



Report to Faringdon Town Council, May 2023

The Place owes its existence to the support of the Town Council, which provides both its premises and a proportion of the running costs. Thanks to the council 's vision and support, Faringdon is unique in the local area in continuing to provide a free universal service for families with young children, something of which we are very proud.

This report is based on the annual report for 21/22.

The Place offers the following services to families with babies and children under 5: Play At the Place (a universal group providing play activities in line with EYFS and support for parents); New Parent, New Baby Groups; Baby Massage and Breastfeeding support groups. During school holidays, outings and outdoor events are offered for families including older siblings. We run courses for parents such as Family Links Parenting and First Aid. A Clothes Library is also available providing baby clothes from 0-1yr and maternity clothes. Clothes are also sourced for older children on request. The Place hosts the Health Visitor clinic and offers practical support to other groups in the town, such as a parent run Toddler Group.

306 families accessed the charity's services in the period from November 2021 to 2022. We currently have a waiting list for some of our groups.

As a consequence of now having our own premises, we were able to apply to Nationwide for a grant to set up one of the rooms as a Sensory Space. As well as a lovely space for baby groups, this room can also be booked by families and is particularly good for children who may have sensory or other additional needs.

Our users continue to value the services we provide and are the best advocates for the impact the council's funding has in the community. The feedback from our most recent users survey is shown below.

Thank you again for funding The Place.

Joanna Cave

Feedback from online survey – March 2023

I think the groups are great, and that you have a good variety on offer each week. The format of the groups works really well, with the snack/story/singing to close it off and provide some structure. Perhaps in the summer, if you don't do so already, there could be the option to take kids to a local park so they could have some outdoor social playtime too.

we love attending your groups. You all do such a wonderful job at supporting families.

the groups have been perfect. The play at the place really engages my toddler and being able to come along with my baby and feel supported

Knowing I can arrive at any time and will be met with a friendly place, a smile and always someone to talk to. It's made a huge difference knowing that I can zip down the road to The Place and it's invaluable.

Seeing toddler interact with others and for me to have some adult conversation. I love how supportive the staff are and I always feel welcome.

It's really lovely take both my children and have amazing support from all the ladies. I'm so glad we have such a nice group to go to in faringdon.

Spending time with other mums and it being a different environment other than home for my baby to explore

The staff are so helpful and friendly and the groups are the perfect mix of free play, story, snack and singing.

All of it, it's been so lovely to find this place (pun intended). The staff are great and so are all the families. It's has really helped my children with their social skills and they look forward to coming every week.

Meeting new friends, feeling supported, having adults to talk to. Kids enjoying playing with different toys each week.

Brand new to the area, so fantastic to have somewhere to get support and meet other mums

We love coming and playing and having a catch up with the other mums and we love the singing

Friendly staff. Kindness. ThankYou for everything you do. You are a lifeline,

Thank you so much - the early days and weeks were a blur, but one clear memory is your kind and smiling faces and a feeling of welcome and support. You made more difference than you know.

VALE COMMUNITY IMPACT (VCI)

Report for the Faringdon Town Meeting on 31st May; for the year 2022/23

Date: 24th May 2023

Report Author *P Roscoe, Joint Operations Manager, www.vci.org.uk*

Vale Community Impact (VCI) is a relatively small, independent local charity that provides a suite of services to the Faringdon community. We offer free and impartial advice on a broad range of topics such as debt & money management, benefits, and housing alongside a community transport service, a befriending scheme, isolation support and weekly shopping trips. Our aim is to deliver assistance in a tailored manner to suit the particular needs of the residents, as such a client may receive help from just one or two of our services or even all of them in a blended solution. Our main office base is in the market square in Wantage; however, we offer out-reach advice services at Day Centres, community groups, information cafés, village/church halls and GP surgeries. In addition to the transport and befriending services obviously involving support to, from and within the clients' own homes, we also have specialist volunteer advisors who will complete benefits activity or deliver key advice support at a client's residence where it has been assessed in advance from a safeguarding perspective.

Residents are able to obtain the advice support that they require Monday through Friday with face-to-face appointments and drop-in available throughout each day. The advance of technology and the growing confidence in it for many clients means that telephone, email, on-line chat and video-calls are also available. Our community transport typically involves scheduled drives to hospital, medical and day centre/community group destinations on weekdays but requests are on the rise for weekend scans or surgery clinics such as flu vaccinations etc. Our Good Neighbour Scheme matches the volunteer to the client and that includes availability, so evening and weekend visits do also take place where the right fit dictates that makes good sense.

