 4 elsewhere).



The Parasol Project CIO

INCLUDE

INVOLVE

INSPIRE

Reference and Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number: 1188736

Registered Charity Number up until 2022: 1055914

Registered Office: Tower Playbase, Maltfield Road, Northway, Oxford, OX3 9RG

Email: info@parasolproject.org / **Website:** www.parasolproject.org / **Phone:** 01865 742816

Trustees: Dan Wadsworth (Chair) – Resigned June 2024
Anna Hemphill (Chair) – Appointed June 2024
Rebecca Denson-Cleaver
Anne Schuster
Jerry Bloomfield
Anneke Hackmann

Key Management Personnel: Dan Norey - Executive Director

Contents of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Executive Summary	2
Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024	4
Independent Examiner’s Report to the Trustees of The Parasol Project CIO	15
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024.....	16
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024	17

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

By a resolution dated March 31 2021 the Trustees of the Parasol Project CIO (Charity No: 1188736) agreed to take on the assets, liabilities and functions of the unincorporated charity, the Parasol Project (Charity No: 1055914) ("the Transferor"). In so doing the Trustees of the Transferor charity have sought to take advantage of the added level of security available to Charitable Incorporated Organisations ("CIO's"). The corporate nature of the CIO offers the Trustees Limited Liability and the new Constitution provides the charity with a greater sense of security and freedom to work with a wider range of disabled and non-disabled children, teenagers and young adults in the years ahead. As will be seen from the remainder of this Report, the Parasol Project's Mission and Objectives are broadly unchanged, and our passion for supporting those who use our services is undiminished.

The Trustees now present their report with the financial statements of the Parasol Project CIO ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 October 2019).

Our vision

The Parasol Project wants to see a world where every disabled child and young person can enjoy the same rights and opportunities as their non-disabled peers, including access to out of school play, social and creative activities.

Our mission

To support young disabled people to have 'full and effective participation and inclusion in society' (UN Convention on the Rights of the Person with Disabilities), to unlock their potential and be more confident, independent and compassionate individuals.

Our values

We believe that disabled children and young people should enjoy the same rights and opportunities as other children and young people as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including access to activities that suit their needs, abilities and aspirations. Disabled peoples' engagement with culture and the arts alongside and on equal terms with their non-disabled peers is an important element of an inclusive society.

The importance of inclusivity

In the spirit of inclusion, we also work with a number of other disadvantaged groups including siblings of those with disabilities, children in care, care leavers, young carers, and refugees. Parasol has developed a unique inclusive culture allowing us to proactively encourage these differing groups to share and take ownership of our activities. This has a powerful impact on participants, families, staff and the community around us.

Parents/carers feedback: *"Incredible service. Inclusive, kind, thoughtful, wanting to get to know each person individually. Nothing is too big or too small. Brilliant!" – "Parasol has had the biggest impact on my daughters positive development in years". – "Parasol is a brilliant, inclusive charity, a model that should be copied nationwide. It is a lifeline for my daughter, and being able to keep attending and taking on some responsibility now she is a bit older, is a fantastic model. My daughter loves attending, is made to feel so very welcome and part of the team. It's how the world should be".*

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

1. Objectives and Activities

As set out in the charity's constitution, the Parasol Project objectives are to provide facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation for children and young people with physical or learning difficulties. Such facilities are to be comparable to those available to the children and young people's non-disabled siblings and contemporaries and are to promote: (1) their educational, physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing, and, (2) equal opportunities.

In planning the work of the Charity, the Trustees take due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit, including the guidance "Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)". The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity meets that guidance in that it offers its activities to any child or young person with physical or learning difficulties and indeed makes every effort to reach out to those families who for economic and/or social reasons find it challenging to provide appropriate and inclusive leisure or recreational activities for their children. The Trustees are happy that participants in the charity's activities are from a very wide spectrum of social and economic backgrounds, particularly those at risk of social exclusion, and this is fundamental to improving their wellbeing by making them feel valued and included, and participating in age appropriate activities.

Our activities: include a variety of indoor/outdoor educational and creative activities such as: arts; crafts; residential; adventure sports; fitness; music; film; bushcraft; growing food; cooking and healthy eating. We believe our USP is that, each year we train/support 30-45 young volunteers, to help run our service.

During school holidays - Easter, Summer and Christmas and the 3 half-term weeks:

- Holiday Playscheme for children (5-12yrs) at Tower Playbase.
- Holiday Choice Days for teenagers (13-18yrs) at various locations.
- Three yearly celebration events (Family Play Day, Children's Day and Volunteers Celebration Day).

During term time - Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays:

- Youth Club.
- B-Active Wellbeing Club (dance fitness).
- B-Creative Club (making/crafting/trading).
- Parasol Enterprise (social action group: litter picking, gardening, delivering newsletters etc.).
- Stay and Play sessions.
- Knit and Natter Club.
- Tuesday Lunch Club.
- Wednesday Lunch Club.
- Thursday Lunch Club.
- Northway Newsletters.

Parasol Youth Volunteering Programme - Year-round:

- Support and train young people to volunteer for Parasol on all our activities and services.
- A collaborative two-year research project with Oxford University called Shaping Destiny.
- Team building outdoors adventure residential at Kilvrough in Wales.
- Team building residential at sea sailing on a tall ship.
- Support volunteers to complete AQA accreditation in volunteering and other disciplines.
- Support volunteers to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.
- Support volunteers to go on to employment either with Parasol or elsewhere.

Young Volunteer feedback: "It helped me when I was at my very lowest and was one of the first places I felt accepted, appreciated and valued for being me, embracing my differences and helping me to realise that, my differences and the things I found challenging, [was] nothing compared to what many other people experience. It turned it from me, feeling sorry for myself, into someone who is proud to be the person they are today."

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

2. Beneficiaries of the Work

Our beneficiaries are primarily aged from 5-18 years old and our volunteers range in age up to 32. Many live in a variety of challenging circumstances, and may have significant challenges, physical disabilities, autism, learning difficulties and some also have challenging behaviour. These children, young people and young adults can face a series of barriers, both practical and complex, and this often results in exclusion from active participation in society. This can have a profound impact on their lives.

In the spirit of inclusion, the Charity also works with other disadvantaged children. For example, siblings of disabled children and young people, children in care, young carers and young refugees. All of these groups of children experience significant issues due to their circumstances and benefit greatly from being involved in the activities offered by the Parasol Project.

3. Equal Opportunities Statement

The Parasol Project is committed to providing equality of opportunity for the children, young people, adults, volunteers, professional practitioners, families and carers with whom it works. It values and respects their diversity. Parasol welcomes difference in its staff and volunteers. It is also working to create equal access to opportunities for paid employment and voluntary involvement while continuing to base selection and promotion solely on the ability to meet the requirements of the post. This is irrespective of race, colour, ethnic or national origins, religion, disability, gender, sexuality, age, marital status, responsibility for dependants, economic status or political views. The Parasol Project is committed to taking active steps to address and eliminate unfair or unlawful discrimination or prejudice where these are identified in the organisation's procedures or practices.

4. Quality Assurance

All policies are reviewed annually to ensure they remain relevant and up to date. We have a quality assurance system and policies for health and safety, children and vulnerable adults' protection, safeguarding, equal opportunities, whistleblowing, recruitment of ex-offenders and storage and handling of disclosure information. We are committed to improving quality and minimising risk and to deliver excellent value for money in all aspects of our work. We are conscious of the need to strike a realistic balance between administration and service delivery, and to ensure that whilst having a good protective framework of systems and procedures, we nevertheless devote most of our energies and resources to deliver an effective range of services. The effectiveness of our services are regularly monitored and evaluated (consultation with stakeholders), firstly to acknowledge what we do well and secondly, to review and learn from what is not working so well. This ensures we use our resources effectively and provide the best service to our beneficiaries.

5. Background of the Charity

The Parasol Project was launched as an independent unincorporated charity in 1996 and was set up by parents of disabled children in order to fill a gap in provision. On March 24 2020 a new charity, the Parasol Project CIO, was registered at the Charity Commission. This charity has a constitution based on that recommended by the Charity Commission and objectives that allow Parasol to work with young adults. On April 1, 2022 the assets & liabilities and activities of the original charity were transferred to the Parasol Project CIO and the Charity's activities have continued as before. Our profile and reputation has continued to grow during this time in the field of youth volunteering and inclusive practice.

6. Parasol Project Staff

The Parasol Project has capacity to deliver its activity programme with the support from highly skilled and experienced staff. Our team of Enablers (support staff) ensure activities are safe and supportive by handling personal care needs, supporting young people in managing challenging behaviour and modelling positive communication. In an average year Parasol would maintain a team of around 40 Enablers to support our holiday and term time activities. We continue to have a full office staff team. All of whom have stayed working for The Parasol Project for many years.

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

7. Achievements and Performance (2023-2024)

Each year, Parasol facilitates activities with our beneficiaries, after school and during the 12-weeks of school holidays. More recently, we were able to expand our services to include both Parasol disabled adults and Northway residents. This new community facing programme happens during the daytime (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays) during term time. This additional 35-weeks mean that we now deliver services year-round.

This year, our team of enthusiastic Enablers and Volunteers have delivered an exciting range of inclusive activities to 199 beneficiaries: 105 children aged 5-12, and 112 young people aged 13-31. Of the 199 beneficiaries, **54%** have significant and complex physical disabilities, learning difficulties and/or Autism, and the remainder were from other disadvantaged groups including: siblings of disabled children, children in care, young carers and young refugees. Additionally, **295** Northway residents attended activities/events.

	Activities Delivered	Details
1	Holiday Playscheme	A full programme (39 days) of activities for an avg. no. of 32 disabled and non-disabled children (5-12yrs) each day.
2	Holiday Choice Days	A full programme (42 days) of activities for an avg. no. of 27 disabled and non-disabled teenagers (13-25yrs) each day.
3	3 Celebration Events	270 people attended our Northway Family Playday, Parasol Children's Day and/or the Parasol Volunteers Celebration Day.
4	Youth Club	35 youth club sessions based around art, board games, cooking and eating together: 38 different individuals, avg. no. 25 a session.
5	B-Active Club	35 weekly dance fitness: 12 individuals, 6 a session.
6	B-Creative Club	35 weekly creative sessions: crafting and making things to sell to fundraise for Parasol: 10 individuals, avg. no. 5 a session.
7	Parasol Enterprise	35 weekly social action group sessions (litter picking, gardening, cleaning and delivering the newsletter): 14 individuals, avg. no. 8 a session.
8	Stay and Play	35 weekly parents and toddlers sessions. Music, singing, dancing and sensory play: 81 individuals, avg. no. 35 a session.
9	Knit and Natter	24 weekly community sessions (being creative, making friends and sharing a meal together): 10 individuals, avg. no. 6 a session.
10	Tuesday Lunch Club	12 weekly sessions. Volunteers make food (salads/baguettes) for a total of 45 staff, participants and Northway residents, avg. no. 24 a session.
11	Wednesday Lunch Club	24 weekly sessions. Volunteers make food (salads/baguettes) for a total of 25 staff, participants and Northway residents, avg. no. 20 a session.
12	Thursday Lunch Club	35 weekly sessions. Volunteers make food (salads/baguettes) including takeaways for 70 staff, participants and Northway residents, avg. 45 weekly.
13	Community Newsletter	Once every two months we produce and deliver a local 'what's on' Community Information Newsletter to 1,000+ Northway residents.
14	Volunteer Project	Full details below (page 8)

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Parasol Youth Volunteering Programme

- Parasol trained and supported 44 young people in completing 9,567 hours of volunteering.
- 8 volunteers we involved in a collaborative two-year project with Oxford University - Shaping Destiny.
- 30 volunteers attended a 5-day team building outdoors adventure residential at Kilvrough in Wales.
- 10 volunteers attended a 5-day team building residential on a tall ship sailing from London.
- 30 volunteers completed at least 1 AQA accreditation in volunteering (29 completed at least 2).
- 14 volunteers are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards: Bronze (9), Silver (1) & Gold (4).
- 7 volunteers have gone on to paid employment (3 with Parasol and 4 elsewhere).

The Parasol Youth Volunteering Project was designed specifically to include, involve and inspire those who are rarely afforded volunteering opportunities. The programme puts scaffolding support and opportunities in place to help individuals build their capabilities, confidence, identity, resilience and self-worth.

With regular funding support from Oxford City Council and other Trusts and Foundations, we were able to develop the project to a point that long term funding could be secured from the Henry Smith Charity. This allowed us to hire a full time project coordinator.

Our dedication to inclusive practice means that we use consultation and feedback constantly to ensure children/young people are being properly supported, feel heard and are given the best possible opportunity to participate positively. This regular consultation, consistently resulting in tangible adaptations to activities and procedures, in response to feedback over a prolonged period, have created a culture of positive participation.

Parasol youth volunteers play a vital role in promoting this culture. Our volunteers help collect feedback from other young people, act as models of positive participation, help conduct informal feedback and form our youth panel, which helps select and plan our activities, fundraise for trips and take part in formal consultation.

Our volunteering project allows young people to choose their level of involvement by offering different levels of responsibility (see image on the right). As young people progress, they move through from Role Model, to Volunteer, to Senior Volunteer. Those who need more support (from 19+yrs), can go on to become Workforce Volunteers. All volunteers receive supervision and take part in appraisals.

Successful Volunteering Outcomes

Volunteers Fundraising: Volunteers made items to raise funds for Parasol. This included making: Bunting, Elderflower Cordial; Lanterns; Jewellery; Cutlery boxes; Fridge magnets; Toasties; and Northway Chutney (a recipe passed down from one of our elder volunteers). Volunteers also wrote letters to several Trusts.

Volunteers Work Experience: Volunteers also undertook work experience at: South Oxford Family Room; Helen and Douglas House Children’s Hospice; Oxford Food Hub; Oxford United Football Club; OXSRAD Sports Centre; and Pegasus Theatre.

Volunteers Partner with Oxford University: Parasol Workforce Volunteers/dancers went on a creative process to answer the question their research addresses - How do we become what we become? This year we performed in the Courtyard of Radcliffe Observatory Quarter as the finale of the collaborative two-year project with Oxford University called Shaping Destiny.

Volunteers undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Awards: In order to extend opportunities for our young people we became a registered Duke of Edinburgh provider in July 2023.



The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Parasol Youth Volunteering Programme (continued)

Growing Volunteers into Employees: A significant number of our volunteers go on into employment either with Parasol or elsewhere. Our volunteering project has been successful in growing our own employees. For example, last year 10 out of Parasols' 40 employed staff had started out with us as volunteers. **Parasol in the Community (Developing a Volunteering and Community Hub for Northway)**

With support from Northway Community Partnership, we have been piloting several community facing projects that: (1) support adult disabled participants in delivering services and (2) make a positive contribution to the community. Over time, we attracted more participants and eventually secured three-year funding from the National Lottery Community Fund (£215,740 in Sept 2023).

This new programme means that we now offer year-round services (an additional 35-weeks' worth of community groups/activities and events) that happen in the daytime during term time (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays). Importantly, it provides work experience and volunteering opportunities for Parasol Adult Workforce Volunteers and Northway residents. Volunteering increases individuals' belief in themselves and their potential. And, providing a safe/inclusive space to have fun, get involved, meet others and make friends, helps build strong relationships in and across both communities.

There are many vulnerable and isolated people in Northway. We anticipate that our free community services (newsletters, celebration events, weekly groups, activities and free food), will help us enlist those most in need. And, over time, will enable Parasol to be considered as the Community Hub for Northway.

Knit and Natter group and Lunch Club (Tuesdays)

A Knit and Natter group began in January 2024. It happens every Tuesday during term time. Here, Parasol and Northway members come together to chat, have fun and make/mend things. For example, bunting and other items for upcoming events, or to sell to raise funds for Parasol. At the same time, a team of disabled Workforce Volunteers, shop and cook a healthy vegetarian lunch for themselves, those from the Knit and Natter group and the Parasol team. Everyone sits, eats and clears up together.

B-Creative Club, Lunch Club and Parasol Enterprise (Wednesdays)

The B-Creative Club happens every Wednesday morning during term time. This group makes products to sell at our trading booth (such as Jewellery; Cutlery boxes; Fridge magnets and more). This is while a team of adult disabled Workforce Volunteers, shop and cook a healthy lunch for themselves, community members and the Parasol team. Everyone sits and eats together. This is followed by a Parasol community enterprise activity (social action group). These Volunteers do many things including: delivering the Northway community newsletter; litter picking; planting bulbs in the local area; sorting clothes and equipment for the Stay and Play swap shop; keeping the Parasol garden flourishing; supporting the upkeep of our building (cleaning and maintenance); or preparing materials for our holiday programme.

