

OXFORDSHIRE DISCOVERY COLLEGE

England & Wales · Charity number 1196460

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-11-08

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

Contact

Address
Makespace
Royal Scot House
99 Station Road
Didcot
Oxfordshire
OX11 7NN

Phone 07862015744

Email hello@oxfordshirediscovery.co.uk

Website www.oxfordshirediscovery.co.uk

Activities

Objects: ● THE RELIEF OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES IN OXFORDSHIRE AND ITS SURROUNDING AREAS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING OR ARE AFFECTED BY, OR WHO ARE AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING OR BEING AFFECTED BY, MENTAL DISTRESS AND DISORDER IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY PROVIDING LIVED-EXPERIENCE-LED OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN, CONNECT AND GAIN SKILLS● THE PROMOTION OF THE PRESERVATION OF GOOD MENTAL HEALTH TO THE PUBLIC BY PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING, DISSEMINATING INFORMATION, RAISING AWARENESS AND CHALLENGING STIGMA● THE ADVANCEMENT OF CO-PRODUCTION OF SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC, IN PARTICULAR TO BODIES AND AGENCIES BY, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, RAISING AWARENESS AND SHARING GOOD PRACTICEFOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLAUSE, ?CO-PRODUCTION? MEANS THE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, DELIVERY AND EVALUATION OF SERVICES BY THE STAKEHOLDERS WHO MIGHT ULTIMATELY USE AND BENEFIT FROM THEM.

Activities: Oxfordshire Discovery College provides informal learning programmes to children and young people, along with their parents, carers and professionals, on mental health topics. These programmes are designed and delivered by Experts-by-Training and Experts-by-Experience, to develop resilience, skills, understanding and support networks, and to improve wellbeing.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- Oxfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£51,995	£82,827	-	-
2024-03-31	£78,618	£50,384	-	-
2023-03-31	£76,757	£33,856	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Matthew Alan Slade	Chair	2021-11-08
Ella Buckingham		2023-03-07
Frances Wheare		2024-11-05
Maria Bourbon		2021-12-06
Neil Jarvey		2026-03-03
Pauline Collier		2021-11-08

Accounts

Oxfordshire Discovery College – Annual Report 24/25**Address:**

Oxfordshire Discovery College
 Makespace
 Royal Scot House
 99 Station Road
 Didcot
 Oxfordshire
 OX11 7NN

Name of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee Name	Office (if any)
Liam Joseph Corbally (appointed 2021)	Deputy Co-Chair
Matthew Alan Slade (appointed 2021)	Deputy Co-Chair
Pauline Boerma-Collier (appointed 2021)	
Aarti Chapman (appointed 2022)	Chair 2022-present
Ian Tingley (appointed 2022)	Treasurer 2022-present
David Huxford (appointed 2022)	
Maria Bourbon (appointed 2022)	
Ella Buckingham (appointed 2023)	
Philip Purnell (appointed 2023)	
Frances Wheare (appointed 2024)	

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

Trustee Name	Office (if any)
Laura Harte	Founder

Objects and activities

The objects of the Charity are set out in its Constitution as being:

- o The relief of children, young people and families in Oxfordshire and its surrounding areas who are experiencing or are affected by, or who are at risk of experiencing or being affected by, mental distress and disorder in particular but not exclusively by providing lived-experience-led opportunities to learn, connect and gain skills
- o The promotion of the preservation of good mental health to the public by promoting understanding, disseminating information, raising awareness and challenging stigma
- o The advancement of co-production of services to the public, in particular to bodies and agencies by, in particular but not exclusively, raising awareness and sharing good practice

For the purpose of this clause, 'co-production' means the design, development, delivery and evaluation of services by the stakeholders who might ultimately use and benefit from them.

Our vision and mission is:

We'd love to see a world where children and young people have the skills, support and control to create their own mental wellness, and to navigate times of mental ill health. This drives us to make sure that every child has what they need to transform their mental health.

The Charity's strategic priorities for 2024 are:

- To increase participant engagement through both participation in high quality programmes, and enrolment
- To continue to build our evidence base, demonstrating efficacy and return on investment, and articulate it clearly
- To boost our fundraising capacity, working towards securing multi-year funding
- To develop our infrastructure to ensure robust and sustainable organisational growth

Public benefit

- Advancement of health or the saving of lives: working with our target audience of children and young people experiencing a mental health problem or poor wellbeing, and their supporters
- Health education or sickness prevention: using an educational model to improve knowledge, understanding and coping strategies for recovery and wellbeing maintenance
- Early intervention: through our programmes, improving young people's resilience, empathy and sense of connection, enabling them to fully engage in education and day-to-day life. This helps prevent longer-term difficulties and improves future wellbeing.
- Relief of those in need (age, disability, ill-health, financial or other disadvantage)

For these reasons the trustees consider that the Charity meets the public benefit requirement.

In setting the Charity's goals and in planning its activities, the trustees have given due consideration to the published Charity Commission guidance on the operation of the public benefit requirement of the Charities Act 2011.

