

# OPENDOORS 4U

England & Wales · Charity number 1202532

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2023-03-29

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

## Contact

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**Address** Number 1 Business Centre  
1 Alvin Street  
Gloucester  
GL1 3EJ

**Phone** 07985105198

**Email** [Diversecity2005@gmail.com](mailto:Diversecity2005@gmail.com)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE RELIEF OF THOSE IN NEED, BY REASON OF DISABILITY, INCLUDING THOSE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES, AND THEIR FAMILIES AND CARERS, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH THE PROVISION OF SERVICES, SUPPORT, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, ACCESS TO THE ARTS, ADVICE AND SOCIAL EVENTS.

**Activities:** The relief of those in need, by reason of disability, including those with learning disabilities and their families and carers, for the public benefit in the United Kingdom, in particular but not exclusively through the provision of services, support, recreational facilities, access to the arts, advice and social events. The Charity helps: children/young people, people with learning needs

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

## Geography

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- Throughout England

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-05-05		£0	£0	-
2024-05-05		£0	£0	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Valerie Simms</b>	Chair	2023-03-29
Jennie Rutheva Watkins		
Lloyd Gordon MCIAT		
Philip McCormick		

**OPENDOORS 4U**

England & Wales - Charity number 1202532

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# Accounts

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# OpenDoors 4U CIO

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

Charity Number: 1202532

Financial Year Ending: 5 May 2025

Prepared by: Valerie Simms, Trustee

Date: 12 March 2026

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## 1. Cover Note – Late Submission Explanation

Dear Charity Commission,

Please find attached the Trustees' Annual Report and Nil Accounts for OpenDoors 4U CIO for the financial year ending 5 May 2025.

### Reason for Late Submission

OpenDoors 4U CIO is a newly established charity, operating primarily through volunteers and in-kind support. Due to circumstances beyond our control, including the ongoing setup of a charity bank account and securing a qualified accountant, we were unable to complete and submit our Annual Return by the original deadline. We have now prepared the Trustees' Annual Report and Nil Accounts and are putting procedures in place to ensure future returns are submitted on time.

### Activities and Public Benefit

During this period, the charity continued to provide workshops, arts activities, and community support for children and young people with learning disabilities and additional needs through volunteer support and partnerships with community organisations.

OpenDoors 4U CIO has been supported by Arts Diverse-City, RoseBank Doctors Surgery Community Centre, The Venture (The Vibe Youth Centre), and we are developing future partnership work with Gloucestershire Gateway Trust, who now run the local children's centres.

We confirm the charity continues to operate for public benefit and in accordance with its charitable objectives.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees,

**Valerie Simms**

Chair & Trustee

12 March 2026

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## 2. Trustees' Annual Report

### Administrative Details

- Charity Name: OpenDoors 4U CIO
- Charity Number: 1202532
- Charity Structure: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Foundation)
- Date of Registration: 29 March 2023

- Registered Address: 1 Alvin Street, Gloucester, GL1 3EJ

#### **Trustees during the period:**

- Valerie Simms – Chair
- Jennie Rutheva Watkins – Trustee
- Philip McCormick – Trustee
- Lloyd Gordon MCIAT – Trustee

**Resigned Trustee:** Dorcas Nzuzi Raphael

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## **Structure, Governance and Management**

OpenDoors 4U CIO is governed by its CIO Constitution registered with the Charity Commission on 29 March 2023. Trustees are responsible for governance and management, ensuring operations follow the charitable objectives and public benefit requirements.

The charity is currently:

- Seeking additional trustees
  - Seeking a qualified accountant
  - In the process of opening a charity bank account
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## **Charitable Objects and Public Benefit**

### **Objects:**

The relief of those in need by reason of disability, including those with learning disabilities, and their families and carers, for the public benefit in the United Kingdom, in particular but not exclusively through the provision of services, support, recreational facilities, access to the arts, advice and social events.

### **Public Benefit Activities:**

- Arts and creative workshops
- Cultural and heritage activities
- Social and recreational opportunities
- Support for families and carers
- Activities promoting inclusion, confidence, and wellbeing

Activities are free or low cost and accessible to children and young people with learning disabilities and additional needs.

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## **History, Support and Partnerships**

OpenDoors 4U evolved from the **Down With The Kids Project**, supporting young people with additional learning needs.

### **Partnerships & Support:**

- Arts Diverse-City – in-kind support and guidance
- RoseBank Doctors Surgery Community Centre – space for Friday workshops
- The Venture (The Vibe Youth Centre) – partnership working
- Developing future work with Gloucestershire Gateway Trust

#### **Grants & Awards:**

- 2022 – £5,000 UnLtd grant for workshop materials
- 2024 – £500 Rotary Community Awards grant

The charity works within Linden and Moreland wards in Gloucester, supporting young people who are out of education, waiting for EHCP assessments, or in hospital.