Lunch Club and B-Active Club (Thursdays)

Thursday Lunch Club has become more successful than anticipated. The tasty options of, for example, baguette fillings and salad bowls have increased interest, and the numbers of people being offered this free lunch has expanded, especially to those living in the local community, many of whom the cost of living crisis has impacted severely. This Lunch club is now regularly producing up to 45 covers every week. We introduced a bespoke food hygiene and kitchen induction training to enable all of our Volunteers and Enablers to develop their competency and skills in this area and also to meet the necessary standards required to achieve a 5-star Food Hygiene Rating, which we were awarded in January 2024. The refurbishment of our kitchen into a catering standard kitchen has provided our adult workforce the opportunity to gain experience in a professional kitchen which has been fantastic. After lunch has been cleared away, a group of the Workforce Volunteers go on to work off their lunch at a dance fitness class.

Parent and Toddler Stay and Play (Fridays)

The 'free' Stay and Play parents and toddlers group has been an overwhelming success. The total number of unique individuals taking part in this project during the first year was 81, with an average turnout of 35 individuals each week. Shockingly, one day we had 59 people attend. This group plays, dances and sings with the main leader. They are also free to go into our well-equipped sensory room and/or play in our well-equipped garden. We also facilitate a children's clothes Swap Shop. Parents tell us that this free swap shop is an invaluable resource. A powerful example of community cohesiveness.

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

8. Evaluation Feedback

Children/young people evaluation feedback: During 2022-2023, we consulted with children and young people that attend Parasol services to discern if being involved with Parasol had made a positive impact on their health and wellbeing. We received feedback from 112 children, young people and young adults. They told us that they come here: to have fun; to meet new friends; to have something to look forward to and to have new experiences. Here is quantitative feedback about their feelings and learning.

FEELINGS: Between 83-87% of the 112 children/young people that responded stated that Parasol had helped them: (1) feel good about themselves; (2) feel happier; (3) feel more confident and; (4) feel more independent - 'often' or 'all of the time'. The remainder said that Parasol had helped 'some of the time'.

LEARNING: Between 83-87% of the 112 children/young people that responded stated that Parasol had helped them: (1) to say what they need/want; (2) to listen to others; (3) to manage their own feelings and; (4) to manage their own behaviours - 'often' or 'all of the time'. The remainder stated 'some of the time'.

Q: *What is the best thing about coming to Parasol?* Spending quality time with others / The great atmosphere / Talking to different people / The feeling that you're not the only person with your type of disability and that there is support for me / Sharing positive experiences / Made me more independent / I feel optimistic, Parasol has given me more perspective / Parasol definitely helped me learn to be myself.

Q: *What would have happened if you hadn't been involved with Parasol?* Parasol has helped me manage anxiety and low self-esteem / I personally felt very isolated but the staff at Parasol helped me feel not so isolated / Would have a lot more problems with expressing my emotions and social anxiety / Probably have worse anger issues and very bad social anxiety / My mental health would not be good.

Q: *Since being involved with Parasol, what, if anything, has changed about how you feel about yourself and your life?* It's definitely helped me become a better person / My self-esteem has improved / More confident in myself and able to express how I feel more / I can cope with change better / I'm more independent and open to trying new things / I feel more positive and in control of my anger / More able to face challenges / More comfortable around other people and feel more useful / I feel more amazing than ever / If you have low self-esteem and not very good at communicating, Parasol is a great place to start.

Parents/carers evaluation feedback: In 2024, 35 parents/carers completed one of our surveys. A significant percentage stated that since being with Parasol, fewer young people were: solitary (*from 52% to 11%*); worried (*from 35% to 15%*); unhappy (*from 23% to 6%*); or easily distracted (*from 57% to 31%*) 'often' or 'all-of-the-time'. They also 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that... 'yes', the experience had positively impacted their child's sense of independence (100%) and ability to build positive relationships (97%). Finally, a very high percentage of the 35 parents/carers 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that Parasol had a positive impact on their child's: ability to express their needs and wants (91%); manage their own feelings and behaviours (97%); build positive relationships (97%). And improved their: social wellbeing (100%); emotional wellbeing (97%); communication skills (92%); and sense of independence (100%).

Q: *What is the best thing about your child being involved in Parasol?* Independence / Confidence / Social skills / Self-worth / Self-esteem / Sense of belonging / A community / Opportunity to socialise with peers without parents having to organise and supervise / Making friends / Improving communication skills / Opportunities / Responsibilities / Greater understanding and empathy for others / A place to learn at his own pace with tailored support / Helped her grow as an adult / The friendships and bonds she's made has made such a difference to her life / Has helped our daughter have a sense of purpose / She is much more polite and most importantly she is much more understanding of others, their individual needs and their individuality.

Q: *Those that fund our charity want to hear (directly from parents/carers) if our service has impacted families lives for the better. What would you tell them?* Parasol has had a significantly positive impact on our child's life / Absolutely precious service to so many people / Provides a strong sense of belonging / It's a safe and fully inclusive environment where they can be themselves and feel fully accepted / A lifeline for our family / The impact Parasol has on our family should not be underestimated / A shining light of meaningful practical support in the life of a SEN parent.

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

8. Evaluation Feedback (continued)

Volunteers' evaluation findings and feedback: In 2024, we surveyed 44 volunteers. We created specific questions to discern improved skills / confidence and so on. 14 of the 35-questions were from the Warwick and Edinburgh Mental Well Being Scale. The lowest possible score is 14 (14x1point: '*none-of-the-time*') and the highest possible score is 70 (14x5points: '*all-of-the-time*'). A score of 40 and below indicates probable depression. To measure change, each participant was asked to answer the same questionnaire twice. The first at the beginning that was then compared to data gathered at the year/end.

Outcome 1 - Expect that at least 80% of individuals increase their mental wellbeing post intervention. Initial baseline scores were concerning, as 43% (19 of the 44) individuals scored 46-points or below, indicating low mood / depression. However, post-intervention, 89% (17 of the 19) moved upward and out of low mood / depression. This was very good news. Furthermore, 68% (30) individuals' scores increased. Of those, 23 scores increased by more than 5-points: 13 increased by 6 to 17 points and 10 increased by 18 or more points. Importantly, 7 of the 9 individuals/volunteers with initially low baseline scores of 40-points or below (indicating probable depression), actually increased their scores significantly. It could be argued therefore, that those most in need benefited the most from volunteering.

To conclude, the mental wellbeing of volunteers almost universally increased, when compared to baseline results. For example, the cohort, post-intervention, more 'often' or 'all-of-the-time' felt: (1) optimistic (*from 51% to 86%*); (2) cheerful (*from 50% to 82%*); (3) useful (*from 47% to 78%*); (4) relaxed (*from 58% to 80%*); and (5) confident (*from 46% to 79%*). Post-intervention scores overall average out at **78%**. Thus, we consider that Outcome 1 has been achieved. (The full Youth Volunteering Report is available on request).

Q: What is the best thing about coming to Parasol? Building relationships / Meeting new people / Making new friends / Having fun / Being included / Being part of a team / Helping others / Taking care of others / Supporting people to properly be able to enjoy and get the best out of all Parasol activities / Getting to help the community in ways which I would have not been able to otherwise / Spending quality time with others / Being accepted and feeling safe / Feeling like I'm making a difference / Felt good helping out / Cooking for everyone at youth group and everyone eating it / Work experience / A sense of community and a feeling that I belong.

Q: What would have happened if you hadn't been involved with Parasol? I would have felt sad / Lonely / Bored / Isolated / Left out / Unhappy / Wouldn't know what to do with myself / I wouldn't feel as good about myself as I wouldn't be helping people / Less confident / Less sociable / Less aware of other people's lives / Less capable / Less friends / Less motivated / Less able to work in a team / I'd be more miserable / I would be missing out on a lovely community / I would be very different / I'd feel lost.

Q: Since being involved with Parasol, what, if anything, has changed about how you feel about yourself and your life? More independent / More optimistic / More confident and capable / More open / More patient / More responsible / More myself / More in control of my emotions / I learnt skills / More self-aware of what I can do in the community and how easy it is to just help and be kind to others / Made me understand how important volunteering is and makes me want to volunteer more in the future.

Volunteers feedback: *"At Parasol, I felt truly special, not in the way I felt for a lot of my life, the bad kind of special, but instead [the] Positive kind. Parasol taught me to keep good of care myself, as well as teaching me to care for others. Before I joined Parasol, I was incredibly self-centred. I did care about other people; however, I didn't have the energy to put those above my depression and the dark lens I saw life through. Parasol allowed me to see all the great things in life, friendship, family and community. When teachers were telling me, I was a troublemaker and predicting me to fail, Parasol were endless with the compliments. At Parasol, the staff genuinely do care for and route for the kids they work with and just being in this environment has rubbed off for me and has made me a much better person."*

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

9. Financial Review

During 2023/24 our income was **£433,935** (£292,110 in 2022/23) and expenditure increased to **£389,065** (£333,460 in 2022/23). This caused a surplus of **£44,870** for the year (2023/24).

Reserves at the end of the year to March 31 2024 stood at **£99,714** (2023 - £54,844), an **increase** compared to the previous year. Section 10 on Reserves expands on our concerns and plans for next year.

As a small charity, Parasol depends on raising funds on a year by year basis to provide the vital funding that tops up the regular grant funding received from Oxfordshire County Council of £101,000, and £20,000 from Oxford City Council. We are also in receipt of three-year funding from the Henry Smith Charity (£33,000 per annum), approximately **£22,600** per year from the Healthy Activity and Food fund, and, new three-year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund of approximately £70,000 per annum. Together, all these funds provide a certain amount of financial stability for the charity.

10. Future Plans

Oxfordshire County Council commissioning - Our Short Breaks funding of £90,000 per year for 7 years for our Child & Teen holiday provision came to an end on 31st March 2024. These services were recommissioned in Sept 2023. In January 2024, we secured £101,000 per year, for a confirmed 3 years and the option for two 2-year extensions (so likely 7 years).

Healthy Activity and Food (HAF) funding - This provides grants to help fund individuals/places on our Child and Teen school holidays services, for those in receipt of free school meals. We were successfully accepted on the HAF framework and secured funding for Summer, Christmas and Easter holidays. This funding provides approximately **£22,600** per year, for the foreseeable future. Which is great news.

Kitchen refurb - As we continued to develop our Adult and Community work it became apparent that our existing kitchen was not fit for purpose. In 2022/23 we secured £30,000 from the Tambour Foundation and Oxfordshire Community Foundation and in 2023, our new commercial kitchen was complete.

Moving forward, we will continue to support young disabled people to have full and effective participation and inclusion in society, to unlock their potential to become more confident and independent individuals. We will do this by continuing to: (1) assess/evaluate our Child, Teen and Adult services, to ensure that they remain high quality and fit for purpose; (2) develop community facing services to ensure inclusivity: making our base the community hub for Northway estate; and (3) fundraise: to ensure sustainability for the charity.

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

11. Reserves

The Charity's total reserves at March 31 2024 were **£99,714** (£54,844 in 2022/23). Of these reserves, **£72,738** (2022 - £48,190) are restricted. These funds as set out in Note 13 are only available for specific purposes. **£26,976** (2023 - £6,654) are unrestricted funds and are available to be used to support any aspect of the Charity's total expenditure. This is an increase in reserves from last year. It is vital that we continue to identify further funding for the ongoing financial health of the Charity next year.

The Trustees continue to be concerned about reserves and are well aware that the charity remains vulnerable to any changes in the availability of funding to small entities such as The Parasol Project. As stated in this Report, in previous years, the Trustees feel, because of the uncertain nature of other individual and grant revenues, that a target of £100,000 of unrestricted reserves is very reasonable. As can be seen from the financial outcomes for this year, to March 31 2024, an increase in expenses can have an impact on reserves. This is challenging for Parasol as a large proportion of its expenditure relates to staffing which is vital for projects to run.

The Trustees will continue to monitor the financial reports produced by the Office Manager during the year ahead. We will continue to look for more sources of longer term funding to ensure that the Charity can boost its core funding and that the level of the reserves can be rebuilt to one that provides the Executive Director and his staff team with security in making day to day financial decisions. On the other hand, the Trustees are well aware of the difficult economic conditions in which Parasol is currently operating and locating sources of funding will be challenging. The Trustees continue to be aware of the Charity Commissioners' guidance in "Charity Reserves: Building Resilience" and indeed this guidance is what underlies their goal of establishing unrestricted reserves of £100,000.

12. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Parasol Project CIO is a charitable incorporated organisation registered by the Charity Commission and governed by a constitution dated March 24 2020. Anyone over the age of 18 years old and corporate bodies may become members of the charity.

Appointment of New Trustees

The Board seeks to widen its membership and at the same time broaden the skills set that the Board has to draw upon. Among others, new Trustees with skills in fundraising, charity law and human resources would be particularly welcome. If such skills can be found from amongst the parents of users of the charity's services, it would be particularly helpful. Potential Trustees will meet with existing Board Members and will attend at least 2 Trustee Meetings before being considered for appointment as Trustees.

Organisation

The Trustees of the charity are responsible for managing the affairs of the charity. The Trustees are elected from amongst the members of the charity at the Annual General Meeting. One third of Trustees retire at each Annual General Meeting and may stand for re-election. There need to be at least 3 Trustees with no upper limit to the number of Trustees. The members or the Trustees can appoint a new Trustees from among the membership at any time during the year.

Trustee Induction and Training

The Trustees will continue in the coming year to develop an induction process for new members of the Board. This process would include the provision of Charity Commission documents about the responsibilities of Trustees, copies of the charity's governing document, the latest Report and Accounts and induction into the work of the charity, its aims and objectives and the roles and responsibilities of members of the Board and key staff.

Risk Management

The trustees are fully aware of their duty to identify and review risks to which the charity is exposed. Reviewing the charity's principal risks and uncertainties is done informally at its regular monthly/six weekly meetings. In the last two years, the Trustees have become aware of the financial risks that the Charity might face. With the significant financial contribution received from Oxfordshire County Council, the Trustees are aware that there is a financial risk if for any reason this funding ceases to be available.

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

13. Trustees' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

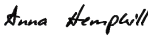
The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operations.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which 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 Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on: 14/12/2024 **and signed on behalf by:**

Signed by:

0EC4G124B08740D.....

Anna Hemphill – Trustee (Chair)

The Parasol Project CIO

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Parasol Project CIO

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended March 31 2024 which are set out on pages 16 to 26.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

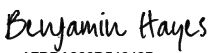
Independent examiner's statement

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Signed by:

A7DDA266D54649B...

B Hayes FCA
Chartered Accountant
Wenn Townsend
30 St Giles
Oxford OX1 3LE

Date: 16/12/2024

The Parasol Project CIO

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

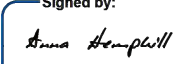
	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income							
Donations and Legacies	2	6,287	343,393	349,680	20,941	199,962	220,903
Charitable Activities	3	82,205	-	82,205	69,881	-	69,881
Investments	4	2,050	-	2,050	913	-	913
Other		-	-	-	413	-	413
Total		90,542	343,393	433,935	92,148	199,962	292,110
Expenditure							
Cost of Raising Funds	6	17,271	-	17,271	14,862	-	14,862
Expenditure on Charitable							
Activities	7 & 8	52,949	318,845	371,794	150,266	168,332	318,598
Total		70,220	318,845	389,065	165,128	168,332	333,460
Net Income/(Expenditure)		20,322	24,548	44,870	(72,980)	31,630	(41,350)
Transfer Between Funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		20,322	24,548	44,870	(72,980)	31,630	(41,350)
Reconciliation of Funds:							
Total Funds Brought Forward	14 & 15	6,654	48,190	54,844	79,634	16,560	96,194
Total Funds Carried Forward	14 & 15	£26,976	£72,738	£99,714	£6,654	£48,190	£54,844

The Parasol Project CIO

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	11	4,941	8,914
Current Assets			
Debtors and Prepayments	12	10,128	5,896
Funds on Deposit		11,534	11,299
Cash at Bank and in Hand		86,214	41,755
		107,876	58,950
Less: Current Liabilities			
Amounts falling due within a year	13	(13,103)	(13,020)
Net Current Assets		94,773	45,930
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		99,714	54,844
Net Assets		£99,714	£54,844
The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted Income Funds	14	72,738	48,190
Unrestricted Income Funds	15	26,976	6,654
		£99,714	£54,844

The financial statements on pages 16 to 26 were approved by the Trustees on 14/12/2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:

 6EC4C124B08740D...

Anna Hemphill

Chair of the Board

The Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2024

1. Accounting Policies

a. Accounting Basis

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on October 2019 and the Charities Act 2011.

The Parasol 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 notes.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

b. Depreciation

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and valued at historical cost. From April 2019 the cost of fixed assets are being written off using the straight line method of depreciation, a change from the previously utilised reducing balance method. The rates of depreciation are:

Office equipment and fittings	25% per annum
Plant and Machinery	25% per annum
Sensory Room Equipment	25% per annum
Leasehold Improvements	10% per annum

c. Income Recognition

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.