Progress and Plans

2024-25 was a year of both rapid growth in delivery and significant organisational challenge. Having built strong foundations in 2023-24, this year we reached more young people and families than ever before and further developed our evidence base. Alongside this expansion, we also faced a reduction in voluntary leadership and fundraising capacity, and the reality of an increasingly difficult external fundraising climate. These challenges required us to take pragmatic steps to secure stability and to plan carefully for the future.

Activities

In 2024–25 we delivered a wide range of programmes across Oxfordshire, directly supporting **155 participants** to develop the skills to manage emotions, build resilience, and improve wellbeing. In addition, we reached a further **500+ children and young people** through our school assemblies in the Didcot area, extending our impact even more widely across the community.

The **Big Feelings programme** (ages 7–10) was delivered 18 times and became our primary area of growth, reflecting the high demand for early intervention at this age. Alongside this, we ran the **Dealing with Feelings programme** for young people aged 12–14, the **Discover You! programme** for young adults, and a dedicated course for **parents, carers, and professionals supporting children and young people who self-harm**.

Across all programmes, we combined the strengths of Experts-by-Experience and Experts-by-Training, ensuring delivery was both evidence-based and rooted in lived experience, while also working to challenge stigma around mental health.

Feedback from participants and parents was consistently positive, with schools and families emphasising the practical value of the strategies taught and the supportive environment created by our facilitators.

As one Deputy Head commented: *“The Big Feelings programme has enabled us to target a wide range of children who, without this, may not have received support this year... As a whole school community, we are very grateful for the support and would certainly be willing to continue to work with Oxfordshire Discovery College next year.”*

Challenges and Achievements

A key feature of 2024–25 was the scale of programme delivery, reaching more children and families than ever before. Despite several unexpected staff absences, every programme was delivered as planned, thanks to the dedication and resilience of our team.

A major achievement was the strengthening of our monitoring and evaluation framework. Leila Barton, Operations Manager, worked with an external specialist early in the year to refine our evaluation approach and apply it to the **Big Feelings programme**. This gave new weight and credibility to our data, enabling us to analyse outcomes in greater depth and report them more convincingly to partners and funders. The results were clear: **58% of participants** in Big Feelings showed improved wellbeing scores, and **68% of parents** reported noticeable improvements in their child's ability to manage emotions. Gains not only persisted but often increased at follow-up, providing strong evidence of sustained impact. Parents told us the programme was *"worth its weight in gold,"* and children shared that the tools helped them cope with their *"BIG feelings."* Following this successful trial, we are now rolling out the enhanced monitoring and evaluation framework principles across all our programmes, further strengthening the evidence base for our work.

We also expanded our delivery area, taking programmes into more rural communities such as **Chipping Norton**, ensuring that children and families in less well-served parts of the county could access support. Operationally, the organisation continued to mature. Leila played a central role in managing staff transitions and strengthening internal systems, helping to ensure continuity through a demanding year. Governance was also strengthened with the appointment of **Frances Wheare**, who brings significant expertise in fundraising and major donor development.

Alongside these achievements, we also faced challenges around leadership and fundraising. Although funding had been secured to cover operations during Laura Harte's maternity leave, fundraising activity did not resume at the anticipated level on her return in April 2024, due to reduced voluntary capacity and a difficult external climate. In February 2025, Laura made the decision to step down as CEO. Together with the Board of Trustees and Leila, she worked out a carefully planned three-month handover to ensure stability during the transition. To address the identified fundraising gap, the Board appointed a trustee with specialist fundraising expertise, agreed to allocate funds to bring in freelance fundraisers, and benefited from Laura's work with an external consultant in late 2024 to strengthen our case for support.

This combination of record programme delivery, stronger evaluation, expanded reach, and decisive steps to stabilise leadership and fundraising underlines the resilience and dedication of the organisation. Despite pressures, Oxfordshire Discovery College not only delivered more programmes than ever before but also demonstrated greater clarity of impact, laying firm foundations for future stability and growth. As one parent reflected: *“Before [my daughter] used to cry if she had big feelings and wouldn’t be able to explain it. Now she talks about what is upsetting her, even through tears – that’s a huge positive change.”*

Summary

2024–25 was a year that demonstrated both the scale of what Oxfordshire Discovery College can achieve and the strain of growth within limited resources. We reached more young people and families than ever before and strengthened the evidence behind our impact, showing lasting improvements in wellbeing. At the same time, challenges highlighted the need to build and reinforce our core structure. These experiences leave us clearer, stronger, and more determined to create a stable platform for growth, so that even more children and families can benefit in the years ahead.

Plans

2025–26 will be a crucial year for consolidating growth and securing stability. Having relied heavily on voluntary leadership and fundraising to date, we will now move toward embedding more sustainable paid functions within our infrastructure. This will strengthen resilience, enable clearer long-term planning, and ensure that programme delivery continues to grow in both quality and reach, supported by the leadership and fundraising capacity needed for the future.

Our Strategic Priorities for 2025–26 are to:

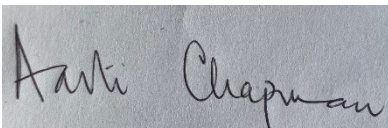
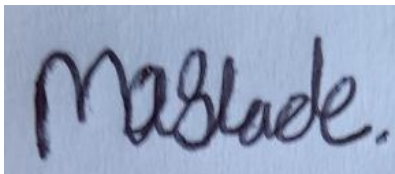
- Embed effective, healthy working habits to maximise performance and model excellent staff support.