VCI would like to thank the Town Council for the £2,000 grant provided for the year 22/23. This financial support contributed to our charity being able to continue to put clients' needs at the heart of our organisation's focus. With the cost-of-living crisis entwined with what was, and still is, an ongoing path to recovery from the pandemic all our services have seen a growing demand and we continue to need to seek ways to increase our capacity and enhance our capabilities. We hope that the town of Faringdon will continue to offer its operational openness to embrace new VCI initiatives that we believe will benefit the local community. In terms of dedicated resource, our Constitution enables the Council to nominate a Trustee to the Management Committee. We have appreciated the time and effort from Councillor Kimberley Morgan over the last 12 months, as we recognise the value to the Committee a representative from Faringdon brings. VCI is currently looking to develop and up-skill its Management Committee and would welcome conversations from residents who would like to know more about becoming an elected Trustee of our charity.

Our accounts for year ending March 31st 2022 are currently with Chapman Worth for independent examination, target for publication is the end of June.

The understanding of the clients' needs is of paramount importance and VCI strives to keep its services' focus as customer centric as possible. These needs are presenting as more complex and increasingly intricate as months and years pass, the challenges are not only in trying to make a difference and design a way forward for a client's situation but navigate the ever more visible level of worry and sense of hopelessness that residents are experiencing. Budgeting worries, life-changing events, decreasing confidence and a lack of clarity bring with them significant toll on mental health, and if these are all coupled with social & physical isolation and loneliness too the sense of spiral and destructive impact is truly overwhelming. It is increasingly important to reflect and review not only on the output but the outcomes of the services our volunteers provide, a measure of the core impact as well as the benefit to mental health. Volunteers typically don't look for recognition or reward, they wish to make a difference and are driven by a desire to help; it is important that we take the time to communicate the positive impact they are making when they aid a resident to find a way to move forward.

VCI has in the region of 120 volunteers including 30 advisors, 50 befrienders and shoppers and 50 drivers. Numerous volunteers are involved in more than one role. These volunteers are the foundation of the customer-centric delivery and a small part-time team of staff, working approximately 120 hours between them, underpin the governance, best practice and operational requirement necessary to provide quality, efficient deliverables and retain a volunteer force who feel supported, guided and heard.

Over the last 12 months, VCI has provided 1,263 instances of “help assistance” to residents of Faringdon Town. There have been a further 22 occasions when one of our volunteer drivers has brought a client in from one of the surrounding areas ie Great Coxwell, Stanford in the Vale, Woolstone, Watchfield and so on for access to local Faringdon retailers, dentists, the White Horse Medical Practice, the Pump House project and food bank sessions etc.

In the last year VCI has provided 855 advice consultations to Faringdon residents. Comparing this to last year, which was in the region of 500, there is clear illustration of an explosive rise in demand level which has been partially associated with the significant number of people seeking or needing assistance with the cost of living crisis including access to grants, loans and government schemes.

Faringdon residents most frequently sought advice on the following issues and concerns, over and above the grants and support loan schemes mentioned above:-

Budgeting	Benefits Checks	Attendance Allowance
Blue Badge	Housing	Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
Debt Management Plans	Council Tax Arrears	Benefits Overpayment

An example of a VCI Impact Case would be –

Mrs G was incredibly worried about paying for her husband’s residential care. Mr G used to take care of all the finances and whilst going through paperwork Mrs G came across debt collection letters from HMRC that added to the stress. The advisor identified and secured Mr G’s eligibility for NHS Continuing Care, worked with creditors to put in place a support plan for Mrs G’s financial survival, engaged a VCI befriender and liaised with HMRC. Furthermore, Mr G was actually entitled to a tax repayment and £3500 was refunded by HMRC.

As one of only two partners selected by the Vale of White Horse District for the Household Support Fund (HSF), VCI has supported over 75 Faringdon individuals, couples or families in terms of initial identification, eligibility assessments, allocation of appropriate grant funds and follow-up household money management activities.

VCI has continued to collaborate well with other local community groups or activities to collectively deliver an overall solution of best-fit to a resident. VCI has deepened its close working practices with the White Horse Medical practice, particularly the social prescriber team, and this demonstrates repeatedly a successful way of working. This partnership targets the overall welfare of residents and proves increasingly effective for patients. The regular involvement of our Advice team at the Faringdon Community Larder continues to be well received and with a restructure within our Advice framework now embedded we can again look to provide further assistance to residents in this way.