Donations and grants are recognised when the charity has been notified of both the amount and settlement date.

Legacies are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate and when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be reliably measured by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank or deposit taking institution.

d. Expenditure Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The allocation of support and governance costs is analysed in note 7.

e. Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

f. Cost of Raising Funds

The cost of generating funds consists of staff costs, subscriptions to on-line fundraising sites, fundraising advertising and associated costs.

The Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2024

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

g. Charitable Activities

The cost of charitable activities includes governance costs and an apportionment of support costs as shown in note 8.

h. Volunteer Time

The value of services donated by volunteers is not reflected in the accounts.

i. Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity. It is not, therefore, liable for tax on income derived from its charitable activities.

j. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted Income Funds

Unrestricted Funds are funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. These comprise a general fund plus designated funds set aside out of unrestricted funds by the Trustees to provide for planned projects and other known contingencies.

Restricted Income Funds

These are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor. Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 14.

k. Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees.

2. Donations and Legacies

	2024 £	2023 £
Local Authority Grants	165,881	95,600
Other Grants (£1,000 and over)	180,561	117,225
Small Grants and Donations (Including Gift Aid)	3,238	8,078
Total	349,680	220,903

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fees received	82,205	-	82,205	69,881
	82,205	-	82,205	69,881

4. Investment Income

The Charity's investment income of £2,050 (2023 - £913) arises from renting out space at Tower Playbase of £1,738 and bank interest received of £312.

The Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2024

5. Net Outgoing Resources

This is stated after charging:

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation	3,973	5,650
Independent Examiner's Fees	3,288	2,500

6. Cost of Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Staff	5,480	-	5,480	5,201
Fundraising Admin Fees	235	-	235	289
Fundraising	11,556	-	11,556	9,372
	17,271	-	17,271	14,862

7. Analysis of Governance and Support Costs

	General Support	Governance	Total	Basis of Apportionment
	£	£	£	
Equipment and Other Asset Costs	3,973	-	3,973	
Building and Accommodation Costs	47,463	-	47,463	Allocated as a %
Office Costs	15,819	-	15,819	Based on Project
Salaries, Teacher Fees & Consultants	51,089	7,956	59,045	Salary Costs
Other Staff Costs	3,878	-	3,878	
Independent Examination	-	3,288	3,288	Governance
Bad debts	1,455	-	1,455	
	123,677	11,244	134,921	

Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2024

8. Charitable Expenditure Analysis

	Total £	Choice Days £	Playbase £	Volunteer Project £	Dance £	Youth Group £	Parasol Plus £	Child Term £	Adult Parasol £	Governance £	Training £
Salary Costs	165,783	43,090	49,493	26,676	1,076	10,015	-	3,560	22,591	7,956	1,326
Choice Day Expenses	45,991	45,991	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Child Term Time Expenses	693	-	-	-	-	-	-	693	-	-	-
Adult Parasol Expenses	10,447	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,447	-	-
Playbase Expenses	7,218	-	7,218	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teen Dance Expenses	3,421	-	-	-	3,421	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teen Youth Group Expenses	4,444	-	-	-	-	4,444	-	-	-	-	-
Volunteer Project	6,832	-	-	6,832	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Independent Examination	3,288	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,288	-
Support Costs	123,677	34,052	39,113	21,081	850	7,914	-	2,813	17,854	-	-
Year ended 2024	371,794	123,133	95,824	54,589	5,347	22,373	-	7,066	50,892	11,244	1,326
Year ended 2023	318,598	124,775	91,214	32,933	14,114	13,886	343	9,061	23,040	6,309	2,923

Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2024

9. Governance Costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Staff	7,956	-	7,956	3,468
Independent Examiner's Fees (2024 including accounts preparation)	3,288	-	3,288	2,842
	11,244	-	11,244	6,310

Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2024

10. Total Resources Expended

	Staff Costs £	Other Costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Charitable Activities	211,392	160,402	371,794	318,598
Cost of Generating Funds	5,480	11,791	17,271	14,862
	216,872	172,193	389,065	333,460

Staff Costs Comprise:

	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries Staff	206,272	192,423
Social Security Costs	6,886	6,422
Pension Costs	3,714	3,340
	216,872	202,185

The average number of staff during the period was 4 (2023 - 4) full time. 40 (2023 - 40) part time and sessional workers have supported the charity's holiday activities and weekly youth and dance groups.

No employees received emoluments of more than £60,000 per annum (2023 - no more than £60,000).

The total remuneration of the key management personnel - the Executive Director - including employer's National Insurance and Pension contributions was £38,816 (2023 - £36,907).

Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2024

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Leasehold Improvements	Sensory Rm Equipment	Plant and Machinery	Fixtures and Fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Cost</u>					
As at April 1 2023	8,592	16,609	15,134	2,060	42,395
Additions in the Year	-	-	-	-	-
As at March 31 2024	8,592	16,609	15,134	2,060	42,395
<u>Depreciation</u>					
As at April 1 2023	2,792	13,495	15,134	2,060	33,481
Provision in the Year	859	3,114	-	-	3,973
As at March 31 2024	3,651	16,609	15,134	2,060	37,454
Net Book Value at 31 March 2024	4,941	-	-	-	4,941
Net Book Value at 31 March 2023	5,800	3,114	-	-	8,914

12. Debtors and Prepayments

	2024 £	2023 £
Activity Fees Receivable	10,128	5,897
Other Debtors	-	-
	10,128	5,897

13. Creditors: Amounts Falling due Within One Year

	2024 £	2023 £
Tax, National Ins & Pensions	3,850	3,403
Independent Examiner's Fees	3,150	2,500
Consultancy	-	4,872
Accruals and Accounts Payable	6,103	1,515
Fees Paid in Advance	-	730
	13,103	13,020

Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2024

14. Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income in the Year	Expenditure in the Year	Balance March 31 2024
	£	£	£	£
Volunteer Project	16,475	67,179	(54,279)	29,375
Building and Sensory Room	1,497	33,428	(26,723)	8,202
Holiday Activities	-	140,090	(139,340)	750
Teenage Services	-	8,997	(8,997)	-
Adult Services	-	4,250	(4,250)	-
Northway Community Fund	-	89,449	(55,038)	34,411
OCF	15,072	-	(15,072)	-
Wheelchair Path	15,146	-	(15,146)	-
	48,190	343,393	(318,845)	72,738

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income in the Year	Expenditure in the Year	Balance March 31 2023
	£	£	£	£
Volunteer Project		50,900	(34,425)	16,475
Building and Sensory Room	6,508		(5,011)	1,497
Holiday Activities		102,800	(102,800)	-
Teenage Services	6,052	3,091	(9,143)	-
Northway Community Fund	4,000	9,940	(13,940)	-
OCF		18,085	(3,013)	15,072
Wheelchair Path		15,146	-	15,146
	16,560	199,962	(168,332)	48,190

Represented by:

	Fixed Assets	Cash at Bank	Total
	£	£	£
Balance at March 31 2024	4,941	67,797	72,738
Balance at March 31 2023	8,914	39,276	48,190

Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2024

15. Unrestricted Income Funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance at April 1 2023	6,654	79,634
Incoming Resources	90,542	92,148
Expenditure	(70,220)	(165,128)
Balances at March 31 2024	<u>26,976</u>	<u>6,654</u>

Represented by:

Current Assets	40,079	19,674
Creditors and Deferred Income	(13,103)	(13,020)
	<u>26,976</u>	<u>6,654</u>

16. Financial Commitments

As at 31 March 2024 (2023 - Nil) there are no annual commitments under non-cancellable leases.

17. Trustee's Remuneration

No Trustee (2023 - Nil) received or waived any emoluments during the year.

No out of pocket expenses (2023 - Nil) were reimbursed to Trustees in the year.

No related party transactions outside the course of normal business occurred in the year (2023 – Nil).

THE PARASOL PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1188736

Accounts



The Parasol Project CIO

INCLUDE

INVOLVE

INSPIRE

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1188736

Executive Summary

Parasol's 27th year of providing inclusive activities for children & young people from Oxfordshire has been a period of challenge and development.

In the wake of lockdown there was increased pressure both on our existing services and for new adult and community projects. At the same time we faced significant issues around staff recruitment and the impact of price rises coupled with reduced income.

In spite of these challenges we are proud to note that not only were we able to maintain the delivery of high quality Child & Teen services we also managed to develop new services in direct response to demand. These successes can be directly attributed to the hard work and dedication of our staff team and the continued support of the community around us.

Post lockdown projects that were successfully piloted in partnership with local councillors (Stay & Play, Community Newsletter, Community Volunteering and Lunch Club) received development funding through Oxfordshire Community Foundation. OCF also supported our work to establish our Adult day services.

Our teenage Volunteering project continued its success in identifying and supporting young people in making the step up to paid staff. The impact of this 'grow your own' approach to staffing cannot be overstated, especially in the current climate.

Output / we facilitated:

- 42 play schemes at Tower Playbase for an average No. of 32 children (5-12yrs) each day
- 41 Choice Days for average number of 27 teens and young adults (13-18+yrs) each day
- 35 weekly youth club sessions attended by 46 different young people, avg. No. 20 a session
- 33 weekly Dance Club sessions for 11 teens and young people
- 35 weekly Parasol Trading sessions for 16 different young people, avg. no. 4 a session
- 35 weekly Community Cafe sessions for 14 different young people, avg. no. 7 a session
- 22 weekly Child Dance sessions for 13 different children, avg. no. 6 a session
- Parasol supported 58 young people in completing 5,574 hrs of volunteering

The effectiveness of Parasol's services are regularly monitored and evaluated. Firstly, to ensure that all stakeholders have a say in the development of the charity; secondly, to ensure that Parasol meets their objectives; thirdly, to learn from what is not working well and finally, to celebrate successes. Our evaluation report is available on request.

	Total participants	Disabled participants	Non-disabled participants	Total hours delivered
Child Service	89	47	42	243
Teen Service	82	51	31	638.5
Adult Service	19	19	0	

The Parasol Project CIO

Reference and Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number: 1188736

Principle Address: Tower Playbase, Maltfield Road, Northway, Oxford, OX3 9RG

Trustees: Dan Wadsworth (Chair)
Rebecca Denson-Cleaver
Anneke Hackmann
Anne Schuster
Anna Hemphill (Appointed 30 January 2023)
Jerry Bloomfield (interim)

Key Management Personnel: Dan Norey - Executive Director



Craft projects at our Teen activities



The Parasol Project CIO

INCLUDE

INVOLVE

INSPIRE

Contents of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Executive Summary.....	2
Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023.....	5
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Parasol Project CIO.....	21
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023.....	22
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023.....	23



Canoeing with Oxford Canoe and Kayak club

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

By a resolution dated March 31 2021 the Trustees of the Parasol Project CIO (Charity No: 1188736) agreed to take on the assets, liabilities and functions of the unincorporated charity, the Parasol Project (Charity No: 1055914) ("the Transferor"). In so doing the Trustees of the Transferor charity have sought to take advantage of the added level of security available to Charitable Incorporated Organisations ("CIO's"). The corporate nature of the CIO offers the Trustees Limited Liability and the new Constitution provides the charity with a greater sense of security and freedom to work with a wider range of disabled and non-disabled children, teenagers and young adults in the years ahead. As will be seen from the remainder of this Report, the Parasol Project's Mission and Objectives are broadly unchanged, and our passion for supporting those who use our services is undiminished.

The Trustees now present their report with the financial statements of the Parasol Project CIO ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2015).



Teenage volunteers and staff taking part in face paint training

1. Our vision

The Parasol Project want to see a world where every disabled child and young person can enjoy the same rights and opportunities as their non-disabled peers including access to out of school play, social and creative activities.

2. Our mission

To support young disabled people to have 'full and effective participation and inclusion in society' (UN Convention on the Rights of the Person with Disabilities), to unlock their potential and be more confident, independent and compassionate individuals.

3. Our values

We believe that disabled children and young people should enjoy the same rights and opportunities as other children and young people as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including access to activities that suit their needs, abilities and aspirations. Disabled peoples' engagement with culture and the arts alongside and on equal terms with their non-disabled peers is an important element of an inclusive society.

4. The importance of inclusivity

In the spirit of inclusion, we also work with a number of other disadvantaged groups including siblings of those with disabilities, children in care, care leavers, young carers, and refugees. Parasol has developed a unique inclusive culture allowing us to proactively encourage these differing groups to share and take ownership of our activities. This has a powerful impact on participants, families, staff and the community around us.



Our new basket swing funded through donations by parents of Magdalen school students

5. Objectives and activities

As set out in the charity's constitution, the Parasol Project objectives are to provide facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation for children and young people with physical or learning difficulties. Such facilities are to be comparable to those available to the children and young people's non-disabled siblings and contemporaries and are to promote: (1) their educational, physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing, and, (2) equal opportunities.

In planning the work of the Charity, the Trustees take due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit, including the guidance "Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)". The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity meets that guidance in that it offers its activities to any child or young person with physical or learning difficulties and indeed makes every effort to reach out to those families who for economic and/or social reasons find it challenging to provide appropriate and inclusive leisure or recreational activities for their children. The Trustees are happy that participants in the charity's activities are from a very wide spectrum of social and economic backgrounds, particularly those at risk of social exclusion, and this is fundamental to improving their wellbeing by making them feel valued and included, and participating in age appropriate activities.

Historically the charity has provided the following services:

Child Service:

1. Tower Playbase - Holiday Playscheme - Providing a full programme of age-appropriate activities for disabled & non-disabled children (5-12yrs)

Teen Service:

1. Choice Days - Holiday activities - Providing a full programme of age-appropriate activities for disabled & non-disabled teenagers (13-18yrs) split between IN DAYS and TRIP DAYS.
2. Kilvrough - Residential holiday - Providing a 5-day Summer residential at Kilvrough in Wales. Activities are split between outward bound and centre based.
3. Volunteering project - Year round - Providing an extensive youth volunteering programme aimed at developing independence & work skills. We actively recruit paid staff from our team of teenage volunteers.
4. Youth group - Term time, weekly - Providing an inclusive, evening youth club based around art, board games, cooking and eating dinner together.

Since the end of lockdown we have piloted and developed the following services in response to demand:

Adult service:

1. Parasol Enterprise - Term time weekly - supporting disabled adults in undertaking community facing activities.
2. Parasol Lunch Club - Term time weekly - supporting disabled adults in providing free baguettes and salad bowls to vulnerable local residents, NHS staff and food bank volunteers.

Community Service:

1. Stay & Play - Term time, weekly - Providing parents/carers with a warm, friendly space to interact with their babies and toddlers (0-4yrs) including a children's clothes swap shop and singing.
2. Northway Newsletter - Bi-monthly - working with local councillors to promote community cohesion.
3. Northway Playday - Annually - working in partnership with OPA to provide a community Playday.

2. Beneficiaries of the work

Our beneficiaries are primarily aged from 5-18 years old and our volunteers range in age up to 31. Many live in a variety of challenging circumstances, and may have significant communication challenges, physical disabilities, autism, learning difficulties and some also have challenging behaviour. These children, young people and young adults can face a series of barriers, both practical and complex, and this often results in exclusion from active participation in society. This can have a profound impact on their lives.

In the spirit of inclusion, the Charity also works with other disadvantaged children. For example, siblings of disabled children and young people are often disadvantaged as they have fewer opportunities for social or holiday activities than their peers. They often have caring responsibilities and they may feel neglected within the family because of high support needs of their disabled sibling. The Charity also supports children in care. Research shows that children in the care system experience significantly worse mental health concerns than their peers, and a high proportion experience poor health, and poor educational and social outcomes after leaving care. We also worked alongside young carers. Research highlights that these young carers are more likely to have mental health problems, poorer school attendance than average, and are more likely to be identified as having SEN. Finally, we also support young refugees. These children also experience significant issues due to their circumstances and benefit greatly from being involved in the activities offered by the Parasol Project.

This year Parasol supported 190 beneficiaries: 89 children aged 5-12, and 101 young people aged 13-31. Of the 190, 67% have significant and complex physical disabilities, learning difficulties and/or Autism, and 25% were from other disadvantaged groups including: siblings of disabled children, children in care, young carers and young refugees. Additionally, a significant number of these children and young people are eligible for free school meals.



Healthy lunches cooked by young people are served at our teenage activity days.

3. Equal opportunities statement

The Parasol Project is committed to providing equality of opportunity for the children, young people, adults, volunteers, professional practitioners, families and carers with whom it works. It values and respects their diversity. Parasol welcomes difference in its staff and volunteers. It is also working to create equal access to opportunities for paid employment and voluntary involvement while continuing to base selection and promotion solely on the ability to meet the requirements of the post. This is irrespective of race, colour, ethnic or national origins, religion, disability, gender, sexuality, age, marital status, responsibility for dependants, economic status or political views. The Parasol Project is committed to taking active steps to address and eliminate unfair or unlawful discrimination or prejudice where these are identified in the organisation's procedures or practices.