- Deliver **15 high-quality programmes** with wrap-around support and impact measurement.
- Articulate our impact and growth potential clearly and compellingly.
- Grow our fundraising capacity, maintaining a consistent flow of activity and generating target income.
- Develop a **three-year Growth Plan** to set a clear direction of travel and support long-term planning.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Aarti Chapman	Matthew Alan Slade
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Deputy Co-Chair
Date	23.10.2025	23.10.2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Oxfordshire Discovery College

**On accounts for the year
ended**

The 31st of March, 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1196460

Set out on pages

10 and 11

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2024.

**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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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:



Date:

17/10/2025

Name:

Michael Russell

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address:

40 Livery Close

Abingdon, OX14 3XX

Income and Expenditure

	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
Balance Brought Forward	71,134	22,332	48,802
Income			
Grants	42,399	0	42,399
Other Income	9,596	7,581	2,015
Total Income	51,995	7,581	44,414
Expenditure			
Salaries	67,451	0	67,451
Training	60	0	60
Overheads	8,662	6,876	1,786
Materials	1,418	450	968
Expenses	1,600	28	1,572
Marketing	221	221	0
Recruitment	0	0	0
Equipment	64	0	64
Partner Costs	2,850	0	2,850
Venue Hire	501	501	0
Total Expenditure	82,827	8,076	74,751
Surplus/Deficit	-30,832	-495	-30,337
Balance Carried Forward	40,302	21,837	18,465

Balance Sheet

Current Assets

Cash and Bank

Bank Account 40,283
Petty Cash 19

Total Current Assets 40,302

Net Assets 40,302

Funds Position

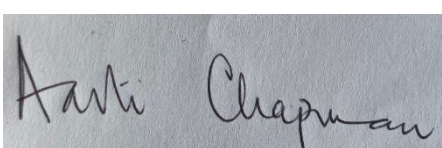
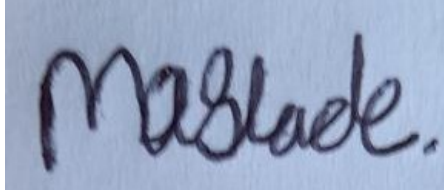
Restricted Funds 18,465

Unrestricted Funds 21,837

Total Funds 40,302

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

Aarti Chapman	Matthew Alan Slade
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Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

Chair	Deputy Co-Chair
Date 23.10.2025	23.10.2025

Accounts



Annual Trustees Report

2023-24

For the period from the 1st April 2023 to the 31st of March 2024.

Charity name: Oxfordshire Discovery College

Charity registration number: 1196460

Principal address:

Makespace
Royal Scot House
99 Station Road
DIDCOT
Oxfordshire
OX11 7NN

Oxfordshire Discovery College is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The governing document is the Constitution of the charity adopted at its registration on 8th November 2021.

Appointment of charity trustees

1. Apart from the founding charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.
2. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Number of charity trustees

1. There must be at least three charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or to appoint a new charity trustee.

2. The maximum number of charity trustees is twelve. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.

3. All Trustees give their time voluntarily and do not receive personal benefit from the charity.

Governance, Structure and Management

Governance is set out in the charity constitution, adopted on the 3rd of November, 2021.

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Name of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee Name	Office (if any)
Liam Joseph Corbally (appointed 2021)	Deputy Co-Chair
Matthew Alan Slade (appointed 2021)	Deputy Co-Chair
Pauline Boerma-Collier (appointed 2021)	
Aarti Chapman (appointed 2022)	Chair 2022-present
Ian Tingley (appointed 2022)	Treasurer 2022-present
David Huxford (appointed 2022)	
Maria Bourbon (appointed 2022)	
Ella Buckingham (appointed 2023)	
Philip Purnell (appointed 2023)	

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

Trustee Name	Office (if any)
Laura Harte	Founder

Objects and activities

The objects of the Charity are set out in its Constitution as being:

- The relief of children, young people and families in Oxfordshire and its surrounding areas who are experiencing or are affected by, or who are at risk of experiencing or being

- affected by, mental distress and disorder in particular but not exclusively by providing lived-experience-led opportunities to learn, connect and gain skills
- The promotion of the preservation of good mental health to the public by promoting understanding, disseminating information, raising awareness and challenging stigma
 - The advancement of co-production of services to the public, in particular to bodies and agencies by, in particular but not exclusively, raising awareness and sharing good practice

For the purpose of this clause, 'co-production' means the design, development, delivery and evaluation of services by the stakeholders who might ultimately use and benefit from them.

Its vision and mission is:

We'd love to see a world where children and young people have the skills, support and control to create their own mental wellness, and to navigate times of mental ill health. This drives us to make sure that every child has what they need to transform their mental health.