There were 168 transport bookings for Faringdon residents of which the 60% were for trips to one of the hospitals in Oxford or Swindon, 25% were for other medical related appointments and the remainder for Day Centres or Community activities. We will also be at the Faringdon Ukrainian group meeting on 6th June to discuss our services.

The Good Neighbour Scheme has been busy again with befriending in Faringdon. 240 befriending interactions between clients, the Good Neighbour volunteers and the VCI Liaison staff team took place for residents of the town with Blue Badge clinics at the Medical Centre and pop-up loneliness café sessions being planned over the next few months as well.

It is important to stress that it is possible to make a difference with even the smallest amount of “donated time”; in both Transport and Befriending services the level of flexibility is considerable. Please don’t hesitate to ask for more information or contact us to chat about volunteering opportunities. VCI is proud of its volunteer satisfaction and retention levels but with the rise in demand, new volunteers are utterly essential.

Our aim for 2023/2024 is to ensure our valued and much needed provision continues to be available to all in need. Residents face immense pressures and worries with the accelerating cost of living. Our charity’s focus, like so many organisations, is to balance the high-quality and depth of the services provided whilst seeking long-term funding security. As a small organisation it is always a challenge to balance the need to be “in it” delivering with being “on it” to look ahead.

Impact Report for Duke of Edinburgh Funding at Faringdon Community College (FCC)

The Duke of Edinburgh's award continues to both aid the development of young people and play a helpful role in the local community. This wouldn't be possible without funding from Faringdon Town Council.

Since September 2022, we have a projected 80 Bronze awards, 68 Silver awards and 18 Gold awards due to be completed. Moreover, we have already had 4 Bronze awards, 17 Silver awards and 4 Gold awards completed from the cohorts of previous years. Gaining the award will, on a superficial level, add something to each participant's CV as they progress through the years of education towards the world of work.

However, each award provides so much more than just material for a participant's resumé. The expedition allows new outdoor skills to be acquired and practiced from planning multi-day hikes to navigation and cook-craft. Moreover, the expeditions provide both lifelong memories and a chance for students and staff to build relationships with each other in an environment outside the classroom. This year we have already completed a Bronze training expedition to Westmoor Farm in Bampton and a very challenging Silver Expedition with terrible weather in the Cotswolds.

The physical section helps keep the young people health and encourages them to improve on their fitness. Many participants find that this spurs them into trying out new active hobbies which many keep going with long after they achieve their awards. With 162 participants doing at least an extra hour a week of physical activity, the award is helping young people to stay healthy.

The volunteering section encourages participants to spend time helping local not-for-profit groups. With 162 participants, each helping out for at least an hour a week over 3, 6 or 12 months, the commitment over West Oxfordshire is huge. The range of volunteering activities is really diverse, from helping at Scouts, Guides and sports clubs, to volunteering for local charities and community groups, the contributions are committed and sustained.

Finally, the skills section encourages participants to try out new activities and gives them credit for the ones they are already continuing with. This is particularly important as teenagers can give up on hobbies when they are between 13-18 and regret it in later life.

In summary, the Duke of Edinburgh's award continues to have a really strong take-up at FCC at all levels. We are extremely grateful for the funding from Faringdon Town Council.

Will Hale

DofE Manager at FCC



OXFORDSHIRE PLAY

ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

For the Period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

OPA is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Charity Number 1160320

OPA's Vision is to improve lives through play

OPA's mission is to champion and to support the rights of all Children and Young People to have access to high quality, inclusive Play opportunities to improve their Physical, Mental and Spiritual Wellbeing

OPA ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

OPA TRUSTEES

Chair = Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor

Hon. Treasurer = Meryl Smith

Trustees = Anne Bissell, Megan Douthwaite, Alexandra Lyons (to February 2022)

OPA STAFF

Manager = Martin Gillett

Training Officer = Wendy Boone

Finance Officer = Jade Jarvis

Oxford Therapeutic Playwork Staff = Jane Gallagher

Sessional Playworkers = Tracy Rampton and Dominique Keetley

BANKERS

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

ACCOUNTANTS / AUDITORS

SPX Oxford, Peace House, 19 Paradise Street, Oxford. OX1 1LD

OPA FINANCE – 2021/22

Income	£124,409
Expenditure	£120,608
Surplus	£3,801
Reserves	£41,010

(A full copy of our Independently Examined Accounts are available on request)

Trustees Annual Financial Report

As hoped for, following the devastating impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns and restrictions, Financial Year 2021-22 was a much better year for the organisation.