4. Quality assurance

All policies are reviewed annually to ensure they remain relevant and up to date. We have a quality assurance system and policies for health and safety, children and vulnerable adults' protection, safeguarding, equal opportunities, whistleblowing, recruitment of ex-offenders and storage and handling of disclosure information. We are committed to improving quality and minimising risk and to deliver excellent value for money in all aspects of our work. We are conscious of the need to strike a realistic balance between administration and service delivery, and to ensure that whilst having a good protective framework of systems and procedures, we nevertheless devote most of our energies and resources to deliver an effective range of services. The effectiveness of our services are regularly monitored and evaluated (consultation with stakeholders), firstly to acknowledge what we do well and secondly, to review and learn from what is not working so well. This ensures we use our resources effectively and provide the best service to our beneficiaries.

5. Background of the charity

The Parasol Project was launched as an independent unincorporated charity in 1996 and was set up by parents of disabled children in order to fill a gap in provision. On March 24 2020 a new charity, the Parasol Project CIO, was registered at the Charity Commission. This charity has a constitution based on that recommended by the Charity Commission and objectives that allow Parasol to work with young adults. On April 1, 2022 the assets & liabilities and activities of the original charity were transferred to the Parasol Project CIO and the Charity's activities have continued as before. Parasol remains an Oxfordshire charity embedded at the base of a large tower block in Oxford and now has 25 years' experience successfully delivering services to children/young people with disabilities. Our profile and reputation has continued to grow during this time in the field of youth volunteering and inclusive practice.

6. Parasol Project Staff

The Parasol Project has capacity to deliver its activity programme with the support from highly skilled and experienced staff. Our team of Enablers (support staff) are recruited through our volunteer programme, links with local schools and recruitment sites. Our Enablers ensure activities are safe and supportive by handling personal care needs, supporting young people in managing challenging behaviour and modelling positive communication. In an average year Parasol would maintain a team of around 40 Enablers to support our holiday & term time activities. Most staff tend to stay with the charity for between 2 and 5 years. We would normally recruit around 5 to 15 new staff each year as experienced staff move on to full time employment. Due to the pandemic our reduced provision meant that we did not recruit new staff for 2 years, so this year we recruited 21 new Enablers, as well as a new Volunteer Coordinator (Phil Oakley, who had previously worked as an Enabler) and a new Office Manager (Katy Underhill) to make up a full staff team.



Young people and staff gather before a canoeing trip

7. Achievements and performance (2022-2023)

This year, our team of enthusiastic and energetic Enablers and Volunteers have delivered an exciting range of inclusive, age-appropriate activities for children, young people and young adult users.

Parasol Children's Service (5-12 year olds):

Easter 2022 - Theme: Springtime/Easter (2 week/8 day holiday)

The number of children who attended over the Easter holiday was nearing pre-pandemic numbers, at an average of 34 children per day. The theme was springtime so activities included spring clay modelling, blow paint flowers, wildflower, fruit and vegetable planting, making butterfly suncatchers and caring for caterpillars whilst they transform into butterflies. We also enjoyed bushcraft sessions with Mark, the bouncy castle, park trips, an Easter Egg hunt and a day trip to Thomley Hall.

May 2022 Half Term - Theme: Festival week (3 day holiday)

We ran 3 days instead of 4 for this holiday because of the double bank holiday, but managed to pack lots of fun activities in, including tie dye and festival decoration, in preparation for our own mini festival on the last day. The weather was warm so we also got the bouncy castle out and did some water play. Finally, a visit from Circus All Stars had the children practising their circus skills! Average number of children this holiday was 31 a day.

Summer 2022 - Theme: Fantastic Beasts (5 week/20 day holiday)

We were able to run for the whole of summer this year, and packed the weeks with arts and crafts, water play, bushcraft with Mark and sensory sessions. We also did some day trips to Farmer Gows and Snakes & Ladders, and were visited by Garg's Animal Encounters and a storyteller from the Story Museum. 31 service users a day - we found that quite a few of our families enjoyed last minute holidays.

October 2022 Half Term - Theme: Autumn & Halloween (4 day holiday)

Average of 32 children attended per day. The children worked on constructing, covering and decorating lanterns throughout the week, culminating in a beautifully decorated Halloween party where we played party games and danced around. We also had Just Dance sessions, sensory sessions, cooking sessions, a trip to the park and bushcraft with Mark.



Children's playscheme activities

Christmas 2022 - Theme: Winter & Christmas (3 day holiday)

We did lots of wintery activities such as a two-day craft fair, making and baking festive treats and even had a visit from Santa and his elves in his grotto. We also had a visit from Mr Muddle's Magical Mayhem and the children had the option to join in with some magical fun. 30 children per day.

February 2023 Half Term - Theme: Everything in Space! (4 day holiday)

Each day this week the children had a chance to build their own universe by creating their solar system, space transport, space animals and space pirates, bringing it all together with a space disco at the end of the holiday. We also had our usual sensory, picture palace and bushcraft with Mark sessions, as well as a storytelling session and a fitness boot camp. 33 children a day

TERM TIME

Child Dance – Thursday evenings, 1.5 hrs

We were fortunate to receive funding from Sport England/National Lottery through Active Oxfordshire in order to run a free weekly dance class for children, which piloted in October 2022. We knew there was a strong demand already as many of our existing service users and their families/carers had asked about this kind of term-time service.

The dance session is aimed at children aged 5-12 and is an opportunity to exercise playfully, learn basic choreography and show off their new moves at the end-of-session disco. Tutorial videos are sent to parents/carers so they can practise at home if they wish.

This session built up a steady number of loyal attendees since its pilot and we expect that will grow as more people find out about it. It's also a great way to induct some new children into our services when a full day during a school holiday might be too intense initially.

This was a brand new project for our Child service and was a trial to see how an after school session would work. We found many successes in running this project - among them that we had lots of children engage from our local community and set up a 'stay and play' session alongside the dance group which was positive for siblings. Some challenges we faced were that we had an average of 7 attendees per session.



Parasol Teens Services (13 to 18 year olds):

Easter 2022 - (8 day holiday)

The young people spent three days at Wolvercote Young People's Centre, doing cooking, art, fitness and bushcraft with Mark. We were also able to get out and about, with one day spent at the cinema and bowling alley, three days spent in the city centre playing board games, eating out and taking part in a scavenger hunt. We also spent a day at Gravity trampoline park, where the young people enjoyed bouncing around on their extensive selection of trampolines.

Summer 2022 - (20 day holiday)

We were able to run a full schedule of activities this summer. For our 'in days', we were located at Wolvercote as usual and the young people participated in cooking, art, bushcraft, sports/fitness and filmmaking. Each week the young people also had the option of choosing between canoeing/kayaking or taking a variety of 'mystery tours' led by Phil, which involved visiting Science Oxford, making a music video at Nuneham House, an open-air bus tour, a formal food-tasting afternoon at a Chinese restaurant and a boat trip along the Thames. The idea behind these tours was to surprise and challenge the young people, strengthening soft skills and building resilience. These were treated as pilots and the young people gave their feedback, determining which activities to repeat in future holidays.

We were also able to run trips this year, which included RUSH trampoline park, a bowling then cinema trip, a trip to the city centre, outdoor laser tag, and a trip to Thorpe Park, giving the young people a chance to experience lots of activities that they wouldn't have been able to do over lockdown, and for some, hadn't had the opportunity to take part in before at all.

We topped the summer off with a celebration event, where family, friends and carers were invited along to celebrate the end of the summer and look back on the art and films the young people produced and to involve families in the kinds of activities we run at Parasol. We filled the garden with decorations and stalls selling arts and crafts, fired the pizza oven up, had a silent disco and showed a screening of the Parasol TV film.



October 2022 - (3 day holiday & Halloween party)

We ran three days of activities in October, including cinema & bowling, RUSH trampoline park and an in-day where the young people made Halloween-themed decorations ahead of the party, cooked food, played board games and participated in bushcraft with Mark. We then had a Halloween party on Saturday evening with a spooky dress code, food, drink, party games and a disco.

Christmas 2022 - (3 day holiday)

This winter, we took the young people bowling, followed by the cinema on the first day, had a Wolvercote 'in day' (cooking, Christmas crafts, sport, board games, arts & crafts and the option of playing dodgeball), and finished the holiday off with secret santa and a meal. For the secret santa, we met in the city centre and split into groups, allocated budgets for each young person and went shopping for their secret santa gifts. In the afternoon we met for lunch and exchanged gifts.

February 2023 - (2 day holiday)

Unfortunately we were only able to run for 2 days and with limited numbers in February because of staffing issues (COVID-related). We did enjoy spending time at the boardgame café in the city centre and visited Science Oxford, who hosted us for a blindfolded nature trail and an introduction to coding with Raspberry Pis.

Summer residential - (5 day residential holiday)

We were very pleased to have got the funding to be able to run the annual residential again this year in Kilvrough, Wales. The young people stayed for 4 nights and 5 days at Kilvrough Manor and spent lots of time out and about in the beautiful Welsh countryside and by the sea. The group was split into three teams, with each team being tasked to plan and host a themed dinner party on one night, while the other two teams went out for the day to the beach and a local town. The themes the teams chose this year were Tropical, Mexican and American, and picking a winner was extremely difficult!



Photo portraits on the Kilvrough coach

Youth Group – Wednesday evenings, 1.5 hrs

Youth Group ran as usual this year, with the young people coming to Tower Playbase after school to play board games, do arts and crafts, work on projects and cook and eat a meal.

Parasol Adult Services (18+):

Parasol Enterprise - Wednesday afternoons

Parasol Enterprise began as a pilot programme where our adult service users cooked a meal together, ate lunch together and discussed the planning of upcoming Parasol activities (originally called 'Wednesday Planning Group'). This went really well and is highly valued by the adults who attend. It has evolved over the months to include community volunteering (such as delivering newsletters and picking up litter around the neighbourhood), making Parasol branded gifts and

items to sell at our trading booth (such as hand-packed hot chocolate gift sets and a Parasol calendar), and planning ways to expand our user-made merchandise selection.

Lunch club - Thursday daytime

Beginning life as 'Thursday Lunch Club', the Parasol Lunch Club has developed over the last year and provides our young people with cooking and catering experience and local members of our community and NHS staff free baguettes or salads. Orders are made using an order form developed by the young people who attend, and local people can pick from a wide variety of ingredient options. We have received really good feedback from the community and order numbers are steadily on the rise.

Parasol Community Services:

Community Service:

- Northway Newsletter - Bi-monthly - working with local councillors to promote community cohesion.
- Northway Playday - Annually - working in partnership with OPA to provide a community Playday.

Stay & Play – Friday mornings

We piloted our first Stay & Play session for babies and toddlers aged 0-4 years with their caregivers in November 2022 and it has been a huge success. Parents and carers have the opportunity to sit down with a cup of tea or coffee and get to know other local families, while their babies and toddlers explore our sensory room, messy activities and age-appropriate toys and games. We ask for a suggested donation of £1 from anyone who is able to contribute.

We started off with small numbers but word spread quickly around our community and more families have been joining us every week.



Stay & play and swap shop

Northway Newsletter - Bi-monthly

Our Community newsletter was developed through our work with the Northway partnership. Funding through OCF enabled us to hire a member of our staff team to collect and collate stories and information from local organisations and residents and to print paper copies.

The newsletter is delivered by our Enterprise group and by local community volunteers arranged in liaison with our local councillor. It is also posted in local notice boards and shop windows, and a digital copy uploaded to the Northway website. This year we went from delivering around 200 physical copies to over 1,000.

Northway Newsletter has resulted in increased engagement with community resources and activities, an improved relationship with residents of Northway and its councillors, and increased knowledge of Parasol and what we offer.

Northway Playday - Annually

We worked in partnership with OPA to pilot the first Northway Playday in many years. The road outside our Playbase venue was closed and various street sports and creative projects were provided. Plans are in place for the Playday to take place annually on a larger scale.



Community projects have been piloted throughout the year

Parasol Youth Volunteering Programme (10-31 year-olds)

Our Youth Volunteering Programme has evolved over the last 20+ years in response to the needs and abilities of the young people we work with and our capacity to support their involvement.

In its earliest iterations the project was focused on recruiting non-disabled teenagers to help run projects and make it easier to recruit other young people. Gradually the project was enlarged to include disabled teenagers, refugees, young carers and disadvantaged young people identified through partnerships with local schools. The majority of volunteering took place in the Summer holidays and each year a member of our support staff team would step into the role.

With regular funding support from Oxford City Council we were able to develop the project to a point that long term funding could be secured from the Henry Smith Charity. This funding has allowed us to hire a full time project coordinator and provide year-round opportunities and more focused support.

Our dedication to inclusive practice means that we use consultation and feedback (both formal and informal) constantly to ensure CYP are being properly supported, feel heard and are given the best possible opportunity to participate positively. This regular consultation, consistently resulting in tangible adaptations to activities and procedures in response to feedback over a prolonged period have created a culture of positive participation.

Parasol youth volunteers play a vital role in promulgating this culture. Our volunteers help collect feedback from other young people, act as models of positive participation, help conduct informal feedback and form our youth panel, which helps select & plan our activities, fundraise for trips and take part in formal consultation.



We are particularly proud of our track record of hiring paid staff from our volunteer team. Currently 9 of our 35 strong team (25%) have been promoted through our volunteer project.

Our volunteering project allows young people to choose their level of involvement by offering different levels of responsibility. As young people progress they fill out application forms, attend interviews and take part in appraisals.

Roles & Responsibilities:

Junior Role Model (10-12 yrs)	Based at our Children's playscheme	Help serve drink & biscuits at morning break and participate positively	Receive 2 Junior Role model T-shirts.
Role Mode (13+ yrs)	Based at Choice days & Youth group	Participate positively	Receive 2 Role model T-shirts.
Volunteer (13+ yrs)	Based at Choice days & Youth group	Help run activities & participate positively	Fill out application form. Take part in appraisals. Receive 2 Volunteer T-shirts.
Senior Volunteer (15+ yrs)	Based at Choice days & Youth group	Help run activities, participate positively, shadow support staff & handle petty cash	Fill out application forms. Attend interview. Take part in appraisals. Undertake placements at our Children's playscheme. Receive 2 Senior Volunteer T-shirts.
Workforce Volunteer (18+ yrs)	Based at our Teen service	Work alongside support staff to deliver activities.	Fill out application form. Receive 2 Work Force T-shirts.

It has been a really successful year for the Volunteer Programme and numbers and enthusiasm for the project have more than bounced back post-pandemic.

Parasol supported 58 young people in completing 5,574 hrs of volunteering.

Plans for the Volunteering project include:

- Registering as a DofE centre
- Increased school links
- Placements at Pegasus theatre
- Toastie making fundrasing project
- Model behaviour project
- Northway litter pick
- 5 day sailing trip

Please request a copy of our Volunteer report (or see below) for a more in depth analysis of this project [■ Parasol Youth Volunteering Evaluation Report 2023FF.pdf](#)

8. Financial Review

The Trustees report an excess of expenditure over income in the year ended March 31 2023 of £41,350 (2022 - excess of expenditure over income of £30,404). A look at the underlying figures as shown in the Statement of Financial Activities for the two years shows that despite receiving more income than last year (an extra £65,438), expenses have risen considerably and we spent £76,384 more on raising funds and charitable activities than in the year ending 31 March 2022. This is due to a combination of factors. The cost of activities, groceries for cooking projects, overheads and staffing has increased significantly in-line with inflation and the cost of living crisis. Secondly, our activities in the year ending 31 March 2023 were all in-person compared to last year which was still impacted by pandemic restrictions, contributing to extra expenses.

Reserves at the end of the year to March 31 2023 stood at £54,844 (2022 - £96,194), a significant drop compared to the previous year. Section 10 on Reserves expands on our concerns and plans for next year.

On the face of it, the change in financial fortunes this year is worrying. On the other hand this is not unusual for Parasol. As a small charity, Parasol depends on raising funds on a year by year basis to provide the vital funding that tops up the regular grant funding received from Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council and the Henry Smith Charity. During the year ended March 31 2023, the Charity was able to access funding for a new wheelchair path in our garden.

It is not easy for the Trustees to cut costs which relate mostly to the provision of our programmes during school holidays. These programmes require high levels of seasonal staff in order to make the activities safe and enjoyable for the disabled and non-disabled children and teenagers the Charity works with. As the analysis in note 9 to the accounts shows, staff costs increased due to (a) an increase in staff recruitment to support post-pandemic levels of activity, (b) it was necessary to employ a full time Office Manager (and Volunteer Coordinator but this wage is covered by Henry Smith) to ensure sustainability of the charity, and (c) an increase in minimum wage from £9.50 to £10.42 for 23+yrs, £9.18 to £10.18 for 21-22yrs and £6.83 to £7.49 for 18-20yrs (non-applicable because we were paying £9.50 across the board before the pay increase so have maintained a lowest threshold of £9.50ph for staff under 20yrs). This resulted in an increase of expenditure of £35,897 in year ending March 31 2023. The full time staff have managed to maintain and even reduce expenditure in other areas – direct activity costs, and administrative and office costs.