The Charity has identified its strategic priorities as:

- Maintain and nurture our warm culture and high quality as we continue to grow
- Increase participant engagement through both programme participation and enrolment
- Continue to build our evidence base, demonstrating efficacy and return on investment and articulate it clearly
- Develop our public image, increasing our visibility and reputation locally
- Secure our core staff capacity, building a robust and skilled team of staff and volunteers

Public benefit

- Advancement of health or the saving of lives – working with our target audience of children and young people experiencing a mental health problem or poor wellbeing, and their supporters
- Health education or sickness prevention – using an educational model to improve knowledge, understanding and coping strategies for recovery and wellbeing maintenance
- Relief of those in need (age, disability, ill-health, financial or other disadvantage)

For these reasons the trustees consider that the Charity meets the public benefit requirement.

In setting the Charity's goals and in planning its activities the trustees have given due consideration to the published Charity Commission guidance on the operation of the public benefit requirement of the Charities Act 2011.

Progress and Plans

2023-24 was a year of significant growth and change for the charity, moving from being a fledgling organisation with a changeable roster of fixed-term staff, to a more robust structure with longer-term staffing, a developing organisational knowledge base, and a fast-growing reputation for impactful youth work. We've worked hard to put down strong roots that will serve the charity's journey for the years to come.

Activities

We delivered ten programmes in 2023-24, a significant increase from previous years, and a trajectory that is still increasing. After successful initial programmes in two Didcot primary schools, the Head Teachers shared their positive experiences with their peers and we expanded to Chilton, Sunningwell, Harwell and Cholsey. We also delivered two programmes to young adults in Witney. All of these areas were new to us, but despite being an unknown quantity to these communities we were able to work with 71 new participants: 63 under the age of 11, and 8 young adults. We had 106 enrolments - children, young people and adults who want to participate in programmes with us.

All of this was only possible because we invested in expanding our staff team, bringing in three new Facilitators. We were joined by Rebecca Kerry in August 2023 to replace Carmel Segev who unfortunately had to leave her role with us in June due to a change in personal circumstances, and then by Pia Saunders-Patel and Frankie Jones in January 2024, bringing our Facilitator team to a group of four with varied and rich expertise and both lived and learned experience. To host this dream team, we moved into a larger office space in January 2024, providing us with more suitable space for programme preparation and administration, but also access to suitable spaces to meet with children and parents for their pre-programme Learning Support Plan appointments.

We also added additional expertise to our Board of Trustees, welcoming Ella Buckingham who brings particular expertise in social media and communications.

Whilst all of this has undoubtedly set a fierce pace of work for the small but growing team at Oxfordshire Discovery College, none of this really demonstrates the significant impact that the efforts of our staff and volunteers have had on the children and families we serve, or the challenging circumstances that they've made these achievements within.

Challenges and achievements

In October 2023 our volunteer CEO, Laura, had a baby and spent six months on maternity leave. Laura provides day-to-day leadership and vision to the organisation, but she is also the sole internal fundraiser. We planned for this period carefully and were able to secure around £54,000 before the end of October, ensuring a robust financial position with which to enter this period.

We also recognised that staff capacity was limited against the climbing demand we were seeing, and that more resource would be needed to see us through these pivotal six months, so we increased

our Coordinator's hours to 0.6FTE. She was able to use some of these hours to participate in the Clore Leadership Development Programme, further enhancing our infrastructure by deepening her skills and knowledge of values-led leadership.

All staff and board members pulled together and took on additional tasks and responsibilities in Laura's absence, working in close collaboration and not only maintaining momentum but actually driving the charity through a period of growth. We wish to express our deep gratitude for the commitment of the entire staff team and board of trustees, but in particular to Leila Rawes Barton, Coordinator, for consistently going above and beyond to ensure Discovery College continued to thrive.

It was affirming for our model and way of working that we also saw positive indicators of impact resulting from our programmes, with children and young people reporting improvements in wellbeing. 62% of young people showed an increase in wellbeing metrics from participating in just one programme with us, with 'I've been feeling calm', 'I think good things will happen in my life', and 'I've been getting on well with people' showing the largest improvement.

For our Identity, Resilience and Reflection programme for young adults, 100% of participants reported improved wellbeing according to the Warwick and Edinburgh Scale as a result of attending.

The SENCO of one school shared *'a parent who is normally very negative about school and what is on offer was full of praise during parents evening for the ODC Big Feelings Programme that her child was currently accessing through the school. She had explained that it had had a huge positive impact on her child and that they were able to use the strategies that were being taught and that she was seeing a change in behaviour as a result.'*

This encouraging early-stage impact data garnered some interest from local services and partners, culminating in us being invited to present at the annual children's mental health conference for Oxfordshire, Youth In Mind. The event, hosted by Oxfordshire Mind and Oxfordshire Youth, welcomed professionals from education, health, and the charity sector. We were asked to present a workshop exploring perceptions of mental health in young people, which was oversubscribed, and to also host a presentation in the lecture theatre showcasing our innovative Self Harm -> Self Care suite of programmes. It was valuable to have the opportunity to share some of our learnings from these early years of testing our model with the wider service community, and to grow the network of support that the families we work with can access as part of their recovery journeys.