There was some disruption around the easing of the final 'lockdown' restrictions that were extended until July 2021 but overall, with some flexibility and careful planning, we were able to deliver our project work as planned.

This included a very welcome return for our Community Play & Activity Days which were postponed completely in 2020. The Communities in which we delivered these events were so very grateful for the chance to be outside and being active and meeting their neighbours again

Our Stay & Play and Saturdads sessions were also very well received as many parents / carers commented on how their children had missed the social interaction with other children and the peer support that they gained from other parents was very welcome. Our Therapeutic Playwork sessions were so very valued by both the children who attended and by the schools in which we delivered the project

We were able to extend our Outreach work during the year at RAF Brize Norton and at Ark T and were able to deliver exciting, new projects such as Street Play within Cherwell District and South Northants and a new Junior Youth Club for Faringdon

We were also very excited to be selected to be a part of the 'Science Together' project which will see us working with researchers and facilitators from both the University of Oxford and Brookes University. This will create a document entitled 'Why Play is Important in Oxfordshire' which will not only benefit our fellow Charitable Organisations in the County but will also enable budget holders and policy makers to have access to research and evidence specific to Oxfordshire

We were able to return the organisation to profit this year which will help us start to recover from the heavy loss incurred during the previous Covid

impacted financial year. This year we achieved an income of £124,409 against expenditure of £120,608 giving us a small surplus of £3,801. Our unrestricted reserves now stand at £41,010, of which at least £20,000 is designated for wind-up costs. We continue to keep very tight control over our core operational costs and for this financial year they were almost 10% lower than in the last pre Covid financial year 2 years ago in 2019-20 (£26,238 compared to £28,306)

We must say Thank You to our funders again this year who have been so very flexible with our projects and delivery due to the issues and restrictions caused by Coronavirus

And finally, as ever, a huge Thank You to the small team of dedicated OPA staff who deliver the work of many while numbering only a few – their passion and commitment never wains and it is an inspiration to see the work they deliver and the positive impact they have on the lives of Children and Young People and the benefit they bring to those Children’s Physical and Mental Wellbeing

Anda Fitzgerald-O’Connor (Chair)

OPA STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

OPA and its Trustees confirm that they have complied with the Statutory Duty in Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to Public Benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. We work on a fully inclusive basis across Oxfordshire taking into account all relevant legislation and guidelines.



Do you share our belief that PLAY is vital for the lives of Children and Young People?

Help us to make Oxfordshire the most play-friendly county in England.



Become a 'Friend of OPA' – and support us to continue our work across Oxfordshire.



Did you realise that the biggest 4% of UK Charities receive 80% of all the donations whilst the remaining 96%, some 159,169 local organisations receive only 20%!

What does OPA do? We:

- ❖ Help play providers to offer high quality play opportunities for all
- ❖ Run user-friendly training on all kinds of play-related topics
- ❖ Campaign for national and local play-friendly policies and decisions

We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity Number 1160320) and have been working with, and for the Families and Communities of Oxfordshire since 1974.

For just £1 per month you can ensure that this work continues into the future by becoming a friend of OPA.

Come and play with us!

Contact us now to see how you can make a difference!

play 4 life

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>Play & Activity Days 2021</u>
FUNDED BY	<p>Oxfordshire County Council (Councillor Priority Fund) SOHA / Banbury Charities / Sovereign Housing Sanctuary Housing / Blenheim Bursary / Cottsway South Abingdon Residents Plan / Faringdon Town Council West Oxfordshire District Council / Shanly Foundation Faringdon United Charity / Witney Town Hall Charity Oxford City Council / Banbury Town Council Witney Town Council / Eynsham Parish Council Cherwell District Council – SPARK Fund Doris Field Charitable Trust / Kidlington Parish Council St Michaels & All Saints Charities Rotary Club of Abingdon Vesper / University of Oxford Abingdon Vineyard Church / Abingdon Town Council Gosford & Water Eaton Parish Council Waitrose & Partners Abingdon</p>
PROJECT DETAILS	<p>Delivery of Community Play & Activity days across Oxfordshire offering both FREE Entrance and FREE Activities to ensure an Inclusion for ALL</p>
PROJECT DELIVERY	<p>We delivered a total of 9 events in 2021 as follows; Wednesday 28th July = Banbury - Peoples Park Thursday 29th July = Eynsham Saturday 31st July = Oxford – Rose Hill Tuesday 3rd August = Berinsfield Thursday 5th August = Witney Friday 6th August = Faringdon Saturday 14th August = Kidlington Tuesday 17th August = Banbury - Princess Diana Park Saturday 4th September = South Abingdon</p> <p>These events were attended by almost 7,000 people. We worked in partnership with a wide range of local organisations in both the planning and delivery of each event to ensure that we were meeting LOCAL need with LOCAL people to including the relevant Town or Parish</p>

Council, local Housing Association and other local Charities and organisations with an interest in Children and Young People.