9. Future Plans

Lottery funding - The success of our Community and Adult projects makes it possible to apply for 3 year Lottery funding to ensure the project can continue to develop and work towards future sustainability. (update - £215,739 over 3 years was successfully secured in Sept 23)

OCC commissioning - Our Short Breaks funding (£90,000 per year for 7 years for our Child & Teen holiday provision) comes to an end on 31st March 2024. These services will be recommissioned in Sept 2023. (update - £101,000 for 3 + 2 + 2 years was secured in January 2024)

HAF funding - We will be applying for Healthy Activity and Food funding to help fund places on our Child and Teen services for those in receipt of free school meals. Historically places for disadvantaged children & young people were funded through donations and grants but the cost of living crisis had significantly reduced this income. Initial application is to join the framework and then applications are made for each Easter, Summer & Christmas holidays. (update - we were successfully accepted on the HAF framework and secured funding for Summer 23 (£17,806) and places for Xmas 23)

Kitchen refurb - As we continue to develop our Adult and Community work it has become apparent that our existing kitchen is not fit for purpose. We plan to pursue funding to upgrade to a commercial kitchen. (update - £30,000 funding was secured through Tambor and OCF and work started in Jan 23)

DofE - In order to extend opportunities for our young people we are in discussions re becoming registered as a Duke of Edinburgh provider. (update - we became a provider in July 2023)

Sailing trip - Working with the Cirdan sailing trust we are planning a 5 day sailing trip in 2023. (update - with funding from Cirdan, Gosling foundation and numerous small donations we raised £15000 and the trip took place in early September 2023)

Adult & Community projects - We have plans to pilot a Tuesday Knit, Sew and Natter group and Adult Soup kitchen project in 2023. (update - Knit Sew and Natter pilot started in Sept 2023)

10. Reserves

The Charity's total reserves at March 31 2023 were £54,844 (2022 - £96,194). Of these reserves, £48,190 (2022 - £16,560) are restricted. These funds as set out in Note 13 are only available for specific purposes. £6,654 (2022 - £79,634) are unrestricted funds and are available to be used to support any aspect of the Charity's total expenditure. This is a considerable drop in reserves from last year which is concerning. However, the Charity has secured additional funding from The National Lottery of £215,739 over three years (£68,821 per year), with the first instalment due Autumn 2023. It will be vital to continue to identify further funding for the ongoing financial health of the Charity next year from other sources also.

The Trustees continue to be concerned about reducing reserves and are well aware that the charity remains vulnerable to any changes in the availability of funding to small entities such as the Parasol Project. With the 3 year grant made available in 2022/23 by the Henry Smith Charity, the ongoing funding from Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council and the National Lottery Grant, there are revenue streams that provide a foundation on which the Charity can build its reserves once again. As stated in this Report in previous years, the Trustees feel, because the uncertain nature of other individual and grant revenues, that a target of £100,000 of unrestricted reserves is very reasonable. As can be seen from the financial outcomes for this year, to March 31 2023, an increase in expenses can have a significant impact on reserves. This is challenging for Parasol as a large proportion of its expenditure relates to staffing which is vital for projects to run.

The Trustees will continue to monitor the financial reports produced by the Office Manager during the year ahead. We are hopeful that the securing of the National Lottery funding will have a positive impact on the year ending March 31 2024, but will continue to look for more sources of longer term funding to ensure that the Charity can boost its core funding and that the level of the reserves can be rebuilt to one that provides the Executive Director and his staff team with security in making day to day financial decisions. On the other hand, the Trustees are well aware of the difficult economic conditions in which Parasol is currently operating and locating sources of funding will be challenging. The Trustees continue to be aware of the Charity Commissioners' guidance in "Charity Reserves: Building Resilience" and indeed this guidance is what underlies their goal of establishing unrestricted reserves of £100,000.

11. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Parasol Project CIO is a charitable incorporated organisation registered by the Charity Commission and governed by a constitution dated March 24 2020. Anyone over the age of 18 years old and corporate bodies may become members of the charity.

Appointment of New Trustees

The Board seeks to widen its membership and at the same time broaden the skills set that the Board has to draw upon. Among others, new Trustees with skills in fundraising, charity law and human resources would be particularly welcome. If such skills can be found from amongst the parents of users of the charity's services, it would be particularly helpful. Potential Trustees will meet with existing Board Members and will attend at least 2 Trustee Meetings before being considered for appointment as Trustees.

Organisation

The Trustees of the charity are responsible for the managing the affairs of the charity. The Trustees are elected from amongst the members of the charity at the Annual General Meeting. One third of Trustees retire at each Annual General Meeting and may stand for re-election. There need to be at least 3 Trustees with no upper limit to the number of Trustees. The members or the Trustees can appoint a new Trustees from among the membership at any time during the year.

Trustee Induction and Training

The Trustees will continue in the coming year seek to develop an induction process for new members of the Board. This process would include the provision of Charity Commission documents about the responsibilities of Trustees, copies of the charity's governing document, the latest Report and Accounts and induction into the work of the charity, its aims and objectives and the roles and responsibilities of members of the Board and key staff.

Risk Management

The trustees are fully aware of their duty to identify and review risks to which the charity is exposed. Reviewing the charity's principal risks and uncertainties is done informally at its regular monthly/six weekly meetings. In the last two years, the Trustees have become aware of the financial risks that the Charity might face. With the significant financial contribution received from Oxfordshire County Council, the Trustees are aware that there is a financial risk if for any reason this funding ceased to be available.

12. Trustees' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operations.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which 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 Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and

Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on: December 6 2023 and signed on behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Wadsworth', with a stylized flourish at the end.

D M Wadsworth – Trustee (Chair)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Parasol Project CIO

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended March 31 2023 which are set out on pages 22 to 31.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



D Pluck FCA
Chartered Accountant
December 2022

Wenn Townsend
30 St Giles
Oxford OX1 3LE

The Parasol Project CIO

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
		2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
Donations and Legacies	2	20,941	199,962	220,903	54,734	133,174	187,908
Charitable Activities		69,881	-	69,881	319	33,420	33,739
Investments	3	913	-	913	1,025	-	1,025
Other		413	-	413	4,000	-	4,000
Total		92,148	199,962	292,110	60,078	166,594	226,672
Expenditure							
Cost of Raising Funds	5	14,862	-	14,862	11,653	1,880	13,533
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	6 & 7	150,266	168,332	318,598	47,931	195,612	243,543
Total		165,128	168,332	333,460	59,584	197,492	257,076
Net Income/(Expenditure)		(72,980)	31,630	(41,350)	494	-30,898	-30,404
Transfer Between Funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		(72,980)	31,630	(41,350)	494	-30,898	-30,404
Reconciliation of Funds:							
Total Funds Transferred In	15	79,634	16,560	96,194	79,140	47,458	126,598
Total Funds Carried Forward	14 & 15	£6,654	£48,190	£54,844	£79,634	£16,560	£96,194

The Parasol Project CIO

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	10	8,914	14,563
Current Assets			
Debtors and Prepayments	11	5,897	8,934
Funds on Deposit		11,299	51,299
Cash at Bank and in Hand		41,755	29,190
		58,950	89,423
Less: Current Liabilities			
Amounts falling due within a year	12	(13,020)	(7,792)
Net Current Assets		45,930	81,631
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		54,844	96,194
Accruals and Deferred Income		-	-
Net Assets		£54,844	£96,194
The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted Income Funds	13	48,190	54,257
Unrestricted Income Funds	14	6,654	41,937
		£54,844	£96,194

The financial statements on pages 22 to 31 were approved by the Trustees on December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Dan Wadsworth
Chair of the Board

The Parasol Project CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2023

1. Accounting Policies

a. Accounting Basis

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 and the Charities Act 2011).

The Parasol 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 notes.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

b. Depreciation

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and valued at historical cost. From April 1 2019 the cost of fixed assets are being written off using the straight line method of depreciation, a change from the previously utilised reducing balance method. The rates of depreciation are:

Office equipment and fittings	25% per annum
Plant and Machinery	25% per annum
Sensory Room Equipment	25% per annum
Leasehold Improvements	10% per annum

c. Income Recognition

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.

Donations and grants are recognised when the charity has been notified of both the amount and settlement date.

Legacies are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate and when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be reliably measured by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank or deposit taking institution.

d. Expenditure Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The allocation of support and governance costs is analysed in note 6.

e. Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

f. Cost of Raising Funds

The cost of generating funds consists of staff costs, subscriptions to on-line fundraising sites, fundraising advertising and associated costs.

g. Charitable Activities

The cost of charitable activities includes governance costs and an apportionment of support costs as shown in note 7.

h. Volunteer Time

The value of services donated by volunteers is not reflected in the accounts.

i. Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity. It is not, therefore, liable for tax on income derived from its charitable activities.

j. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted Income Funds

Unrestricted Funds are funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. These comprise a general fund plus designated funds set aside out of unrestricted funds by the Trustees to provide for planned projects and other known contingencies.

Restricted Income Funds

These are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor. Further details of each fund are disclosed in notes 14 and 15.

k. Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are written off against income in the year they are payable.

2. Donations and Legacies

	2023	2022
	£	£
Local Authority Grants	95,600	126,285
Other Grants (£1,000 and over)	117,225	46,765
Small Grants and Donations (Including Gift Aid)	8,079	14,858
Total	<u>220,903</u>	<u>187,908</u>

3. Investment Income

The Charity's investment income of £913.08 (2022 - £1,025) arises from renting out space at Tower Playbase (£882.50) and bank interest received (£30.58).

4. Net Outgoing Resources

This is stated after charging:

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation	5,650	5,650
Independent Examiner's Fees	2,500	2,134

5. Cost of Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	2022 £
Staff	5,201		2,201	6,129
Fundraising Admin Fees	289		289	216
Fundraising Consultant	9,372		9,372	7,188
	14,862		14,862	13,533

6. Analysis of Governance and Support Costs

	General Support £	Governanc e £	Total £	Basis of Apportionment
Equipment and Other Asset Costs	6,046	-	6,046	)
Building and Accommodation Costs	10,353	-	10,353	) Allocated as a %
Office Costs	10,872	-	10,872	) Based on Project
Salaries, Teacher Fees & Consultants	41,814	3,468	45,282	) Salary Costs
Other Staff Costs	3,473	-	3,473	)
Independent Examination	-	2,842	2,842	Governance
Bad debts	3,303	-	3,303	
	75,861	6,310	82,171	

7. Charitable Expenditure Analysis

	Total £	Choice Days £	Playbase £	Volunteer Project £	Dance £	Youth Group £	Parasol Plus £	Child Term £	Adult Parasol £	Governance £	Training £
Salary Costs	156,259	48,135	55,983	20,385	1,951	6,501	196	5,667	11,050	3,467	2,923
Choice Day Expenses	52,275	52,275	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Child Term Time Expenses	525	-	-	-	-	-	-	525	-	-	-
Adult Parasol Expenses	6,397	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,397	-	-
Parasol Plus Expenses	48	-	-	-	-	-	48	-	-	-	-
Playbase Expenses	6,894	-	6,894	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teen Dance Expenses	11,176	-	-	-	11,176	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teen Youth Group Expenses	4,094	-	-	-	-	4,094	-	-	-	-	-
Volunteer Project	2,228	-	-	2,228	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Independent Examination	2,842	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,842	-
Support Costs	75,861	24,365	28,338	10,319	988	3,291	99	2,868	5,593	-	-
	318,598	124,775	91,214	32,933	14,114	13,886	343	9,061	23,040	6,309	2,923

Expenditure on charitable activities was £318,598 (2022 - £243,543) of which £150,266 (2022 - £47,931) was unrestricted and £168,332 (2022 - £195,612) was restricted.

8. Governance Costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	2022 £
Staff	3,468		3,468	3,287
Independent Examiner's Fees	2,842		2,842	2,134
	6,310	0	6,310	5,421

9. Total Resources Expended

	Staff Costs £	Other Costs £	Total 2023 £	2022 £
Charitable Activities	196,983	121,616	318,598	243,543
Cost of Generating Funds	5,201	9,661	14,862	13,533
	202,184	131,277	333,460	257,076

Staff Costs Comprise:

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries Staff	192,423	156,526
Social Security Costs	6,422	8,232
Pension Costs	3,340	2,573
	<u>202,184</u>	<u>167,331</u>

The average number of staff during the period was 4 (2022 - 3) full time. 40 (2022 - 50) part time and sessional workers have supported the charity's holiday activities and weekly youth and dance groups.

No employees received emoluments of more than £60,000 per annum (2022 - no more than £60,000).

The total remuneration of the key management personnel - the Executive Director - including employer's National Insurance and Pension contributions was £36,906.72 (2022 - £34,691).

10. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Leasehold Improvements £	Sensory Rm Equipment £	Plant and Machinery £	Fixtures and Fittings £	Total £
<u>Cost</u>					
As at April 1 2022	8,592	16,609	15,134	2,060	42,395
Additions in the Year	-	-	-	-	-
As at March 31 2023	<u>8,592</u>	<u>16,609</u>	<u>15,134</u>	<u>2,060</u>	<u>42,395</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>					
As at April 1 2022	1,933	9,343	14,590	1,967	27,832
Provision in the Year	859	4,152	544	94	5,650
As at March 31 2023	<u>2,792</u>	<u>13,495</u>	<u>15,134</u>	<u>2,060</u>	<u>33,482</u>
Net Book Value at 31 March 2023	<u>5,800</u>	<u>3,114</u>			<u>8,914</u>
Net Book Value at 31 March 2022	<u>6,659</u>	<u>7,266</u>	<u>544</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>14,563</u>

11. Debtors and Prepayments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Activity Fees Receivable	5,897	7,876
Northway Project	-	870
Other Debtors	-	188
	<u>5,897</u>	<u>8,934</u>

12. Creditors: Amounts Falling due Within One Year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Tax, National Ins & Pensions	3,403	1,877
Independent Examiner's Fees	2,500	2,200
Consultancy	4,872	3,000
Accruals and Accounts Payable	1,515	714
Fees Paid in Advance	730	-
	<u>13,020</u>	<u>7,791</u>

13. Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income in the Year	Expenditure in the Year	Balance March 31 2023
	£	£	£	£
Volunteer Project		50,900	-34,425	16,475
Building and Sensory Room	6,508		-5,011	1,497
Holiday Activities		102,800	-102,800	-
Teenage Services	6,052	3,091	-9,143	-
Northway Community Fund	4,000	9,940	-13,940	-
Parasol Plus				-
OCF		18,085	-3,013	15,072
Wheelchair Path		15,146		15,146
	<u>16,560</u>	<u>199,962</u>	<u>-168,332</u>	<u>48,190</u>

Comparatives for Previous Year

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income in the Year	Expenditure in the Year	Balance March 31 2022
	£	£	£	£
Volunteer Project	15,282		-15,282	
Building and Sensory Room	11,519		-5,011	6,508
Holiday Activities	476	147,351	-147,827	
Teenage Services	11,050	14,234	19,232	6,052
Evaluation	1,880		-1,880	
Parasol United	4,000		-4,000	
Non-Contact Pandemic Programme	3,251	625	-3,876	
Northway Community Fund		4,000		4,000
Parasol Plus		384	-384	
	47,458	166,594	-159,028	16,560

Represented by:

	Fixed Assets	Cash at Bank	Total
	£	£	£
Balance at March 31 2023	8,914	39,276	48,190
Balance at March 31 2022	14,563	1,997	16,560

14. Unrestricted Income Funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance at April 1 2022	79,634	79,140
Incoming Resources	92,148	60,078
Expenditure	-165,128	-59,584
Balances at March 31 2023	6,654	79,634

Represented by:

Current Assets	19,674	87,426
Creditors and Deferred Income	-13,020	-7,792
	6,654	79,634

15. Financial Commitments

As at 31 March 2023 (2022 - Nil) there are no annual commitments under non-cancellable leases.

16. Trustee's Remuneration

No Trustee (2022 - Nil) received or waived any emoluments during the year. No out of pocket expenses (2022 - Nil) were reimbursed to Trustees in the year.

INCLUDE INVOLVE INSPIRE

CHILD SERVICE

Tower Playbase - Holiday Playscheme

Providing a full programme of age-appropriate activities for disabled & non-disabled children (5-12yrs)

TEEN SERVICE

Choice Days - Holiday activities

Providing a full programme of age-appropriate activities for disabled & non-disabled teenagers (13-18yrs) split between IN DAYS and TRIP DAYS.

