

Bushy Leaze Family Support Annual Report 2024-2025

Type of Governing Document

Charity Deed

How the Charity is Constituted

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

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. 2024-2025 was the Third financial year operating as a CIO which succeeded our Trust (Bushy Leaze Family Support (BLCSF) Registered Charity Number 1195659) which supported Bushy Leaze' family support provisions from 2016-2022.

There were no concerning governance issues related to the charity during the year. One trustee, Sharon Woodward, stood down and was replaced by Sue Rustell. Longstanding trustee Patti Snook replaced Dawn Murphy as Chair, whilst Dawn continued in the role of Trustee.

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 ensure 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 2024-2025 the Charity met its aims and fulfilled its objects, successfully securing long-term funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, to help secure our future for the next five years. We were also beneficiaries of a legacy donation, the majority of which was restricted to expanding the capacity of our family support work through the recruitment of an additional Family Support Worker for three years, growing the number of families we are able to support. Both donations helped us successfully achieve our objects for the year. The Charity received significant contributions from other grant giving bodies whilst we saw a decreased level of support from our community, primarily down to the cost-of-living. 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 ensure continuation of our Family Support Team to deliver a programme of family support for the community. We aim to hold the 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. Unrestricted reserves were held at the level of £46,691, an increase from 23/24's level of £16,393. This represents 6.2 months of future Family Support Team running costs, in-line with

our policy to reduce risk on our Family Support Services. We hold an additional £76,947 of restricted funds; this is a restricted donation to fund our new Family Support Worker for a period of three years.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The trustees are proud of the achievements of the Family Support team. Through our financial support and oversight, and our close relationship with Bushy Leaze Children and Families Centre, the vital and highly valued services for vulnerable children and their families have been able to grow and adapt. The staff team has grown in number, expertise through training, and capacity.

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 increase in multi-year funding secured over the year has successfully built a brighter future for the charity beyond, putting the Charity in a more stable position for the next five years, whilst the need for our support continues to grow.

The Charity raised £196,247 during the year and is grateful for the support of its grant funders, including Goodall Foundation, The Pink Family, Alton Town Council, The Foyle Foundation, Children in Need and The National Lottery Community Fund among others.

Patti Snook
Chair of Trustees
Bushy Leaze Family Support



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Bushy Leaze Family Support

1195659

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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2024	To	Period end date 31/03/2025
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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					
National Lottery	-	50,000	-	50,000	41,569
Grants	13,000	19,800	-	32,800	27,990
Community	1,100	1,595	-	2,695	1,100
Donations	1,420	-	-	1,420	1,166
Closure BLCSF	-	-	-	-	569
Restricted cash funds	-	-	-	-	23,186
Bequests	41,435	56,790	-	98,225	-
Fundraising	11,107	-	-	11,107	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	68,062	128,185	-	196,247	95,580
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	68,062	128,185	-	196,247	95,580
A3 Payments					
Core Projects	9,295	76,084	-	85,379	110,000
Admin and Fundraising	3,479	-	-	3,479	7,648
Bank Charges	62	-	-	62	63
Webhosting	82	-	-	82	160
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	12,918	76,084	-	89,002	117,871
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	12,918	76,084	-	89,002	117,871
Net of receipts/(payments)	55,144	52,101	-	107,245	- 22,291
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	16,393	-	-	16,393	38,684
Cash funds this year end	71,537	52,101	-	123,638	16,393

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	71,537	52,101	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	71,537	52,101	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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	

24 Haydock Close
Alton
Hampshire
GU34 2TL

Independent Examiner's Statement

Bushy Leaze Family Support – Charity no 1195659

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:

Name:

J. C. Titterton
GRAHAM CHARLES TITTERINGTON

Address:

24 HAYDOCK CLOSE, ALTON, HANTS, GU34 2TL

Date:

23rd AUGUST 2025