Summary

2023-24 could have been a year of significant upheaval, that might have slowed our progress and prompted us to consolidate and narrow our focus. Instead, we're incredibly proud that the team managed to not only sustain the upward momentum gathered last year, but to drive us forward through an exciting period of growth and expansion, becoming more the reliable and high quality

service for families that we've always aspired to be. This has only been possible due to the dedication of every individual involved in the work who all believe so fervently in what we're trying to achieve, and to the children and young people who inspire us by bravely coming forward to seek support even on the days that it feels an impossible task.

"The programme pushed me to think that I can't hide behind a shell. Doing these activities has helped. I never used to go out and try new things but have now started to a little bit more and I feel proud of what I have achieved."

Plans

2024-25 will be a year to bed in the expansion of this period - settling staff, embedding processes, capturing data and consolidating. Whilst our income generation for this year was strong, we expect the next financial year's fundraising to get off to a slow start due to the maternity leave of our CEO, so we'll also be investing time and energy into nurturing our fundraising pipeline, seeking out multi-year opportunities that will better enable us to plan in the longer term. We'll be making use of some mentoring and training opportunities made available to us by the School for Social Entrepreneurs, and adding Storytelling Case Studies to our repertoire of impact data collection.

We will continue to roll out our programmes to new cohorts in new locations, ensuring that we're reaching as many young people as our capacity allows, and drawing on their feedback to continually evolve and improve our service offering.

Our Strategic Priorities for 2024 support are:

1. Increase participant engagement through both participation in high quality programmes, and enrolment
2. Continue to build our evidence base, demonstrating efficacy and return on investment, and articulate it clearly
3. Boost our fundraising capacity, working towards securing multi-year funding
4. Develop our infrastructure to ensure robust and sustainable organisational growth

Financial Review

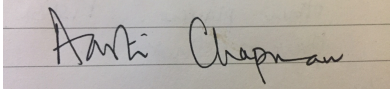
As at the 31st of March 2024, the cash held by the charity totalled £71,134, of which £22,332 represented unrestricted funds. The trustees consider the cash held to be sufficient to cover operating costs for the year ahead.

No restricted funds of the charity are materially in deficit.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	
Full name(s)	Aarti Chapman
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair
Date	7th November 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Oxfordshire Discovery College

**On accounts for the year
ended**

The 31st of March, 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1196460

Set out on pages

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2024.

**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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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:



Date:

27/10/2024

Name:

Michael Russell

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address:

40 Levery Close

Abingdon, OX14 3XX

Income and Expenditure

	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
Balance Brought Forward	42,900	21,411	21,490
Income			
Grants	76,733	6,263	70,470
Other Income	1,884	1,819	65
Total Income	78,618	8,083	70,535
Expenditure			
Salaries	39,775	0	39,775
Training	561	90	472
Overheads	5,884	5,490	395
Materials	812	150	662
Expenses	1,161	142	1,020
Marketing	104	104	0
Recruitment	2	0	2
Equipment	2,040	1,187	853
Partner Costs	0	0	0
Venue Hire	45	0	45
Total Expenditure	50,384	7,162	43,223
Surplus/Deficit	28,233	921	27,312
Balance Carried Forward	71,134	22,332	48,802

Balance Sheet

Current Assets

Cash and Bank

Bank Account	71,133
Petty Cash	1

Total Current Assets	71,134
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Net Assets	<u>71,134</u>
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Funds Position

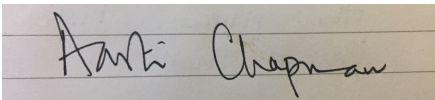
Restricted Funds	48,802
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Unrestricted Funds	22,332
---------------------------	---------------

Total Funds	<u>71,134</u>
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Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s) Aarti Chapman

Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Date 7th November 2024

Accounts



Annual Trustees Report

2021-23

For the period from the 8th of November 2021 to the 31st of March 2023.

Charity name: Oxfordshire Discovery College

Charity registration number: 1196460

Principal address:

1 Bell Close
Grove
Wantage
Oxfordshire
OX12 7NH

Oxfordshire Discovery College is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The governing document is the Constitution of the charity adopted at its registration on 8th November 2021.

Appointment of charity trustees

1. Apart from the founding charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.
2. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Number of charity trustees

1. There must be at least three charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or to appoint a new charity trustee.

2. The maximum number of charity trustees is twelve. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.
3. All Trustees give their time voluntarily and do not receive personal benefit from the charity.

Governance, Structure and Management

Governance is set out in the charity constitution, adopted on the 3rd of November, 2021.

The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Name of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee Name	Office (if any)
Liam Joseph Corbally (appointed 2021)	Interim Chair 2021-22
Matthew Alan Slade (appointed 2021)	
Pauline Boerma-Collier (appointed 2021)	
Aarti Chapman (appointed 2022)	Chair 2022-present
Ian Tingley (appointed 2022)	Treasurer 2022-present
David Huxford (appointed 2022)	
Maria Bourbon (appointed 2022)	
Ella Buckingham (appointed 2023)	
Philip Purnell (appointed 2023)	

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

Trustee Name	Office (if any)
Laura Harte	Founder

Objects and activities

The objects of the Charity are set out in its Constitution as being:

- The relief of children, young people and families in Oxfordshire and its surrounding areas who are experiencing or are affected by, or who are at risk of experiencing or being affected by, mental distress and disorder in particular but not exclusively by providing lived-experience-led opportunities to learn, connect and gain skills
- The promotion of the preservation of good mental health to the public by promoting understanding, disseminating information, raising awareness and challenging stigma

- The advancement of co-production of services to the public, in particular to bodies and agencies by, in particular but not exclusively, raising awareness and sharing good practice

For the purpose of this clause, 'co-production' means the design, development, delivery and evaluation of services by the stakeholders who might ultimately use and benefit from them.