Each event had the following key, Aims and Objectives

For Children & Young People

- 1) Promote Positive Behaviours & Activities (reduce anti-social behaviour)
- 2) Promote Increased Levels of Physical Activity
- 3) Promote a Healthy Lifestyle (healthy choices)
- 4) Promote Healthy Weight Management (obesity reduction)
- 5) Provide information on services and activities to promote a sense of Wellbeing and Inclusion

For Parents / Carers

- 1) Provide an Event offering both **FREE** Entrance & **FREE** Activities to Ensure an Inclusion for **ALL**
- 2) Demonstrate how Play & Quality Family Time can be achieved on a Zero / Minimal Budget using Natural & Recycled materials
- 3) Provide information on services and activities available in the local and wider area

For Communities

- 1) Encourage a greater sense of belonging to promote Active & Engaged Communities – ‘Love Where You Live’
 - 2) Promote local clubs, groups and societies
 - 3) Involve local groups, communities and Children & Young People in the planning and delivery of each event
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<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>Armed Forces Play & Activity Days 2021</u>
FUNDED BY	Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust South Oxfordshire District Council (Councillor Grants) SOHA Annington Trust Didcot Town Council Didcot Rotary Club
PROJECT DETAILS	Delivery of Community Play & Activity days across Oxfordshire where there is an Army or RAF base to improve community integration between Armed Forces and Civilian families and offering both FREE Entrance and FREE Activities to ensure an Inclusion for ALL
PROJECT DELIVERY	<p>We delivered 3 events as follows; Friday 23rd July = Dalton Barracks Saturday 7th August = Didcot / Vauxhall Barracks Saturday 28th August = RAF Benson</p> <p>These events were attended by almost 2000 people and for each location we worked in close partnership with the base Welfare Team or Community Development Team</p> <p>As with our Community Play & Activity Days our Armed Forces events had the following key Aims and Objectives in addition to improving Community Cohesion;</p> <p><u>For Children & Young People</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6) Promote Positive Behaviours & Activities (reduce anti-social behaviour) 7) Promote Increased Levels of Physical Activity 8) Promote a Healthy Lifestyle (healthy choices) 9) Promote Healthy Weight Management (obesity reduction) 10) Provide information on services and activities to promote a sense of Wellbeing and Inclusion <p><u>For Parents / Carers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Provide an Event offering both <u>FREE</u> Entrance & <u>FREE</u>

	<p>Activities to Ensure an Inclusion for <u>ALL</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Demonstrate how Play & Quality Family Time can be achieved on a Zero / Minimal Budget using Natural & Recycled materials 6) Provide information on services and activities available in the local and wider area <p><u>For Communities</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Encourage a greater sense of belonging to promote Active & Engaged Communities – ‘Love Where You Live’ 5) Promote local clubs, groups and societies 6) Involve local groups, communities and Children & Young People in the planning and delivery of each event
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Playday is the annual celebration of the Childrens Right to Play in the UK.

The 2021 theme, Summer of Play, recognised the challenges children and young people faced over the past year and the need to enjoy time for play with their friends, having fun.

www.summerofplay.co.uk / www.playday.org.uk

- Playing is essential for children’s mental health and wellbeing.
- Playing helps children cope with stress and anxiety and fosters resilience, enabling children to better deal with challenges.
- Playing gives children the opportunity to have fun, laugh, take time out, relax, and build friendships.
- Playing outside allows children to appreciate nature, the environment, and feel part of their community.
- Playing is fundamental to children’s happiness, and happy children lead to happier communities.



<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>OXFORD THERAPEUTIC PLAYWORK</u>
FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY	 <p>Supported by</p> <p>Children in Need</p> <p>Oxfordshire Community Foundation</p> <p>Christ's Hospital of Abingdon</p> <p>Almshouses - Education - Relief in Need - Albert Park</p>
PROJECT DETAILS	<p>To support Children & Young People faced with challenges to increase their resilience, develop a positive sense of self and improve their self confidence</p> <p>Developed in partnership with the late, Internationally renowned Playwork Theorist Gordon Sturrock</p>