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#### **Activities During the Year**

- Weekly Friday workshops during term time
- Monthly Afro Arts sessions
- Arts, music, drama, and cultural activities
- Community events and partnership work
- Support for children and young people with learning disabilities
- Family and community engagement

These activities were delivered through volunteers and in-kind support.

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#### **Financial Review**

- Income: £0
- Expenditure: £0
- Bank Account: In process of being opened

The charity operated through volunteer support and in-kind contributions. Funding applications are ongoing, including Barnwood Trust and National Lottery.

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#### **Future Plans**

- Develop Youth Empowerment Hub
  - Expand arts, music, drama, and heritage programmes
  - Work with Gloucestershire Gateway Trust
  - Continue workshops and community outreach
  - Recruit additional trustees
  - Open charity bank account
  - Secure funding and grants
  - Support more children and young people with learning disabilities
-

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved this report and confirm that OpenDoors 4U CIO continues to operate in accordance with its charitable objectives and for public benefit.

Signed:

**Valerie Simms – Chair & Trustee**

Date: 12 March 2026

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## 3. Receipts and Payments Accounts (Nil Accounts)

Financial Year Ending 5 May 2025

### Receipts

Income	Amount (£)
Donations	0
Grants	0
Fundraising	0
Other Income	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>0</b>

### Payments

Expenditure	Amount (£)
Workshop Costs	0
Materials	0
Administration	0
Events	0
Other Expenses	0
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>0</b>

**Balance Carried Forward: £0**

### Notes:

During this financial period the charity did not operate a bank account and had no financial transactions. Activities were delivered through volunteers and in-kind support.

**Trustee Declaration:**

The trustees confirm that these accounts are accurate and prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Signed:

**Valerie Simms – Chair & Trustee**

Date: 12 March 2026

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**4. Optional Comments (for Charity Commission online)**

OpenDoors 4U CIO continues to develop services supporting children and young people with learning disabilities and additional needs through arts, culture, and community activities. During this period the charity operated through volunteers and in-kind support while establishing governance and partnerships. Workshops and activities were delivered through partnership working with Arts Diverse-City, RoseBank Community Centre and The Venture (The Vibe Youth Centre). Children's Centres are now run by Gloucestershire Gateway Trust and OpenDoors 4U is developing partnership work with them. Demand for services has increased, particularly from young people out of education, waiting for EHCP assessments, and families needing inclusive activities and support. The charity is currently opening a bank account, recruiting trustees, and applying for funding to expand services and develop a Youth Empowerment Hub.

**OPENDOORS 4U**

England & Wales - Charity number 1202532

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# Accounts

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CHANGES  
IN WAVES

# COMMUNITY



YOUTH OF TODAY



I am writing on behalf of OpenDoors 4U, a dedicated charity committed to supporting young people with additional learning needs here in Gloucester. We are eager to discuss how our organization can contribute ideas and create a positive impact on the lives of these young individuals, particularly in the city centre.

As you may be aware, young people with additional learning needs are an essential part of our community, yet they often find themselves feeling isolated and apart from the rest. Our mission is to bridge this gap and provide them with a safe, inclusive, and empowering space to thrive.

We have exciting plans to develop a creative and multidisciplinary hub for young people with learning disabilities. This hub will offer various programs, workshops, and activities designed to foster social interaction, skill development, and fun. It will be a place where they can express themselves freely, nurture their talents, and build meaningful connections with their peers.

By establishing OpenDoors 4U in the heart of the city centre, we aim to create a visible and accessible space for young people with additional learning needs to be equal participants in community events and activities. We believe this inclusivity will not only benefit them directly but will also enrich the wider community by celebrating diversity and fostering a sense of understanding and empathy.