Its vision and mission is:

We'd love to see a world where children and young people have the skills, support and control to create their own mental wellness, and to navigate times of mental ill health. This drives us to make sure that every child has what they need to transform their mental health.

The Charity identified its strategic priorities for 2021-22 as:

- Expand our operational capacity, appointing posts such as a Coordinator and two Facilitators.
- Developing our evidence base and articulating our impact.

Public benefit

- Advancement of health or the saving of lives – working with our target audience of children and young people experiencing a mental health problem or poor wellbeing, and their supporters
- Health education or sickness prevention – using an educational model to improve knowledge, understanding and coping strategies for recovery and wellbeing maintenance
- Relief of those in need (age, disability, ill-health, financial or other disadvantage)

For these reasons the trustees consider that the Charity meets the public benefit requirement.

In setting the Charity's goals and in planning its activities the trustees have given due consideration to the published Charity Commission guidance on the operation of the public benefit requirement of the Charities Act 2011.

Progress and Plans

Activities and achievements

1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022 marked our first year as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission. Prior to our registration in November 2021, we were operating as a constituted community group under the support of an incubator partner, Elmore Community Services.

As a newly-formed charity, we were unable to submit a separate set of accounts for the 2021-22 financial year and are therefore submitting this report covering the extended period of 2021-23.

1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023 saw us begin to build solid foundations in terms of staff, resources, space and reputation, delivering more programmes and working with more young people. The last two years, therefore, have been a real milestone period in our journey as an organisation, and we're incredibly proud of the progress we've made.

Activities

2021-22

We dedicated much of this year to testing our approach through a series of pilot programmes. We completed the delivery of our primary age wellbeing programme ('Discovery Club') to a group of pupils at Tower Hill Primary School in Witney, having begun our work with them shortly before the first Lockdown in 2020.

We secured funds from Oxfordshire County Council (administered by Oxfordshire Community Foundation) to design and deliver a suite of self-harm focused programmes across the county. We created four new programmes, all under the banner of Self Harm > Self Care, for primary, secondary, young adult, and parent/carer/professional audiences. These programmes are evidence-based, draw on professional and lived expertise, and create interactive and exploratory spaces to delve into such a sensitive topic. They were well received, and early data and feedback were both positive.

We hosted four Micro-Internships from The University of Oxford, totalling 8 interns across the year. Three of these internships focused on researching and generating new worksheets and resources that are free to download from our website. These are popular, and have been made by young adults (under 25), some of whom have their own lived experience, for children, young people, and families to access. The fourth internship supported our fundraising efforts by researching and prioritising a range of funding channels. These internships add crucial additional capacity, bring fresh ideas, and also provide us with an opportunity to gain youth insights into our work. In addition, we're committed to providing learning and development opportunities.

Following last year's success of the Rhys Lewis (Patron) Record Club, we again teamed up this year for a new campaign – It's Ok To Be Blue. This garnered positive social media attention, and led to some local and national publicity.

We produced our first Christmas Card, featuring a young artist's work, and divided the proceeds between us and the young artist, marking a key principle of fairly remunerating young people for their skills and talents.

In preparation for our separating from under our incubator partner, we developed our suite of policies, and were fortunate to receive consultant input into our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy. We wrote our first Vision, Mission and Values statement, of which we're very proud. Our Founder and CEO received mentoring from the Charity Mentors scheme. We recruited our first Board of Trustees, appointing 8 diverse and skilled individuals by the end of this year. They range

from clinicians, to experienced board representatives, and also represent people with lived experience. One of our board members participated in the Oxford Hub Trustees Scheme to ensure our understanding of the role of the board, and our way of operating, are up-to-date and in line with best practice. All of this work culminated in our registration with the Charity Commission as a separate legal entity, with a strong foundation and carefully considered governance.

We bolstered our fundraising approach by working with a consultant to advise on our strategy, reviewed and finalised our choice of wellbeing metrics to best measure and gauge our impact on participants, and for the second time featured as a stall holder at the Youth In Mind conference.

2022-23

2022-23 saw us continue to deliver our pilot phase, with us appointing four new Facilitators (two Experts-by-Experience and two Experts-by-Training) for six month contracts, with funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. They designed several new programmes, including our Change Champions programme for 10-12 year olds, and an Identity and Resilience programme for university age young adults.

We hosted a number of further micro-internships, with projects ranging from citing the evidence base in our programme session plans, resource creation, and designing our registration process for new participants.

We were delighted to be invited to present at Oxford's Marmalade Conference (part of an international festival) on the topic of co-production.

We invested time in bolstering our policies and infrastructure, including developing our Community Code (Code of Conduct) and adopting the NJC payscales. We were also in a position, for the first time, to offer some employee benefits including early initiating pension contributions.