Kilvrough - Residential holiday

Providing a 5-day Summer residential at Kilvrough in Wales. Activities are split between outward bound and centre based.

Volunteering project - Year round

Providing an extensive youth volunteering programme aimed at developing independence & work skills. We actively recruit paid staff from our team of teenage volunteers.

Youth group - Term time, weekly

Providing an inclusive, evening youth club based around art, board games, cooking and eating dinner together.

ADULT SERVICE

Parasol Enterprise - Term time weekly

Supporting disabled adults in undertaking community facing activities.

Parasol Lunch Club - Term time weekly

Supporting disabled adults in providing free baguettes and salad bowls to vulnerable local residents, NHS staff and food bank volunteers.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Stay & Play - Term time, weekly

Providing parents/carers with a warm, friendly space to interact with their babies and toddlers (0-4yrs) including a children's clothes swap shop and singing.

Northway Newsletter - Bi-monthly

Working with local councillors to promote community cohesion.

Northway Playday - Annually

Working in partnership with OPA to provide a community Playday.

THE PARASOL PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1188736

Accounts



The Parasol Project CIO

INCLUDE

INVOLVE

INSPIRE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1188736

Executive Summary

Parasol's 26th year of providing inclusive activities for children & young people from Oxfordshire has been both challenging and uplifting.

As we came out of lockdown and began working to get back to 'normal' the charity faced a number of challenges. Disruption to our services impacted on staff retention & recruitment, funding opportunities were much reduced, for the 2nd year in a row we had very restricted intake of new children and young people, venues we have happily used for years shut down and prices increased significantly. However, the enthusiasm of children, young people and staff to be back at Parasol and the continued support of our partners helped us overcome these challenges and develop some really exciting new strands of work in response to the needs of the community we serve.

The number of face-to-face activities Parasol delivered this year is testament to the commitment of our volunteers and staff. Alongside managing to run holiday activities for both children and teens throughout the year we are particularly proud of the 5-day residential holiday at Kilvrough Manor in Wales we provided for 21 young people. At a time when staff could easily have stayed away, we could always rely on a core team who made sure children's needs were met and barriers to inclusion removed.

We are particularly thankful for the dedication of our Playbase Coordinator, Kat Smart, who in her 8 years at Parasol has progressed from being a playworker at our Summer playscheme to running the whole Children's Service, managing our venue in Northway and working to develop community facing services in response to the cost-of-living crisis. During lockdown, when our management team was reduced, Kat's energy and competence ensured participants were not inconvenienced as we worked to raise funds and recruit new staff whilst still providing safe, inclusive activities for some of the most vulnerable children in the county.

During the year ended March 31 2022 (2021/22) income fell significantly to £226,672 (2020/21 - £348,717) and expenditure also fell to £257,076 (2020/21 - £264,488). This resulted in a deficit for the year of £29,723. The fall in income was the result of the withdrawal/loss of various sources of funding made available to employers and "businesses" by the Government to protect them from the potential financial impacts of COVID19. There was a parallel fall in donations and grants received from individuals and grant funding Trusts. Following the pandemic, charities like Parasol did not fall into the funding priorities of many potential grantors; funders have been focusing on organisations dealing directly with the impact of COVID19. Parasol continued to benefit from reduced staffing costs, and savings on office overheads. However, as the Charity's activities began to recover from the impact of the pandemic these savings were limited. The Trustees are pleased to report that a successful bid has been made to the Henry Smith Charity. The successful, Volunteer project that ended in September 2021 will in effect be extended for a further 3 years starting in late Spring 2022.

Output / we facilitated:

- 43 play schemes at Tower Playbase for an average No. of 22 children (5-12yrs) each day
- 38 Choice Days for average number of 20 teens (13-18+yrs) each day
- 31 weekly virtual youth club sessions attended by 20 different young people, avg. No. 10 a session
- 29 weekly dance club sessions for 11 children and young people
- Parasol also worked with 41 young volunteers this year

The effectiveness of Parasol's services are regularly monitored and evaluated. Firstly, to ensure that all stakeholders have a say in the development of the charity; secondly, to ensure that Parasol meets their objectives; thirdly, to learn from what is not working well and finally, to celebrate successes. Our evaluation report is available on request.

	Total participants	Disabled participants	Non-disabled participants	Total Hours delivered
Child Service	106	57	49	4360
Teen Service	76	61	15	5552
Virtual Project	28	26	2	566

The Parasol Project CIO

Reference and Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number: 1188736

Principle Address: Tower Playbase, Maltfield Road, Northway, Oxford OX3 9RG

Trustees: Dan Wadsworth (Chair)

Clive Gillam (Treasurer)

Rebecca Denson-Cleaver

Anneke Hackmann (Appointed September 15 2021)

Anne Schuster

Key Management Personnel: Dan Norey – Executive Director





The Parasol Project CIO

Contents of the Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Contents

Executive Summary	2
Report of the Trustees	5
Independent Examiner's Report	18
Statement of Financial Activities	19
Balance Sheet.....	20
Notes	21



Christmas wreath making

The Parasol Project CIO

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

By a resolution dated March 31 2021 the Trustees of the Parasol Project CIO (Charity No: 1188736) agreed to take on the assets, liabilities and functions of the unincorporated charity, the Parasol Project (Charity No: 1055914) ("the Transferor"). In so doing the Trustees of the Transferor charity have sought to take advantage of the added level of security available to Charitable Incorporated Organisations ("CIO's"). The new corporate nature of the CIO offers the Trustees Limited Liability and the new Constitution provides the charity with a greater sense of security and freedom to work with a wider range of disabled and non-disabled children, teenagers and young adults in the years ahead. As will be seen from the remainder of this Report, the Parasol Project's Mission and Objectives are broadly unchanged, and our passion for supporting those who use our services is undiminished.

The Trustees now present their report with the financial statements of the Parasol Project CIO ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2022. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2015).

1. Our vision

The Parasol Project want to see a world where every disabled child and young person can enjoy the same rights and opportunities as their non-disabled peers including access to out of school play, social and creative activities.

2. Our mission

To support young disabled people to have 'full and effective participation and inclusion in society' (UN Convention on the Rights of the Person with Disabilities), to unlock their potential and be more confident, independent and compassionate individuals.

3. Our values

We believe that disabled children and young people should enjoy the same rights and opportunities as other children and young people as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including access to activities that suit their needs, abilities and aspirations. Disabled peoples' engagement with culture and the arts alongside and on equal terms with their able-bodied peers is an important element of an inclusive society.

4. The importance of inclusivity

In the spirit of inclusion, we also work with a number of other disadvantaged groups including siblings of those with disabilities, children in care, care leavers, young carers, and refugees.

Parasol have developed a unique inclusive culture allowing us to proactively encourage these differing groups to share and take ownership of our activities. This has a powerful impact on participants. Parasol Project stakeholders explain the value and impact of this inclusive ethos at: www.parasolproject.org/why-inclusivity



5. Objectives and activities

As set out in the charity's constitution the Parasol Project objectives are to provide facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation for children and young people with physical or learning difficulties. Such facilities are to be comparable to those available to the children and young people's non-disabled siblings and contemporaries and are to promote: (1) their educational, physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing, and, (2) equal opportunities.

These objectives shape the activities that are undertaken by the charity. Not only does the Charity provide activities that offer experiences comparable to those available to non-disabled children and young people but these are enjoyed alongside non-disabled siblings and contemporaries of our beneficiaries. Inclusivity and equal opportunities are key hallmarks and features of all activities planned and delivered by the charity.

In planning the work of the Charity, the Trustees take due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit, including the guidance "Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)". The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity meets that guidance in that it offers its activities to any child or young person with physical or learning difficulties and indeed makes every effort to reach out to those families who for economic and/or social reasons find it challenging to provide appropriate and inclusive leisure or recreational activities for their children. The Trustees are happy that participants in the charity's activities are from a very wide spectrum of social and economic backgrounds, particularly those at risk of social exclusion, and this is fundamental to improving their wellbeing by making them feel valued and included, and participating in age appropriate activities.

In a typical year the charity meets its objectives in five main ways (as listed here): during the coronavirus pandemic the Charity's ability to meet these objectives have been severely limited. These objectives continue to be central to our mission:

1. Child Service: Holidays - Providing a full programme of age-appropriate activities for disabled & non-disabled children (5-12yrs) from its base (Tower Playbase in Oxford)
2. Teen Service: Holidays - Providing a full programme of age-appropriate activities for disabled & non-disabled teenagers (13-18yrs)
3. Teen Service: Holidays - Providing a 5-day Summer residential holiday
4. Teen Service - (Holidays & Term time) Providing an extensive youth volunteering programme (developing independence & work skills)
5. Teen Service: Term time - Providing a weekly, term time, inclusive youth club

The Trustees set out in the remainder of this Report how the Charity adapted to lockdown and other COVID19 restrictions and managed to continue to provide many of these services and support our beneficiaries during the past 12 months.

In addition, the charity aims to meet additional objectives:

- To develop/share the knowledge and skills underpinning The Parasol Project approach
- To develop the staff team to deliver the best service possible
- To optimise the income available to support the delivery and development of our work
- To become a local and regional example of good practice through our inclusive ethos
- To diversify our fundraising streams to ensure financial sustainability of the charity for our beneficiaries

6. Beneficiaries of the work

Our beneficiaries are primarily aged from 5-18 years old and our volunteers range in age up to 25. Many live in a variety of challenging circumstances. And, many have significant communication challenges, physical disabilities, autism, learning difficulties and some also have challenging behaviour. These children, young people and young adults can face a series of barriers, both practical and complex, and this often results in exclusion from active participation in society. This can have a profound impact on their lives.

In the spirit of inclusion, the Charity also works with other disadvantaged children. For example, siblings of disabled children and young people are often disadvantaged as they have fewer opportunities for social or holiday activities than their peers. They often have caring responsibilities and they may feel neglected within the family because of high support needs of their disabled sibling. The Charity also supports children in care. Research shows that children in the care system experience significantly worse mental health concerns than their peers, and a high proportion experience poor health, and poor educational and social outcomes after leaving care. We also worked alongside young carers. Research highlights that these young carers are more likely to have mental health problems, poorer school attendance than average, and are more likely to be identified as having SEN. Finally, we also support young refugees. These children also experience significant issues due to their circumstances and benefit greatly from being involved in the activities offered by the Parasol Project.

This year Parasol supported 182 beneficiaries: 106 children aged 5-12, and 76 young people aged 13-30. Of the 182, 67% have significant and complex physical disabilities, learning difficulties and/or Autism, and 25% were from other disadvantaged groups including: siblings of disabled children, children in care, young carers and young refugees. Additionally, a significant number of these children and young people are eligible for free school meals.



7. Equal opportunities statement

The Parasol Project is committed to providing equality of opportunity for the children, young people, adults, volunteers, professional practitioners, families and carers with whom it works. It values and respects their diversity. Parasol welcomes difference in its staff and volunteers. It is also working to create equal access to opportunities for paid employment and voluntary involvement while continuing to base selection and promotion solely on the ability to meet the requirements of the post. This is irrespective of race, colour, ethnic or national origins, religion, disability, gender, sexuality, age, marital status, responsibility for dependants, economic status or political views. The Parasol Project is committed to taking active steps to address and eliminate unfair or unlawful discrimination or prejudice where these are identified in the organisation's procedures or practices.

8. Quality assurance

All policies are reviewed annually to ensure they remain relevant and up to date. We have a quality assurance system and policies for health and safety, children and vulnerable adults' protection, safeguarding, equal opportunities, whistleblowing, recruitment of ex-offenders and storage and handling of disclosure information. We are committed to improving quality and minimising risk and to deliver excellent value for money in all aspects of our work. We are conscious of the need to strike a realistic balance between administration and service delivery, and to ensure that whilst having a good protective framework of systems and procedures, we nevertheless devote most of our energies and resources to deliver an effective range of services. The effectiveness of our services are regularly monitored and evaluated (consultation with stakeholders), firstly to acknowledge what we do well and secondly, to review and learn from what is not working so well. This ensures we use our resources effectively and provide the best service to our beneficiaries.

9. Background of the charity

The Parasol Project was launched as an independent unincorporated charity in 1996 and was set up by parents of disabled children in order to fill a gap in provision. On March 24 2020 a new charity, the Parasol Project CIO was registered at the Charity Commission. This charity has a constitution based on that recommended by the Charity Commission and objectives that allow Parasol to work with young adults. On April 1, 2022 the assets and liabilities, and activities of the original charity were transferred to the Parasol Project CIO and the Charity's activities have continued as before. Parasol remains an Oxfordshire charity embedded at the base of a large tower block in Oxford and now has 25 years' experience successfully delivering services to children/young people with disabilities. Our profile and reputation has continued to grow during this time in the field of youth volunteering and inclusive practice.

10. Parasol Project Staff

The Parasol Project has capacity to deliver its activity programme with the support from highly skilled and experienced staff. Our team of Enablers (support staff) are recruited through our volunteer programme, links with local schools and recruitment sites. Our Enablers ensure activities are safe and supportive by handing personal care needs, supporting young people in managing challenging behaviour and modelling positive communication. In an average year Parasol would maintain a team of around 40 Enablers to support our holiday & term time activities. Most staff tend to stay with the charity for between 2 and 5 years, We would normally recruit around 5 to 15 new staff each year as experienced staff move on to full time employment. Due to the pandemic our reduced provision meant that we did not recruit new staff for 2 years. This will obviously impact the make up of our staff team in the next few years and will necessitate an oversized new intake in 22/23.



11. Achievements and performance (2021-22)

This year, our team of enthusiastic and energetic Enablers and Volunteers has delivered an exciting range of inclusive, age-appropriate activities for children, young people and young adult users.

Parasol Children's Service (5-12 year olds): Even as we gradually came out of lockdown, the impact of the coronavirus pandemic has challenged staff and enablers to find safe ways in which to deliver services to children during the year to March 31 2022. The charity managed to provide the following programmes during the year:



Easter 2021

Theme: Spring/Easter (2 week holiday)

The children who attended over the Easter holiday were split into two separate bubbles of 15 children in each for each week. Week one catered for 15 children in 'red bubble' and week two provided provision for 15 different children in 'blue bubble'. Both groups enjoyed sessions from Mark and Fusion of spring and easter themed art and bushcraft activities. This was our last holiday of working with a capacity of 15 children a day - ever since this has at least doubled.

May 2021 Half Term

Theme: Festival week (4 day holiday)

For this holiday, we made the decision to not bubble the children as it felt safe, however sessions were still capped at lower than maximum capacity (30 children a day) As well as our usual Bushcraft with Mark and Art from Fusion sessions, children also engaged with a visit from Youpi Messy who provided sensory tray activities that were accessible for everybody.

Summer 2021

Theme: The World (5 weeks planned, 4 weeks delivered)

It was a vibrant summer including bushcraft with Mark, art with Fusion, a visit from Youpi Messy and two visits from Bright Sparks. Unfortunately, the last week of our programme had to be cancelled and adapted to online Zoom sessions. This involved the distribution of accompanying packs of activities which children engaged with whilst online with our playleader and enablers.



October 2021 Half Term

Theme: Autumn & Halloween (3 day holiday)

The children enjoyed a variety of events from art to bushcraft (for our annual treasure hunt soup!), a visit from Youpi Messy and a visit from Mr Muddle's Magic Show which is always a crowd-pleaser. A Halloween party finished off the holiday where staff and children dressed up, danced and played games. Children enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate together and have a party which is something they missed during the pandemic.



Christmas 2021

Theme: Winter & Christmas (4 days planned, 2 days delivered)

Our plan was to run three days of winter themed activities and then a day of full-on Christmas celebrations. However, with multiple reports of positive cases, we made the decision to cancel the remaining two days of the holiday. Despite this, we still managed to have a scavenger hunt, bake shortbread and make lots of Christmas themed artwork.

February 2022 Half Term

Theme: Our Environment (3 day holiday)

For this holiday, bushcraft with Mark was back! This fitted perfectly with our theme centred around exploring nature. Therefore, we spent a lot of time in the garden searching, learning and getting muddy in the mud kitchen. Meanwhile our art projects focussed on using recycled materials, repurposing things to create new masterpieces.

Parasol Teens Services (13 to 18 year olds): As with the children accessing Parasol's programmes, the staff worked hard to devise activities for Teens that could be delivered safely under pandemic conditions. During this difficult year, these comprised:

HOLIDAYS

Easter 2021

(8 day holiday)

The young people were bubbled into two groups of 15 and had a week's worth of activities each. Most days, we were based at Wolvercote Young People's Centre. Although two of these days were filled with our usual activities of cooking, art, fitness and bushcraft with Mark; on the Fridays, we had a special treat from 'Roll with me sushi' which was a new experience for many of the young people who got involved. Our other day each week, we visited Science Oxford's venue - Stansfeld Outdoor Education Centre. We took full advantage of the ample woodland by running a scavenger hunt which involved exploring nature and teambuilding.