Following our initial 3 year project funding from Children In Need OPA was successful in securing continuation funding from both the Oxfordshire Community Foundation and Christs Hospital of Abingdon to continue our Therapeutic Playwork project at both Windale School in Oxford and Thameside School in Abingdon. Both of these schools are situated in wards which suffer from issues when measured using the Indices of Multiple Deprivation

- We worked with 6 Cohorts of 6 x Children to deliver 10 x 1 hour Therapeutic Play sessions within School Hours, each over 1 Full term
- 36 Children in total – 24 from Windale School and 12 from Thameside School
- The Therapeutic Play sessions were delivered by 2 Therapeutic Playwork specialists from OPA with extensive experience of working in this environment
- The Therapeutic Playwork sessions offered a safe and secure, Child led Play Environment with an empathetic approach to Play that centred around clear and consistent boundaries to enable Children to express and act out emotions in a safe way

KEY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1) Children and Young People are Emotionally Well – They can Play through and express their emotions in a safe, non-judgemental way
- 2) Children and Young People are Empowered through Child Centred and Child Led activities / sessions
- 3) Children & Young People enjoy Positive Relationships with their Peers and Adults





WHO

- We worked with Children with additional needs who currently fall below the Oxfordshire County Council 'Threshold of Need' (those at Level 2 / early Level 3 on the County Council 'windscreen')
- The project was not designed for those Children with multiple / complex needs
- Children suffering Lack of Confidence, Social Skills etc

Following meetings with key staff at the school the Children were chosen and referred by the school. Feedback from staff showed sincere appreciation of the positive impact that our sessions had on these children.

The sessions were delivered on a Tuesday – 'Tuesday Club', Wednesday – 'Wednesday Club' and Thursday – 'Thursday Club'



PROJECT	<u>Street Play project in South Northamptonshire</u>
FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY	 <p>LONDON MARATHON CHARITABLE TRUST </p> <p>Northamptonshire Community Foundation Giving back to our county</p>
PROJECT DETAILS	Street Play events based on the Playing Out model developed in Bristol and now delivered nationally

Working with our partners at South Northants Youth Engagement (SNYE) we delivered a series of Street / Community Play events across South Northamptonshire. Like our Playday project this also enabled us to work in partnership with a wide range of other local organisations.

We delivered sessions / events in Brackley, Towcester, Kings Sutton and Deanshanger



This project offers 'Doorstep Opportunities' and brings Communities together to reclaim their Streets for Play, Activity and to improve Community Bonding

Research shows that playing out on a street near their homes is vital to children's health and wellbeing. Play England research has found that 71% of adults played in the street or area near their home everyday when they were a child, only 21% of children do so today.



PROJECT	Street Play project in North Oxfordshire
FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY	
PROJECT DETAILS	Street Play events based on the Playing Out model developed in Bristol and now delivered nationally

We also secured funding to deliver a Street Play project within Cherwell District Council which saw us deliver events / sessions in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington. Again we worked in close partnership with a range of partners including Sanctuary Housing, Cherwell District Council, A2 Dominion, Kidlington Parish Council and others, in total we delivered 8 events / sessions with the remainder to be delivered in the next financial year.

	Number of Dwellings	Attendance
McKeevor Place, Banbury	17	20
Elmsbrook Phase 1, Bicester	157	33
Elmsbrook Phase 3, Bicester	100	38
Bramley Close, Kidlington	38	15
Croxford Gardens, Kidlington	95	19
Osborne Close, Kidlington	50	11
South Street, Banbury		7
Sage Street, Bicester	100	51
Morello Close, Bicester	157	37



<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>Cherwell District Council – Play Infrastructure</u>
FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY	
PROJECT DETAILS	Supporting Play Infrastructure, Projects and Services across the Cherwell District Council Area

Within Cherwell District Council we co-Chair the Cherwell Young People, Play and Wellbeing Group and are also involved with the ‘Grimsbury Network’ working in the ‘Brighter Futures’ areas of Banbury.

This work also includes attending Outreach events (such as Winter & New Year Wishes) which looks to consult with local residents as well as working with other partners in the District to plan and deliver large scale Community events.

This work has also expanded to incorporate ‘All About YOUth’, the initiative designed to disrupt County Lines drug gangs and ‘OX5 Better Together’ which will introduce a ‘Healthy Town’ approach to the whole Community in Kidlington and surrounding areas.


All of this work involves large numbers of local stakeholders and act as a focus point to co-ordinate service delivery, reduce duplication and share best practice as well as increasing delivery capacity across the whole district.