We recruited a new Chair of Trustees who has led the Board successfully since she was appointed, investing time in developing the board's individual skill-sets and team working processes, and has brought structure and clarity to our board meetings and collective efforts. We also held our first Strategy Away-Day in January 2023, which brought together both Trustees and Staff to set Strategic Priorities for the coming year and review our progress to date. Since then we've developed our board further, appointing two Co-Vice-Chairs from within the board, and a new Trustee with a specialism in communications.

In April 2022 we took on our first office space as part of the Makespace meanwhile let initiative. Makespace had been offered a space in Didcot and were able to therefore offer us funding to provide us with a reduced rent package, enabling us to trial the value of an office after a period of fully remote working. Feedback from staff and volunteers has shown the addition of our small office to have been invaluable, and something we're committed to maintaining.

We undertook a small scale independent evaluation with the Oxford Academic Health Science Network (AHSN), who interviewed our Facilitators to help us to better understand our developing model - which elements were secure and valued, and which needed further development. It was reassuring to us that many of the developments we had planned for the coming months were highlighted in the AHSN's findings, and that some unanticipated benefits of working at Discovery College were also identified. The Oxford AHSN said: *"The Oxford AHSN was engaged by the Oxfordshire Discovery College to conduct a series of objective interviews to review and provide feedback on the organisations' approach to supporting young people. Interviews were conducted with staff who facilitated several of the organisation's programmes for young people. The interviews highlighted the value of authentic lived experience of mental health difficulties and how staff were supported to use their experience to engage children, young people and families to open conversation about mental health and wellbeing. Areas for improvement were also highlighted, particularly around process and delivery. Findings from the interviews have been shared with the Oxfordshire Discovery College Founder & CEO to support next steps for the organisation in improving infrastructure"*. We look forward to continuing our relationship with them in 2023-24 and beyond.

In January 2023 we appointed two new Facilitators (one an Expert-by-Experience, one an Expert-by-Training) on a minimum 12 month contract. This is a significant step forward, enabling us to begin to grow our organisational knowledge and invest in longer-term relationships. In March 2023, we have also begun the process of recruiting for a new role of Community Engagement Coordinator to oversee the day-to-day operations, to line manage these Facilitators and to develop partnerships across the county.

Achievements

2021-22

This was a year of milestones, but there are some key achievements we're incredibly proud of.

We employed our first employees – two staff who are 'Experts-by-Experience' and 'Experts-by-Training'. This indicates a real shift towards us being a stable and robust organisation and employer, and we worked hard to ensure that we could provide a supportive workplace that recognises staff's skills and experience.

We were awarded the Gold Standard Internship Host award by The University of Oxford, in recognition of the high quality placements we provide to their students, and our ongoing commitment to supporting the scheme.

We were fortunate to again be supported this year by enthusiastic and dedicated community fundraisers, who hosted events to raise funds for the Discovery College.

We were awarded second prize in the multi-disciplinary category at the Royal College of Psychiatrist's Easter Division Autumn Conference for our poster entitled Improving Mental Health Outcomes for Children & Young People – A Pilot.

We were invited to speak on a panel for a webinar hosted by Oxfordshire Community Foundation titled Advocating for Young Adults after the Pandemic, due to our innovative approach and early success.

Lastly, during the Winter of 2021 and into the Spring of 2022, one of our board members became unwell. They needed to spend some time on a ward receiving support for their mental health, and briefly took a period of sick leave from the board. However, through discussion with their clinicians it was ultimately felt that their work supporting the Discovery College provided a positive and constructive focus for them and they were able to take up their role again during their period of recovery. They joined several of our board meetings from the hospital ward and contributed significantly to our work at that time. For us, this felt the embodiment of our values, ethos and approach – recognising the value of someone's lived experience *and* their broader skills and contributions, and removing barriers to enable them to participate fully.

2022-23

This year heralded the end of our initial pilot phase, seeing us transition towards offering a more consistent and reliable service offer, and consolidating our learning about our approach to date.

We began to receive invitations to participate in events and opportunities, such as an event hosted by the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire and the Marmalade Conference, rather than us pursuing such opportunities. This indicated to us that our reputation in the county is developing and that there is interest in what we're creating.

We again had a small group of passionate and creative community fundraisers who helped to develop our profile in local spaces, and to generate vital income for us.

We were delighted to be able to appoint our new team of staff for a longer-term period, and this was only made possible by the generous support of some key funders who felt confident enough in our work to date to provide us with core funding. This has given us the flexibility to apply our resources to best cement our growth and provide us with a strong foundation for the future. In particular, we were awarded funds from the Shackleton Foundation on our second application, something that is very unusual, and we were also recommended to the School for Social Entrepreneurs for further support by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, on the strength of our performance under their own funding period.

We've also had some powerful moments of progress and change in some of our groups - from parents who are getting some time and support for themselves for the first time, to teenagers who have been grappling with their diagnosis under clinical services for years and find in our groups, for the first time, a space to explore their mental illness to understand it more fully. We're seeing

increases in overall wellbeing metrics across all of our groups, which lends credibility to our approach.