May 2021

(4 day holiday)

Although young people were not bubbled for this holiday, numbers were capped at 25 a day and we only used outdoor spaces or privately hired venues. As well as two Wolvercote days, we ran a 'cinema & bowling' day and an 'Outdoor day' where young people were split into two groups to do either Canoeing at Riverside or Pedalo-ing in town. Our cinema and bowling day was based in East Oxford at the Ultimate Picture Palace and South Park where young people enjoyed popcorn whilst watching the "Avengers" and human bowling in the sun. This was a lovely taste of what we expected to run during the summer...



Summer 2021

(9 day face-to-face holiday, 7 cancelled)

We planned to run a total of 16 days over the summer and a celebration event. Unfortunately, after just two days of provision, a key member of staff and several young people tested positive for COVID. To replace the activities that we could not run face-to-face we did manage to run virtual activities which included games, cooking, yoga, fitness and drama whilst we were all isolating at home. As we were determined to pay staff even if activities were cancelled, we organised online activities to keep young people stimulated and engaged and resident artist, Mani, was redirected to produce a painting which we could sell at our end of summer celebration.

For our 'in days', we were located at Wolvercote Young People's Centre where we had access to a kitchen, art space, sports hall and much outdoor space. We made the most of this space, spreading people out as much as possible to reduce transmission. One of the highlight projects of the summer was our comeback of 'Parasol TV'. This is a comedy drama project where the young people create short scenes based on popular television shows including nature documentaries and the news.

We also managed to make it to Cotswold Wildlife Park and even fit in a couple of sessions of canoeing down on the Isis thanks to our partnership with Oxford Canoe & Kayak Club. The young people appreciated the feeling of normality as we did these trips whilst also enjoying the opportunity to get active in the outdoors.

Celebration event - In order to keep participants safe we ran our end of summer event from our venue in Northway. We filled the garden with gazebo market stalls selling crafts produced during the summer activity days, ran a DIY pizza making stand, sold tombola tickets and danced with silent disco headphones under fairy flights and bunting. The Parasol TV film was shown throughout the night in 2 separate halls to audiences of 10 people per room.

Summer residential

(5 day residential holiday)

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic we managed to take 21 young people to Kilvrough in Wales for 5 days at the end of the Summer. Staff & young people were tested on the morning of departure and on each morning of the trip. We hired a minibus to allow us to respond to any positive cases during the trip (we had one young person who had to be driven home on day 2).

The trip was a real success. Both young people and staff were able to go on long walks, eat meals together, play games and visit the beach (every day)

October 2021

(2 day holiday & Halloween party)

After the disappointment of having to cancel so many days in the Summer we opted to keep activities local. We ran 2 'in days' involving Nerf Wars, Lego team building challenge, lantern making and cooking. Young people and staff dressed up for an evening Halloween party in a private room at Atomic Burger.

Christmas 2021

(3 day holiday, 1 day and party cancelled)

We planned four 'in days' at Christmas and a party. Young people & staff were split into groups and undertook various seasonal themed challenges - including tree decorating and wrapping a member of the team as a gift. Young people were also supported in wrapping a box of chocolates up as a gift for a significant person in their lives. Sadly, when several young people had to drop out of day 4 when their family members reported as symptomatic, we felt it was necessary to protect young people and staff by cancelling remaining activities.

February 2022

(2 day holiday)

We ran two 'in days' over half term. Activities included bushcraft, cooking, arts & crafts and film making.



Summer 2021

TERM TIME

Youth Group

Virtual Youth – Thursday Evenings, 1.5 hrs

This session was our weekly get together to check-in. We would share how things are going including any worries the young people had or successes that had occurred during the week. Then, we would all get involved with a quiz which was made by one of the young people - themes ranged from musical theatre to food to lego. Sometimes parents/ carers would accompany their young people to support them.

Face-to-face – Wednesday Evenings, 2 hrs

When it was safe to do so, we resumed our Wednesday youth group sessions. However, where they had previously been based at East Oxford Community Centre, we started running from our venue, Tower Playbase. Despite the size of our kitchen, we succeed in preparing hot, healthy meals for all attending. We also play board games, socialise, do various art projects and check-in with everyone to ensure they are doing ok.

Dance – Saturday Mornings, ZOOM 1 hr, Face-to-face 1hr

Dance ran virtually over ZOOM and then, when possible, face-to-face. These sessions were run by our dance lead Sophie who would structure each session with a check-in and warm up followed by learning some

choreography to a popular tune! We would then finish off with a dance game and warm down. We organised a Christmas Dance Show in December and became part of the Shaping Destiny project with other partners including Oxford University and Body Politic which started in the following April.

Zoom Games Night – Tuesday Evenings, 1.5hrs

We would convene on ZOOM every Tuesday evening to play board games online including Ticket to Ride, Catan and Jackbox. These games would encourage socialisation, problem solving and fun. As the 'break out room' function of ZOOM allowed us to have one session with lots of small groups, this allowed a calmer, quieter space for those who wanted socialisation without the intensity of bigger sessions.

Cooking with Dan – Sunday Mornings, 1 hour (sometimes 1.5hrs)

Young people were sent quick, healthy ingredients lists - usually consisting of things in their cupboards - and a list of equipment they would need. They then logged onto a ZOOM meeting on a Sunday morning and were taught how to prepare the meal alongside their peers. These sessions were usually attended by the young people with their parents/carers which created a lovely atmosphere and was socialisation for all during an isolating time.

Youth Panel – No fixed day. One-off sessions, roughly 2 hours long

Before the summer commenced, we ensured to consult the young people about the types of activities they wanted to do over the holiday. This was done both over zoom and face-to-face. Members of the volunteering project were the main cohort consulted; sometimes other Parasol members would join these sessions too. We would brainstorm, research and budget to plan activity days.



Parasol Youth Volunteering Programme (10-25 year-olds)

Overview: Funding from a generous three year grant from the Henry Smith Charity has enabled Parasol to employ a full time Volunteer Co-ordinator to develop the charity's volunteering programme. While the funding for this post come to an end on September 30 2021, we are extremely grateful to Henry Smith for extending the funding for a further 3 years. This has allowed us to plan volunteering projects and opportunities as we come out of lockdown.

As a result of the pandemic, our face-to-face service capacity has again been much reduced in the last year. Our volunteer Co-ordinator has worked to provide safe, supported placements whenever services could run and stimulating virtual sessions to maintain engagement.

Include: In 1998, Parasol developed a youth volunteering programme for young people beneficiaries. Disabled people often do not get the chance to mix with their non-disabled peers and are rarely given opportunities to volunteer as a result of apprehension that many have. From the start, it was evident that an inclusive ethos, where disabled and other disadvantaged young people came together to support each other, would produce great outcomes. Role Models and Volunteers, once trained, enjoy activities alongside those less confident. Simply being together supports conversation and engagement.

As one 14 year old Role Model has said: "I love Parasol because I have never felt that I don't belong and they have always gone the extra mile to make sure that everyone has a chance to get involved." Perfect reciprocity. Volunteering ignites a sense of pride and respect amongst all participants. It inspires other beneficiaries (both disabled and non-disabled) to want to become Role Models and Volunteers, further embedding the culture of inclusion.

And, from a parent's perspective: "For myself, I can honestly say that Parasol is beyond doubt the most positive thing W has in their life. It's absolutely invaluable. They benefit so much from the inclusive ethos where no one judges anyone else. And they have gained so much in confidence. It also provides them with important role models, and they are seriously considering working in this sector as a career when they are older."

Involve: Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Parasol Project has still managed to support 45 volunteers (10-25yr olds) this year. This project was developed because having responsibilities and being part of a team increases young people's social networking skills, confidence, resilience and sense of belonging. The volunteering programme was also developed so that young people could be involved in running Parasol Project services. As one 16 year old volunteer reflected: "I have really enjoyed helping behind the scenes to plan the summer. Being a volunteer has really been life changing and I don't think I would be the person I am today without their help."

Inspire: Beneficiaries attending Parasol Project activities are inspired to become Role Models after observing other young people grow in confidence in their roles and responsibilities. The Charity recruits from existing beneficiaries as they have first-hand experience of the importance and value of the Parasol Project's inclusive ethos. The Parasol Project's support and challenge approach to volunteering: Challenging individual's belief in their own abilities produces positive outcomes. By gradually giving volunteers more responsibility, individuals can do more, and take on more responsibility. Such Achievement brings about "self-belief" which is exciting for all stakeholders.

Training and Supervision: Each volunteer is interviewed, and once recruited, given regular support and supervision. They go through an appraisal process during their time as a volunteer and are given increasing responsibility, depending on their interest/abilities. Restrictions to face-to-face activities resume so too will the established recruitment, training and supervision processes.

One-to-one meetings are a safe space for individuals to express their thoughts and feelings. Volunteers also attend regular training workshops on topics such as: (1) Roles and Expectations; (2) Inclusion; (3) Diversity and Equality and; (4) The Importance of Team Working. The staff team focus on practical activities to facilitate the learning process. During their time as a volunteer, the staff also help with CV writing, job applications and are often called upon, and happy to provide references.

Progression: There are five levels to progress through starting with Junior Role Models (for 10-12yrs); Role Models and Volunteers (13+yrs); through to either Senior Volunteers (15+yrs) or Workforce Volunteers (19-

JUNIOR ROLE MODEL



ROLE MODEL



VOLUNTEER



SENIOR VOLUNTEER



WORK FORCE



25yrs). The developmental stage has differentiated uniforms to provide a sense of belonging to each team and differing levels of responsibility are afforded to each group.

Before the pandemic we were able to recruit members of our Senior volunteer team as paid staff (in 2019 we were promoted 5 volunteers) Our aim is to get back to this level of recruitment now that we have come out of lockdown.

12. Financial Review

The Trustees report an excess of expenditure over income in the year ended March 31 2022 of £29,723 (2021 – a surplus of income of £83,548). This is a dramatic turnaround in financial fortunes between this year and 2020/21. A quick look at the underlying figures as shown on the Statement of Financial Activities for the two years will reveal that this change from a surplus of £83,548 to a deficit of £29,723, a movement of £113,271, is almost entirely due to a very significant fall in income in the year to March 31 2022 to £226,672 (2021 – £348,717). There was a fall in total expenditure during the year to £257,076 (2021 – £265,169) but this was insufficient to impact the overall result of an overall deficit.

Reserves at the end of the year to March 31 2022 stood at £96,194 and the Trustees are content with this level of funds to carry forward into the next financial year.

On the face of it, the change in financial fortunes this year is worrying. On the other hand this is not unusual for Parasol. As a small charity, Parasol depends on raising funds on a year by year basis to provide the vital funding that tops up the regular grant funding received from Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council and the Henry Smith Charity. During the year ended March 31 2021, the Charity was able to access funding from HMRC under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme for furloughed staff, other Government Grants offered during the coronavirus pandemic and a number of generous donations/grants from individuals and trusts. The pandemic related sources of income were not available this year and trusts and grant making bodies were focusing on voluntary organisations that were working directly on the recovery from COVID. As can be seen from the analysis in Note 2 to the accounts all the main sources of income fell significantly. This year was a difficult year for raising funds and hence the dramatic fall in income to just £226,672.

It is not easy for the Trustees to cut costs which relate mostly to the provision of our programmes during school holidays. These programmes require high levels of seasonal staff in order to make the activities safe and enjoyable for the disabled and non-disabled children and teenagers the Charity works with. As the analysis in note 9 to the accounts shows, Parasol managed to keep our overall salary costs to the level of the previous financial year but this was largely due to a reduction in core staff, a situation that would not be sustainable. The full time staff have managed to maintain and even reduce expenditure in other areas – direct activity costs, and administrative and office costs.

In summary, the Trustees are not alarmed by the financial results for the year. Historically, Parasol's finances fluctuate year by year and as long as reserve levels remain healthy and there is optimism about generating sufficient funds to adequately meet costs in the future the Board are content. For Parasol to continue along a satisfactory financial trajectory, it will be important to ensure that new sources of funding are found. The most significant source of funding for the Charity is the annual grant from Oxfordshire County Council and this is likely to be renegotiated during the next year. The outcome of those negotiations is especially uncertain in these challenging economic times. Happily, a new 3 year grant from the Henry Smith Charity for the continuation of our Volunteering project will come on stream in 2022/23 but otherwise the funding outlook is extremely uncertain which is of concern for the future.

13. Future Plans

As indicated in last year's annual report the Trustees anticipated that this year would be a year of rebuilding Parasol's core activities. And, indeed, it has been the first, following the pandemic, in which Parasol has been able to begin to offer holiday activities similar to those available in the summer of 2019 the last before COVID arrived. The major challenge for 2022/23 will be to find enablers to staff the holiday programmes particularly for the long summer holiday. Inevitably, the pandemic meant that Parasol was unable, for 2 summers, to recruit young adults to staff the holiday activities. The staff team have during that time had to rely on older enablers or buying in external services to run activities which is a more expensive and less attractive option. 2022/23 will be a year in which Parasol will rebuild its staff team. This will involve intensive training for new enablers. This

will be an extra cost that is essential for the future of the holiday programmes especially the summer activities and residential trip. So, building a well-trained and enthusiastic team of enablers is a key future goal.

Alongside this, with the funding from the Henry Smith Charity that will come on stream in late Spring 2022, Parasol will seek to recruit more volunteers to support the holiday programmes. In particular, it is important to find non-disabled teenagers to volunteer in order to preserve the inclusive nature of the Charity's work with children and young people. Good volunteers will sometimes be able to become paid workers, bringing experience gained as volunteers into the enabler role.

During the pandemic, Parasol's work with the many young adults who have passed through the teens activities effectively stopped. It is essentially an in-person part of our work which was not possible during COVID. The staff team are keen to develop new ways of providing activities for young adults in 2022/23 and beyond. Beginning with a small pilot programme, this will be a way of reaching a group of disabled young adults who are comfortable at Parasol but for whom there are limited opportunities available to engage them in constructive activities. It will also be a way of using the facilities the Charity has at Tower Playbase during term time.

The youth group and Saturday dance group were key components of the menu of activities offered by Parasol before lockdown in March 2020. These are slowly recovering from a period of inactivity but 2022/23 will be a good time to assess how they will feature in the longer term.

As with all future plans, finance is a key factor in how any plans to consolidate existing activities and develop new ones can actually happen. In the Financial Review above, after a significant drop in funding in 2021/22, it is clear that there is an urgent need to develop new and long term funding opportunities. While we currently receive a generous grant from Oxfordshire County Council which is supplemented by fees charged to those attending our programmes, Parasol still needs to generate a large amount of funding each year to cover the full cost of the core holiday activities for children and teenagers. The amount that the Charity needs to generate towards these costs is increasing yearly and to remain financially viable, total income for at least £300,000 is needed. The £226,672 of income generated in the year to March 31 2022 is insufficient for the Charity to continue with its ambitious and inclusive programme of holiday activities. If Parasol's income does not reach that £300,000 target, the total reserves will be severely impacted, and the ability to continue offering a full range of activities might be significantly compromised. This is a serious concern for the Trustees.

As in the past the Board of Trustees would welcome new members in order to widen the pool of expertise available to the dedicated and hardworking staff team. To express an interest in becoming a Trustee please email info@parasolproject.org.



Holiday activities 2021

14. Reserves

The Charity's total reserves at March 31 2022 were £96,194 (2021 - £126,598). Of these reserves, £16,560 (2021 - £47,458) are restricted. These funds as set out in Note 13 are only available for specific purposes. £79,634 (2021 - £79,140) are unrestricted funds and are available to be used to support any aspect of the Charity's total expenditure. The Trustees are pleased that it has been possible in 2021/22 to maintain a healthy balance of unrestricted funds despite the overall deficit for the year. That said, there is a serious risk that the balance of total reserves going forward at March 31 2023 will be considerably reduced if adequate funding is not identified in that year. As mentioned above, this will present the Trustees with difficult decisions about how they can continue to provide what is a vital service to the families of a wide range of disabled and non-disabled children and teenagers currently relying on Parasol activities at school holiday times.

As indicated above, the Trustees were delighted with the balances of reserves at March 31 2021, and while the balances at March 31 2022 are satisfactory, they are well aware that the charity remains vulnerable to any changes in the availability of funding to small entities such as the Parasol Project. With the 3 year grant made available in 2022/23 by the Henry Smith Charity and ongoing funding from Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council, there are revenue streams that provide a foundation on which the Charity can build its reserves once again. As stated in this Report in previous years, the Trustees feel, because the uncertain nature of other individual and grant revenues, that a target of £100,000 of unrestricted reserves is very reasonable. As can be seen from the financial outcomes for this year, to March 31 2022, a dip in income can have a significant impact on reserves unless there is a matching reduction in expenditure. This is challenging for Parasol as a large proportion of its expenditure relates to staffing which is vital for projects to run.