Our work in these areas will link into the main themes of the Cherwell Play Strategy which include;

Increased Participation / To Improve Play Spaces / Community Cohesion / Inclusivity / Develop Play in both Urban & Rural Areas / Promote Managed, Risky Play / To Introduce more Play into, and out of School



Better together

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>Armed Forces Support Project</u>	
FUNDED BY	ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST	
PROJECT DETAILS	Deliver project work at both RAF Benson and Dalton Barracks to include a Weekly Stay & Play session and a Bi-weekly Saturdays sessions at each location	

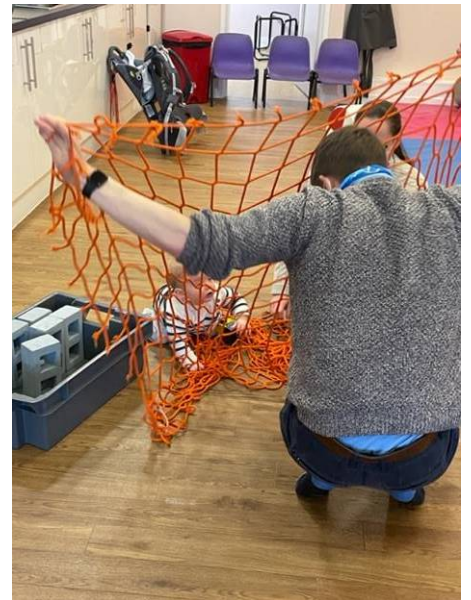
Oxfordshire County Council was the first local authority in England to sign up to the Community Covenant and through its network of Childrens Centres delivered Outreach services to all of the Armed Forces bases across Oxfordshire.



However due to budget cuts Oxfordshire County Council has reduced many of its services across Oxfordshire and its Children & Young People directorate will now only work with Young People in the most need.

All of the County Council run Childrens Centres were closed in April 2017. They no longer deliver any 'Universal Services'. This means that there were no outreach services being delivered by any 3rd party provider at either RAF Benson or Dalton Barracks.

Following initial 2 year funding from HM Treasury we secured 2 year continuation funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Trust to continue delivering this project which works with Armed Forces Children & their Families to not only provide Open Access, Play based sessions but to also provide guidance and services across the local area so that they are able to participate fully in local activities.

Following the Coronavirus lockdowns and restrictions we were able to deliver almost a full year of sessions and Parents / Carers were so grateful that their Children were able to socialise and play with others (many for the first time) and the Peer support networks were back in place to help support them.



PROJECT	Faringdon Junior Youth Club
FUNDED BY	 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 
PROJECT DETAILS	A Junior Youth Club delivered weekly for Children aged from 10 to 13 in School Years 6,7 and 8

Following consultation with our partners and with Young People and Thanks to funding from Faringdon Town Council and Oxfordshire County Council we launched our 'Faringdon Junior Youth Club' in November 2021.

The project is aimed at supporting Young People aged 10 to 13 as they transition to secondary school (school years 6,7 and 8) and is a mixture of Playwork / Youthwork

Faringdon Town Football Club kindly host the sessions and these take place for 2 hours on a Monday evening.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



FARINGDON JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB

MONDAY EVENINGS – 5.45PM TO 7.45PM

**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 10 TO 13
YEARS (SCHOOL YEARS 6, 7 AND 8)**



**MONDAY NIGHTS FROM 5.45PM TO
7.45PM AT FARINGDON TOWN FC,
TUCKER PARK, PARK ROAD,
FARINGDON, OXON. SN7 7BP**

FREE ENTRANCE AND FREE ACTIVITIES

Tuckshop / Snacks available to purchase
Contact = 07436 270267 / martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk /
www.oxonplay.org.uk

This project is funded and supported by:



Friends of OPA are now able to support the Charity via the local Council Lotteries in South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, Cherwell and Oxford City




WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE

Buy Your Tickets From Our Page - We Get 50%

- We now have a SO Charitable Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other good causes in South Oxfordshire!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To Start Supporting, Visit:
www.SoCharitable.co.uk
And Search For:
OPA



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older




WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE

Buy Your Tickets From Our Page - We Get 50%

- We now have a Cherwell Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other local good causes!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To Start Supporting, Visit:
www.CherwellLottery.co.uk
And Search For:
OPA



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older




WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE

Buy Your Tickets From Our Page - We Get 50%

- We now have a Oxford Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other local good causes!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To Start Supporting, Visit:
www.OxfordLottery.org
And Search For:
Play Association



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older




WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE



Buy your tickets from our page - we get 50%


- We now have a White Horse Community Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other local good causes!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To start supporting, visit:
www.WhiteHorseLottery.co.uk
and search for:
Oxfordshire Play