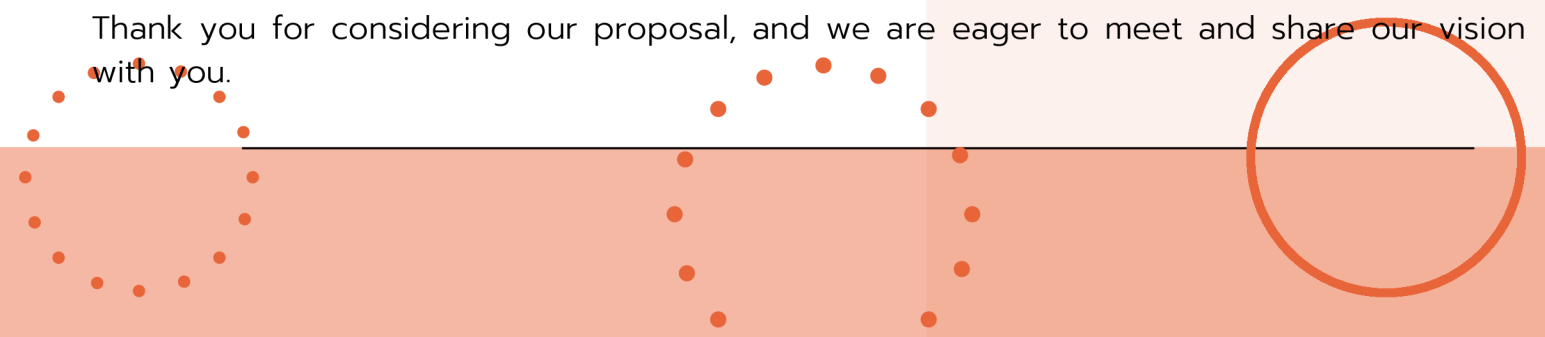
Our project aligns perfectly with the city's vision for a more inclusive and empowered community. We envision OpenDoors 4U as a catalyst for positive change, enabling these young individuals to develop vital life skills, gain confidence, and enhance their overall well-being. As they grow, they will become active contributors to society, fostering a stronger sense of community cohesion.

In addition to empowering young people, our initiative will also positively impact their families and caregivers. By providing a supportive and nurturing environment, we aim to alleviate some of the burdens faced by parents and guardians, allowing them to focus on their own personal growth and well-being.

We are excited to collaborate with the City Council of Gloucester to bring this project to life. Your support and guidance will be instrumental in making this vision a reality. We believe that by working together, we can create a truly inclusive and supportive community for young people with additional learning needs.

We look forward to discussing our ideas and plans further and exploring how OpenDoors 4U can partner with the City Council to make a lasting and positive impact on the lives of young individuals with learning disabilities in Gloucester.

Thank you for considering our proposal, and we are eager to meet and share our vision with you.



## SECTION 1: CHARITY DETAILS

Charity Name: OpenDoors 4U CIO

Charity Number: 1202532

Financial Year End Date: 5 May 2024

Charity Structure: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Registered Address: 1 Alvin Street, Gloucester, GL1 3EJ

### Section 2: Financial Information

Total Income for the Year: £0

Total Expenditure for the Year: £0

Bank Account: Not yet established, currently in the process of securing one.

Financial Transactions: The charity has not received or spent any funds during this financial year.

### Section 3: Trustees and Governance

Trustees Serving During the Financial Period:

Valerie Simms – Chair

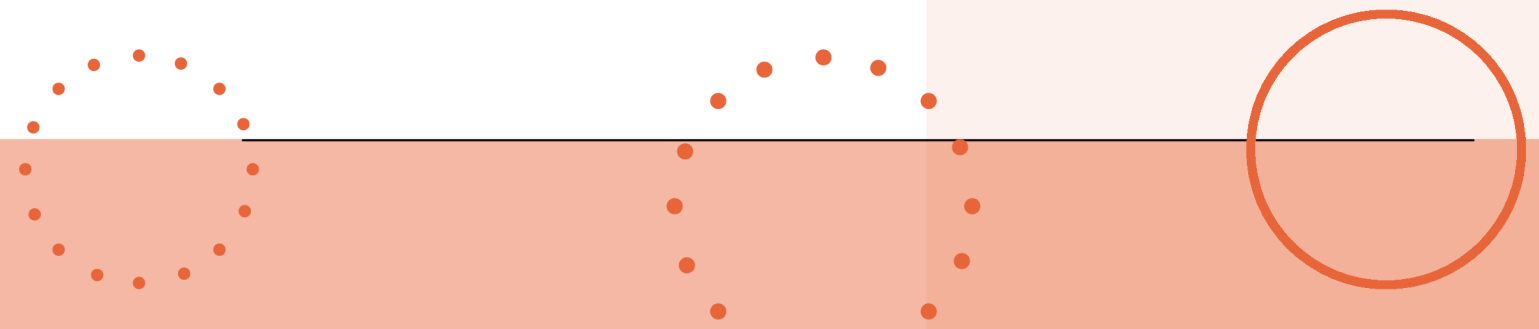
Jennie Rutheva Watkins – Trustee

Philip McCormick – Trustee

Lloyd Gordon MCIAT – Trustee

Resigned Trustee: Dorcas Nzuzi Raphael (Resigned due to other commitments).

Governing Document: CIO Constitution, registered with the Charity Commission on 29 March 2023.



## *SECTION 4: INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION STATEMENT*

As OpenDoors 4U CIO has not had any financial transactions or bank accounts during this reporting period, the charity is submitting a 'nil return' and does not require an independent examination.

The charity acknowledges its obligation to maintain proper financial records and has taken steps to ensure compliance in the future.

Trustees are in the process of securing a bank account and appointing an accountant to oversee financial reporting in subsequent years.

