

Bushy Leaze Family Support Annual Report 2023-2024

Type of Governing Document

Charity Deed

How the Charity is Constituted

Charitable Trust

Trustee Selection Methods

Trustees are selected for their values through their links to Bushy Leaze Children and Families Centre and the Alton community; they are nominated by members of the Board of Trustees.

Additional Governance Issues

Bushy Leaze Family Support exists to maintain and address the gaps in family support services and early-years intervention in Alton (Hampshire) and its surrounding area. 2023-2024 was the second financial year operating as a CIO (succeeding our Trust - Bushy Leaze Family Support (BLCSF) Registered Charity Number 1195659).

There were no concerns governance issues related to the charity during the year. One trustee Luath Grant-Ferguson stood down, to later be formally recognised as a Patron of our charity.

The Charity is governed by a board of Trustees supported by relevant stakeholders from the local community. The board meets a minimum of four times per year or more often if necessary. It receives reports from local family support services and reviews their work providing funding and support, funding and overseeing the Family Support Team at Bushy Leaze Children and Families Centre who achieve our aims and objectives. BLFS works to manage and limit risk. It reviews its practices against the Charity Commission's "Internal Financial Controls for Charities" document regularly. All payments require two signatures. All receipts are banked promptly.

Objects and Activities

The objects of the Charity are:

- To enhance the development and education of children, primarily under the age of five, by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups
- The preservation and protection of health by the provision of good quality childcare, a resource and advice centre and the education of the public in parenting skills

- The provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time activities for families with young children in the interests of social welfare, with a view to improving conditions of life

Summary of activities undertaken in relation to these objects:

The Charity continued to work to ensuring vulnerable and at-risk families have access to the support they need in our area of operation, occupying a gap in family support and early-years service provision in East Hampshire. We have proactively raised funds to support the continuation and development of Family Support services to best achieve our Objects.

During the financial year 2023-2024 the Charity meet its aims and fulfilled its objects. The cost-of-living crisis and financial climate affected both the fundraising of the Charity and the needs of its beneficiaries, resulting in the use of some unrestricted reserves as covered below. However, Charity received significant contributions from grant giving bodies and a decreased level of support from our community. We went on to:

- Fully fund a Family Support Team who provided one-to-one and group-based intervention to over 400 families with children under the age of five facing significant barriers to parenting
- Fund several family support programmes, enhancing the development and education of families with children under the age of five. These are expertly staffed and bring together local families to provide a network of support

The BLFS Trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. We believe the funded activities to be of optimal benefit to families in need of support in Alton and wider East Hampshire.

Brief Statement on the Charities Reserves

The Charity aimed to hold in reserve sufficient money in our general funds to continuation of our Family Support Team to deliver a programme of family support for the community. We aim to hold and equivalent to six-months of Family Support Team expenditure to mitigate risk. A decrease in income from a number of sources required the Charity to spend £22,291, to maintain service provision at a slightly reduced level to the previous year, whilst beneficiary needs remain extremely high. Reserves were held at level of £16,393 which represents just over three months of future Family Support Team running costs. The decision to spend reserves was made with the assurance of two new funding sources in the 24/25 financial year along with a reduced future spend on service delivery.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

2023-2024 was a difficult year for the Charity and its beneficiaries. Increasing costs and decreasing income, at a time our services were most needed, led to a reduction in family

support delivery whilst maintaining our outputs and outcomes, to ensure sustainability. However, through a combination of donations from our community and grant-giving bodies we raised an appropriate level funds to maintain and deliver family support provisions provided at Bushy Leaze Children and Families Centre, for families in Alton and its surrounding area. BLFS worked with Bushy Leaze Children and Families Centre to ensure the continuation of a high-quality family support provision.

Meetings were held by the trustees to establish procedures for assessing the effectiveness of these provisions and the optimal use of funding to support our beneficiaries. All Charity spend was on key activities and administration to support our objects and ensured the service can continue to offer its outstanding rated services for families. The use of reserves and reduction in spend has successfully built a brighter future for the charity beyond 2023/24 with subsequent donations putting the Charity in a stable position for the next five years. This will allow the Charity to focus on growing family support services and rebuilding our reserves.

The Charity raised £95,580 during the year and is grateful for the support of its grant funders, including Goodall Foundation, East Hampshire District Council Supporting Communities, Alton Town Council, Children in Need and The National Lottery Community Fund among others.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Murphy', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dawn Murphy
Chair of Trustees
Bushy Leaze Family Support



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Bushy Leaze Family Support

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2023	To	Period end date 31/03/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Transfer from BLCSF					88,000
National Lottery Community Fund	-	41,569	-	41,569	57,819
Grants	22,000	5,990	-	27,990	18,376
Community	1,100	-	-	1,100	250
Donations	1,166	-	-	1,166	1,340
Closure BLCSF	569	-	-	569	13,700
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	24,835	47,559	-	72,394	179,485
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	24,835	47,559	-	72,394	179,485
A3 Payments					
Core Projects	-	110,000	-	110,000	107,100
Admin & Fundraising	7,648	-	-	7,648	10,468
Bank Charges	63	-	-	63	47
Web Hosting	160	-	-	160	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	7,871	110,000	-	117,871	117,615
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	7,871	110,000	-	117,871	117,615
Net of receipts/(payments)	16,964	- 62,441	-	- 45,477	61,870
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	38,684	23,186	-	61,870	
Cash funds this year end	55,648	- 39,255	-	16,393	61,870

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	HSBC	16,393	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	16,393	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	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	

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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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: *G.C. Titterton*

Name: GRAHAM CHARLES TITTERINGTON

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): —

Address: 24 HAYWOOD CLOSE, ALTON, HANTS, GU34 2TL

Date: 19/8/2024