The Trustees will continue to monitor the financial reports produced by the Treasurer during the year ahead but recognising the difficult challenges in raising funds, it seems likely that reserves are likely to fall again in the year to March 31 2023. Finding another new source of longer term funding will be a priority to ensure that the Charity can boost its core funding and ensure that the level of the reserves can be rebuilt to one that provides the Executive Director and his staff team with security in making day to day financial decisions. On the other hand, the Trustees are well aware of the difficult economic conditions in which Parasol is currently operating and locating sources of funding will be challenging. The Trustees continue to be aware of the Charity Commissioners' guidance in "Charity Reserves: Building Resilience" and indeed this guidance is what underlies their goal of establishing unrestricted reserves of £100,000. This target feels more challenging at March 31 2022 than it did after the particularly good financial outcomes in the previous financial year.

15. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Parasol Project CIO is a charitable incorporated organisation registered by the Charity Commission and governed by a constitution dated March 24 2020. Anyone over the age of 18 years old and corporate bodies may become members of the charity.

Appointment of New Trustees

The Board seeks to widen its membership and at the same time broaden the skills set that the Board has to draw upon. Among others, new Trustees with skills in fundraising, charity law and human resources would be particularly welcome. If such skills can be found from amongst the parents of users of the charity's services, it would be particularly helpful. Potential Trustees will meet with existing Board Members and will attend at least 2 Trustee Meetings before being considered for appointment as Trustees.

Organisation

The Trustees of the charity are responsible for the managing the affairs of the charity. The Trustees are elected from amongst the members of the charity at the Annual General Meeting. One third of Trustees retire at each Annual General Meeting and may stand for re-election. There need to be at least 3 Trustees with no upper limit to the number of Trustees. The members or the Trustees can appoint a new Trustees from among the membership at any time during the year.

Trustee Induction and Training

The Trustees will continue in the coming year seek to develop an induction process for new members of the Board. This process would include the provision of Charity Commission documents about the responsibilities of Trustees, copies of the charity's governing document, the latest Report and Accounts and induction into the work of the charity, its aims and objectives and the roles and responsibilities of members of the Board and key staff.

Risk Management

The trustees are fully aware of their duty to identify and review risks to which the charity is exposed. Reviewing the charity's principal risks and uncertainties is done informally at its regular monthly/six weekly meetings. In the last two years, the Trustees have become aware of the financial risks that the Charity might face. With the significant financial contribution received from Oxfordshire County Council, the Trustees are aware that there is a financial risk if for any reason this funding ceased to be available

16. Trustees' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operations.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which 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 Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on: December 6 2022 and signed on behalf by:



D M Wadsworth – Trustee (Chair)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Parasol Project CIO

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended March 31 2022 which are set out on pages 19 to 26.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



D Pluck FCA

Chartered Accountant

December 2022

Wenn Townsend

30 St Giles

Oxford OX1 3LE

The Parasol Project CIO

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended March 31 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted	Total Funds
		2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
Donations and Legacies	2	54,734	133,174	187,908	141,042	187,749	328,79
Charitable Activities		319	33,420	33,739	3,615	12,311	15,925
Investment Income	3	1,025	-	1,025	-	-	-
Other		4,000	-	4,000	4,000	-	4,000
Total		60,078	166,594	226,672	148,657	200,060	348,717
Expenditure							
Cost of Raising Funds	5	11,653	1,880	13,533	17,772	-	17,772
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	6 & 7	47,931	195,612	243,543	42,738	203,978	246,716
Total		59,584	197,492	257,076	60,510	203,978	264,488
Net Income/ (Expenditure)		494	(30,898)	(29,723)	88,147	(3,918)	84,229
Transfer Between Funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		494	(30,898)	(29,723)	88,147	(3,918)	84,229
Reconciliation of Funds:							
Total Funds Brought Forward		79,140	47,458	126,598	(9,007)	51,376	42,369
Total Funds Carried Forward	13 & 14	£79,634	£16,560	£96,194	£79,140	£47,458	£126,598

The Parasol Project CIO

Balance Sheet as at March 31 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	10	14,563	20,213
Current Assets			
Debtors and Prepayments	11	8,934	3,095
Funds on Deposit		51,299	51,000
Cash at Bank and in Hand		29,190	59,648
		<u>89,423</u>	<u>113,743</u>
Less: Current Liabilities			
Amounts falling due within a year	12	<u>(7,792)</u>	<u>(7,358)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>81,631</u>	<u>106,385</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>96,194</u>	<u>126,598</u>
Accruals and Deferred Income		-	-
Net Assets		<u>£96,194</u>	<u>£126,598</u>
The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted Income Funds	13	16,560	47,458
Unrestricted Income Funds	14	79,634	79,140
		<u>£96,194</u>	<u>£126,598</u>

The financial statements on pages 19 to 26 were approved by the Trustees on December 6 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Dan Wadsworth
Chair of the Board

The accounting policies and notes on pages 21 to 26 form part of the financial statements.

THE PARASOL PROJECT CIO

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the Year ended March 31 2022

1. Accounting Policies

a) Accounting Basis

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 and the Charities Act 2011).

The Parasol 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 notes.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

b) Depreciation

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised and valued at historical cost. From April 1 2019 the cost of fixed assets are being written off using the straight line method of depreciation, a change from the previously utilised reducing balance method. The rates of depreciation are:

Office equipment and fittings	25% per annum
Plant and Machinery	25% per annum
Sensory Room Equipment	25% per annum
Leasehold Improvements	10% per annum

c) Income Recognition

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.

Donations and grants are recognised when the charity has been notified of both the amount and settlement date.

Legacies are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate and when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be reliably measured by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank or deposit taking institution.

d) Expenditure Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The allocation of support and governance costs is analysed in note 6.

e) Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

f) Cost of Raising Funds

The cost of generating funds consists of staff costs, subscriptions to on-line fundraising sites, fundraising advertising and associated costs.

g) Charitable Activities

The cost of charitable activities includes governance costs and an apportionment of support costs as shown in note 7.

h) Volunteer Time

The value of services donated by volunteers is not reflected in the accounts.

i) Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity. It is not, therefore, liable for tax on income derived from its charitable activities.

j) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted Income Funds

Unrestricted Funds are funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. These comprise a general fund plus designated funds set aside out of unrestricted funds by the Trustees to provide for planned projects and other known contingencies.

Restricted Income Funds

These are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in notes 14 and 15.

k) Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are written off against income in the year they are payable.

2. Donations and Legacies

	2022	2021
	£	£
Local Authority Grants	126,285	164,327
Coronavirus Job Retention Grant	-	29,018
Other Grants (£1,000 and over)	46,765	84,683
Small Grants and Donations (Including Gift Aid)	14,858	50,763
Total	187,908	328,791

3. Investment Income

All of the Charity's investment income of £1,025 (2021 - £Nil) arises from renting out space at Tower Playbase.

4. Net Outgoing Resources

This is stated after charging:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Depreciation	5,650	5,650
Independent Examiner's Fees	2,134	3,036

5. Cost of Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	
	£	£	2022 £	2021 £
Staff	6,129	-	6,129	8,424
Fundraising Admin Fees	216	-	216	216
Fundraising Consultant	5,308	1,880	13,553	21,605
	11,653	1,880	13,553	21,605

6. Analysis of Governance and Support Costs

The Charity identifies the costs of its support functions and of its governance function. Having identified its governance costs, the support and governance costs are apportioned between the main charitable activities undertaken (see Note 7) in the year. The table below shows the basis for apportionment and the analysis of support and governance costs.

	General Support £	Governance £	Total £	Basis of Apportionment
Equipment and Other Asset Costs	5,742	-	5,742	)
Building and Accommodation Costs	7,972	-	7,972	) Allocated as a %
Office Costs	11,220	-	11,220	) Based on Project
Salaries, Teacher Fees & Consultants	39,820	3,287	43,107	) Salary Costs
Other Staff Costs	1,323	-	1,323	)
Independent Examination	-	2,134	2,134	Governance
	66,077	5,421	71,498	

7. Charitable Expenditure Analysis

	Total £	Choice Days £	Playbase £	Volunteer Project £	Dance £	Youth £	Parasol Plus £	Non-Contact Project £	Governance £
Salary Costs	123,063	50,581	44,674	17,981	5,105	850	585	-	3,287
Choice Day Expenses	36,180	36,180	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Contact Project Expense	3,454	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,454	-
Parasol Plus Expenses	418	-	-	-	-	-	418	-	-
Playbase Expenses	7,194	-	7,194	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teen Dance Expenses	3,508	-	-	-	3,508	-	-	-	-
Teen Youth Group Expenses	80	-	-	-	-	80	-	-	-
Volunteer Project	1,435	-	-	1,435	-	-	-	-	-
Independent Examination	2,134	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,134
Support Costs	66,077	27,905	24,645	9,919	2,816	469	323	-	-
	243,543	114,666	76,513	29,335	11,429	1,399	1,326	3,454	5,421

Expenditure on charitable activities was £243,543 (2021 - £248,716) of which £7,169 (2021 - £42,738) was unrestricted and £236,374 (2021 - £203,978) was restricted.

8. Governance Costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	
	£	£	2022	2021
			£	£
Staff	3,287	-	3,287	3,369
Independent Examiner's Fees	2,134	-	2,134	6,405
	<u>5,421</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,421</u>	<u>6,405</u>

9. Total Resources Expended

	Staff Costs	Other Costs	Total	
	£	£	2022	2021
			£	£
Charitable Activities	161,202	82,341	243,543	246,716
Cost of Generating Funds	6,129	7,404	13,533	17,772
	<u>167,331</u>	<u>89,745</u>	<u>257,076</u>	<u>264,488</u>

Staff Costs Comprise:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries Staff	156,526	153,887
Social Security Costs	8,232	9,722
Pension Costs	2,573	3,177
	<u>167,331</u>	<u>166,786</u>

The average number of staff during the period was 3 (2021 - 4) full time. 50 (2021 - 33) part time and sessional workers have supported the charity's holiday activities and weekly youth and dance groups.

No employees received emoluments of more than £60,000 per annum (2021 - None).

The total remuneration of the key management personnel - the Executive Director - including employer's National Insurance and Pension contributions was £34,691 (2020 - £33,695).

10. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Leasehold Improvements	Sensory Rm Equipment	Plant and Machinery	Fixtures and Fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Cost</u>					
As at April 1 2021	8,592	16,609	15,134	2,060	42,395
Additions in the Year	-	-	-	-	-
As at March 31 2022	<u>8,592</u>	<u>16,609</u>	<u>15,134</u>	<u>2,060</u>	<u>42,395</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>					
As at April 1 2021	1,074	5,190	14,045	1,873	22,182
Provision in the Year	859	4,152	545	94	5,650
As at March 31 2022	<u>1,933</u>	<u>9,342</u>	<u>14,590</u>	<u>1,967</u>	<u>27,832</u>
Net Book Value at March 31 2022	<u>6,659</u>	<u>7,267</u>	<u>544</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>14,563</u>
Net Book Value at March 31 2021	<u>7,518</u>	<u>11,419</u>	<u>1,089</u>	<u>187</u>	<u>20,213</u>

11. Debtors and Prepayments

	2022 £	2021 £
Activity Fees Receivable	7,786	2,234
Northway Project	870	-
Other Debtors	188	861
	<u>3,095</u>	<u>3,095</u>

12. Creditors: Amounts Falling due Within One Year

	2022 £	2021 £
Tax, National Insurance & Pensions	1,877	569
Independent Examiner's Fees	2,200	2,000
Consultancy	3,000	4,500
Accruals and Accounts Payable	715	34
Fees Paid in Advance	-	255
	<u>7,792</u>	<u>7,358</u>

13. Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income in the Year £	Expenditure in the Year £	Balance March 31 2022 £
Volunteer Project	15,282	-	(15,282)	-
Building and Sensory Room	11,519	-	(5,011)	6,508
Holiday Activities	476	147,351	(147,827)	-
Teenage Services	11,050	14,234	(19,232)	6,052
Evaluation	1,880	-	(1,880)	-
Parasol United	4,000	-	(4,000)	-
Non-Contact Pandemic Programme	3,251	625	(3,876)	-
Northway Community Fund	-	4,000	-	4,000
Parasol Plus	-	384	(384)	-
	<u>47,458</u>	<u>166,594</u>	<u>(197,492)</u>	<u>16,560</u>

Comparatives for Previous Year

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income in the Year £	Expenditure in the Year £	Balance March 31 2021 £
Volunteer Project	12,100	26,325	(23,143)	15,282
Building and Sensory Room	32,956	1,200	(22,637)	11,519
Holiday Activities	-	138,502	(138,502)	476
Teenage Services	-	11,050	-	11,050
Evaluation	-	1,880	-	1,880
Parasol United	4,000	-	-	4,000
Non-Contact Pandemic Programme	2,320	21,103	(20,172)	3,251
	<u>51,376</u>	<u>200,060</u>	<u>(203,978)</u>	<u>47,458</u>

Represented by:

	Fixed Assets £	Cash at Bank £	Total £
Balance at March 31 2022	<u>14,563</u>	<u>1,997</u>	<u>16,560</u>
Balance at March 31 2021	<u>20,213</u>	<u>27,245</u>	<u>47,458</u>

The Volunteer Project trains and provides opportunities for young people who have used the services of Parasol to take on more responsibility by volunteering during activity programmes run by the charity.

The Building and Sensory Room project fund has been used to build a sensory room at Tower Playbase and to make other improvements to the internal structure and décor of the building.

Holiday Activity Fund supports the primary activity of providing holiday programmes for children and teenagers in the school holidays.

The Teenage Services fund supports the teenage residential holiday during the Summer and the weekly youth group.

Parasol Plus is a developing project at which we continue working with those too old to access the main holiday activities, providing opportunities to develop employment and social skills.

Parasol United is funding that will be used to develop the soccer skills of Parasol teens.

Non-Contact Pandemic Programme funding has been used to develop ways of providing ongoing contact and activities for children and young people who are at home during the Coronavirus lockdown.

Evaluation is funding set aside for conducting an evaluation of the charity's services.

Northway Community Fund is funding to work with partners in the Northway area of Oxford.

14. Unrestricted Income Funds

	2022	2021
	£	£
Balance at April 1 2021	79,140	(9,007)
Incoming Resources	60,078	148,657
Expenditure	(59,584)	(60,510)
Balances at March 31 2021	<u>79,634</u>	<u>79,140</u>
Represented by:		
Current Assets	87,426	86,498
Creditors and Deferred Income	(7,792)	(7,358)
	<u>41,937</u>	<u>79,140</u>

15. Financial Commitments

As at March 31 2022 (2021 – Nil) there are no annual commitments under non-cancellable leases.

16. Trustee's Remuneration

No Trustee (2021 – Nil) received or waived any emoluments during the year.

No out of pocket expenses (2021 – Nil) were reimbursed to Trustees in the year.

THE PARASOL PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1188736

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 24/03/20
31/03/2021

Period start date To
Period end date

Charity name: Parasol Project CIO

Charity registration number: 1188736

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To provide facilities for inclusive and age appropriate play, recreation and leisure activities for children and young adults ("the Beneficiaries"). To do this in order to promote the educational, physical and mental well being and development of the beneficiaries.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	No activities undertaken in the period to March 31 2021
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	No activities undertaken in the period to March 3 2021

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	

Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	No activities undertaken in the period to March 31 2021

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	N/A
Other		N/A

--	--	--

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The Charity has been inactive with no income or expenditure in the period to March 31 2021
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Charity has no Reserves
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Nil
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	The Charity has not yet begun its activities
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution dated March 24 2020
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Initial Trustees were those who applied to form the CIO. 1/3 of the Trustees retire at the AGM and can stand for re-election. Members elect Trustees at the AGM. No person or body is entitled to appoint Trustees.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Parasol Project CIO
Other name the charity uses	The Parasol Project
Registered charity number	1188736

Charity's principal address	Tower Playbase Maltfield Road Northway Oxford OX3 9RG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mr Dan Wadsworth	Chair		
2	Mr Clive Gillam	Treasurer		
3	M/S Helen Bohan	Secretary	Resigned 7/12/20	
4	Mr Richard Moore		Resigned 25/3/20	
5	Ms Rebecca Denson-Cleaver			
6	Mrs Anne Schuster			
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees - names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--

Other optional information

--

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Clive Gillam

Full name(s)

Mr Clive A G Gillam

**Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Treasurer

Date

13/12/2021



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Parasol Project

1188736

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
24/03/2020

To

Period end date
31/03/2021

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	-	-	-	-	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	-	-
A3 Payments					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	-	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	-	-	-	-	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	-	-	-	-	-

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	-	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets			Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		Clive Gillam	Clive Gillam	13/12/2021