Summary

We're delighted with the progress we've made during this period and the learning we've gathered from our direct delivery. We'd like to extend our gratitude to Elmore Community Services for supporting our early development, and to our dedicated Working Group, a team of volunteers who propelled us forward in all work and decision-making until we reached the point of registering with the Charity Commission, wherein they handed over the reins to our fantastic Board of Trustees. Our existence today is credit to that team of people: Rosie Hall, Louis Headley, Pauline Boerma-Collier, Matt Slade and Liam Corbally. We'd also like to show our appreciation to the participants of all of these early programmes, who have not only been inspiring to work with, but who have helped to shape our work and our organisation at this early stage. Their fingerprints are all over the movement we're creating.

"It was important for me to get my voice heard. I didn't like to talk out loud or say how I was feeling as my self-confidence was low. It really boosted my confidence, people were proud of me and I was proud of myself."

Reserves policy

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately one month of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to enable us to increase fundraising or to wind up the charity, as the circumstances demand. However, the trustees are committed to building the level of reserves held to a total of three months expenditure over the coming years. The balance held as free reserves at 31st March 2023 was £5,333, against a budgeted 2023/24 monthly spend of £4,624.

Plans

2023-24 looks exciting for Oxfordshire Discovery College – we've built a stable basis from which to grow and consolidate our work in the coming year. Fundraising performance in the last quarter of 2022-23 has been positive and we continue to nurture relationships with funders. We intend to roll out our existing suite of programmes, increasing our reach and engagement across the county, and to develop new programmes in response to evolving need, using our newly appointed small-but-mighty team of core staff.

Our Strategic Priorities for 2023 support these activities:

1. Maintain and nurture our warm culture and high quality as we grow
2. Increase participant engagement through both programme participation and enrolment

3. Continue to build our evidence base, demonstrating efficacy and return on investment, and articulate it clearly
4. Develop our public image, increasing our visibility and reputation locally, and with a clear USP
5. Secure our core staff capacity, building a robust and skilled team of staff and volunteers supported by diverse income generation

Increasing our staff capacity will enable us to, put simply, do more, and continuing to develop our evidence base is crucial in evidencing that the Discovery College model really does have the potential to benefit children and young people across the country. We therefore need to articulate exactly what it is that makes the Discovery College model so powerful, helping other localities to replicate it where there is appetite to.

The way to doing this is by working with more children, young people, and adult supporters - engaging them in transformative and exciting programmes and improving their overall wellbeing. The route to our organisational growth is by improving the lives of children and young people with mental health problems, and we have *every* reason - from our mission in Oxfordshire to our commitment to the Discovery College model - to achieve this.

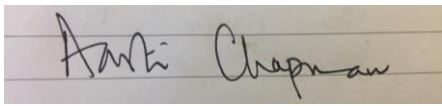
Financial Review

As at the 31st of March 2023, the cash held by the charity totalled £42,900, of which £21,411 represented unrestricted funds. The trustees consider the cash held to be sufficient to cover operating costs for the year ahead.

No restricted funds of the charity are materially in deficit.

Declarations

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

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Aarti Chapman	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	12 th September, 2023	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Oxfordshire Discovery College

**On accounts for the year
ended**

The 31st of March, 2023

Set out on pages

11 and 12

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Charity") for the period ended 31 / 03 / 2023. This is the first reporting period, covering the 17 months from November 2021.

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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:

MRussell

Date:

04/09/2023

Name:

Michael Russell

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Address:

40 Levery Close

Abingdon, OX14 3XX

Income and Expenditure

	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
Balance Brought Forward			
Income			
Grants	55,023.00		55,023.00
Other Income	21,733.79	21,710.30	23.49
Transfers	0.00	2,229.73	-2,229.73
Total Income	<u><u>76,756.79</u></u>	<u><u>23,940.03</u></u>	<u><u>52,816.76</u></u>
Expenditure			
Salaries	24,880.71		24,880.71
Training	800.81	160.80	640.01
Overheads	3,113.37	2,106.20	1,007.17
Materials	1,940.65	92.44	1,848.21
Expenses	1,671.98	28.16	1,643.82
Marketing	239.58	141.59	97.99
Recruitment	206.22		206.22
Equipment	1,003.13		1,003.13
Total Expenditure	<u><u>33,856.45</u></u>	<u><u>2,529.19</u></u>	<u><u>31,327.26</u></u>
Surplus/Deficit	<u><u>42,900.34</u></u>	<u><u>21,410.84</u></u>	<u><u>21,489.50</u></u>
Balance Carried Forward	<u><u>42,900.34</u></u>	<u><u>21,410.84</u></u>	<u><u>21,489.50</u></u>

Balance Sheet

Current Assets

Cash and Bank

Bank Account	42,899.34
Petty Cash	1.00

Total Current Assets **42,900.34**

Net Assets **42,900.34**

Funds Position

Restricted **21,489.50**

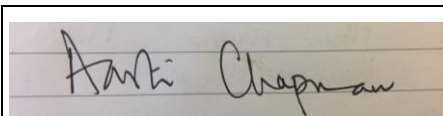
Unrestricted **21,410.84**

Of which, funds held in reserve **5,333.00**

Total Funds **42,900.34**

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Aarti Chapman

Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

Chair

Date

26th September 2023