Reason for Delay in Filing:

We recently moved from 2 Clarence Walk and are in the process of relocating to 1 Alvin Street, Gloucester, GL1 3EJ.

The loss of Sharon Baldwin, our accountant and a Director of OpenDoors 4U, significantly impacted our ability to submit the report on time.

### Section 5: Impact Statement

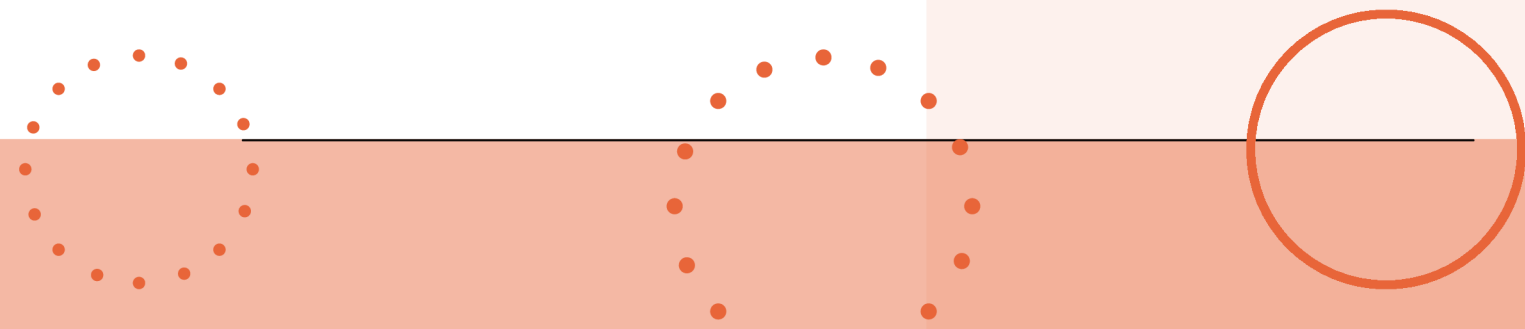
OpenDoors 4U CIO has been actively engaged in supporting young people with learning disabilities and their families. Despite financial limitations, the charity has made a tangible impact through various programs and workshops, including:

Weekly Creative and Social Inclusion Workshops – Providing a safe and inclusive space for young people with learning disabilities to engage in creative arts, personal development, and social interaction.

Afro Arts Workshop (Last Friday of Each Month) – Introducing participants to African arts, heritage, and culture through music, storytelling, and creative expression.

Community Engagement Partnerships – Collaborating with local schools, cultural organisations, and community groups to promote diversity, inclusion, and cultural education.

These initiatives have successfully engaged young people, parents, and carers, creating a sense of community and empowerment. The charity has relied on volunteer support, partnerships, and in-kind contributions to sustain these programs.



## **SECTION 6: FUTURE FINANCIAL PLANS**

To ensure financial sustainability and the growth of its programs, OpenDoors 4U CIO has developed the following financial strategies:

Establishment of a Charity Bank Account – To enable financial transactions, grant applications, and fund management.

Recruitment of an Accountant – To oversee financial compliance and reporting.

Grant Applications & Funding Initiatives:

Applications for funding from the Barnwood Trust, National Lottery, and other grant providers.

Expansion of fundraising activities, including corporate sponsorships and community-based fundraising events.

Strengthening collaboration with Arts Diverse-City CIC to leverage funding opportunities and enhance program delivery.

By securing these financial resources, OpenDoors 4U CIO aims to expand its reach and provide enhanced support for young people with learning disabilities in Gloucester.

## Section 7: Operational Achievements

Grant Funding Received:

£5,000 UnLtd grant for Down with the Kids – Recognised as an initiative making a difference in the community.

Rotary Community Award (2024) – Supporting ongoing youth programs and community engagement.

Program Development:

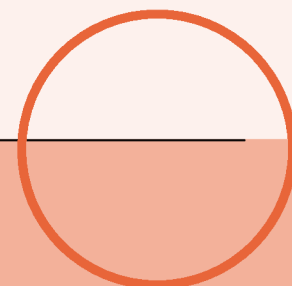
Collaboration with Arts Diverse-City CIC to sustain arts and cultural programs.

Strengthened relationships with local schools and organisations to expand educational outreach.

Community Impact:

Successfully delivered workshops and activities that have directly benefited young people with learning disabilities.

Built a network of volunteers and supporters to ensure program continuity.



## *SECTION 8: TRUSTEE DECLARATION*

We, the Trustees of OpenDoors 4U CIO, confirm that:

- The charity has been active in delivering its charitable objectives despite financial limitations.
- No funds have been received or expended during the financial year.
- The charity remains compliant with Charity Commission requirements.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Valerie Simms

Chair and Trustee

Date: 12 March 2025

