

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.

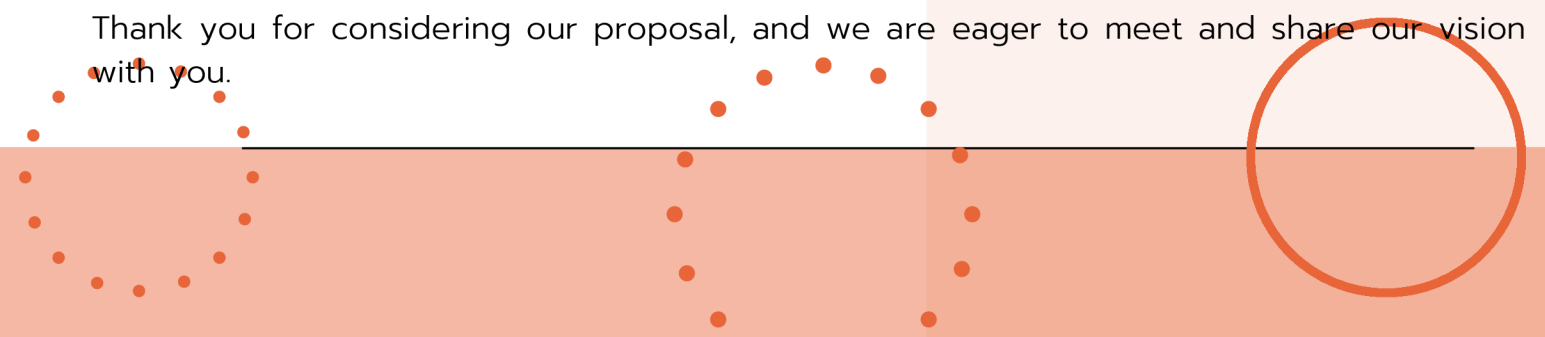
Our project aligns perfectly with the city's vision for a more inclusive and empowered community. We envision OpenDoors 4U as a catalyst for positive change, enabling these young individuals to develop vital life skills, gain confidence, and enhance their overall well-being. As they grow, they will become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

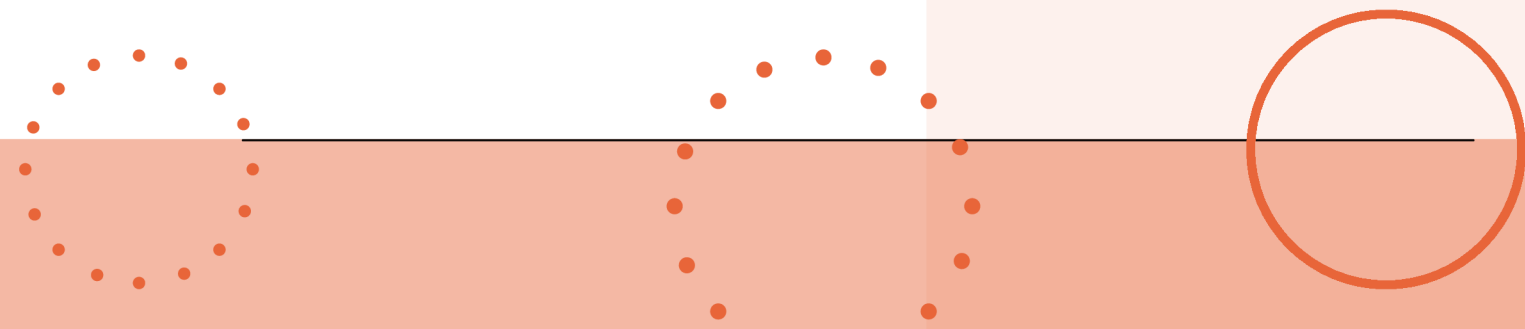
Jennie Rutheva Watkins – Trustee

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

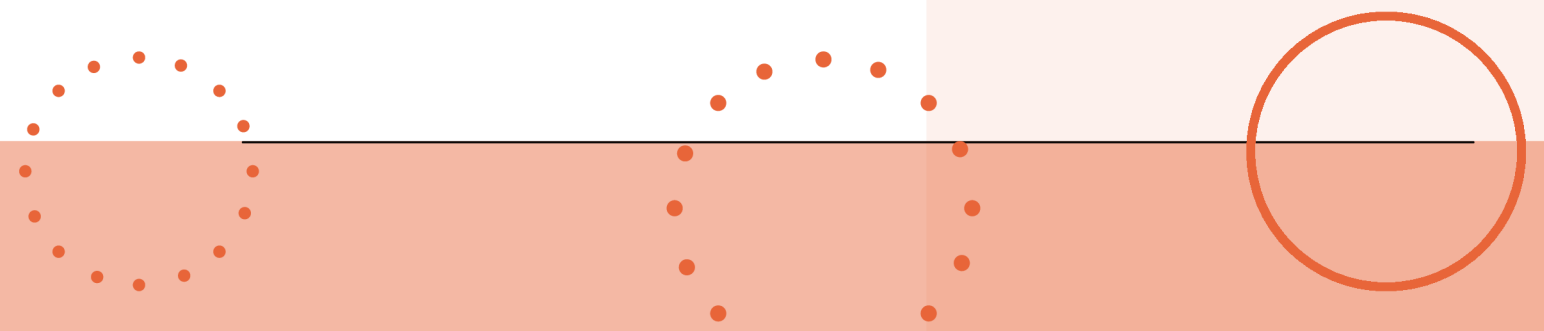
OpenDoors 4U CIO has been actively engaged in supporting young people with learning disabilities and their families. Despite financial limitations, the charity has made a tangible impact through various programs and workshops, including:

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