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>Science Together Project</u>
FUNDED BY	 
PROJECT DETAILS	<p>Science Together is a new collaboration between the Public Engagement Team and Researchers at both the University of Oxford and Brookes University and local Oxfordshire community groups.</p> <p>We were very fortunate to be chosen for the project and be able to work with a team with the world class skills, knowledge and resources of the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University researchers?</p> <p>SCIENCE TOGETHER is a brand new, grass-roots programme that harnesses the power of community-led collaborative research projects to overcome challenges and seize opportunities for people who live and work in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>We are working with a team to produce a document entitled 'Why Play is Important in Oxfordshire' which, when finished will be sent to our partners, funders and decision makers across the County.</p> <p>When finished the report will provide evidence from academic and non-academic sources highlighting the importance of play and the importance of supplying resources to support play across Oxfordshire. Play positively impacts children's lives, including their physical and mental wellbeing and within their communities.</p>

PROJECT	Outreach (RAF Brize Norton & Ark T)
COMMISSIONED BY	Ark T AND RAF Brize Norton Community Development Team
PROJECT DETAILS	<p>Ark T - We deliver a monthly Stay & Play session on the first Monday of every month as part of their FREE Community Hub days</p>  <p>At RAF Brize Norton we delivered monthly Stay & Play sessions to support the Community Development Team with their Coffee mornings offering support to Families</p>





OXFORDSHIRE PLAY ASSOCIATION

☎ 07436 270267

🖱 www.oxonplay.org.uk

🖱 enquiries@oxonplay.org.uk

💻 Facebook = Oxfordshire Play Association – OPA

💻 Twitter = @oxonplay

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Report on FollyFest 2022



Whether it was the fact that we had been in lockdown for so long, or the lovely weather all weekend, or the excellent management of the event, or most probably all of these factors, FollyFest 2022 was the most successful in living memory*. We had 3 stages of music (Market Place, the Crown, the Bell) and made use of the Corn Exchange, Floyd's grill, the Piano Shop and The Pump House Project on Swan Lane to put on a really great range of music and fringe activities.

It's difficult to say how many visitors we had over the weekend, but on both evenings, all the music venues were completely full. A number of the food stall vendors, ran out of stock on Saturday and were unable to trade on the Sunday. Floyds pig roast got through a pig on each day and could have

sold more, but the preparation time did not allow it. Reusable festival cup sales were around 2,000, so that gives a sense of how many people attended (not everyone bought a cup, some people bought more than 1, pubs were recycling the cups to new customers etc.)



The fringe activities included biscuit and floral headdress making, Hawaiian dance and badminton, as well as classical recitals, balance bikes and a treasure hunt.

*Repeated words used by some festival participants.

The feedback we received afterwards on Facebook and in an online survey we ran was overwhelmingly positive. Many people consider FollyFest to be the best weekend of the year in the town, a chance to catch up with old friends and to make new ones. Our Facebook page now has 2,400 followers, 80%+ of whom live in Faringdon.

The support both financial and in-kind from Faringdon Town Council, is invaluable. As both the largest financial donor and facilitator of other things (free car parking during the weekend, loan of road signs, support in advertising the event, July Calendar page etc.) we remain very grateful.

The event remains truly voluntary and participatory. We managed to find 100+ volunteers over the weekend for marshalling slots, all the (40+) bands play for free and the committee of 9 provided about 9 months of support leading up to the FollyFest weekend.

We put out an evaluation survey after the festival as a means to adjust activities for FollyFest 2023, and are making efforts to put on a wider range of music genres, to have and signpost more fringe activities, to have more toilets and to continue with recorded music DJ sets. We also met with all the publicans after the event to discuss alcohol related issues, and consequently will be using the donated services of Palladium Security on Friday and Saturday evening in FollyFest 2023.



Jonathan Puddifoot

Chair, FollyFest.

Faringdon Whist Club

We have a core group of 16 players of whom 12 will come in any given week.

Almost all our members are over the age of 70 and membership of our group has enabled some socially isolated people to forge strong friendships with people they wouldn't normally meet.

There is much chatter and we have tea and biscuits at half time. Cakes to mark birthdays and a Christmas meal.

Nevertheless, we play 24 hands of whist which is a bit of a mental challenge and then we head home to recover in time for next week.

David Jones - Organiser



Chair's Report 2022/23

Welcome to the end of season celebration for 2022/23. Firstly, I wanted to say a huge well done to all our players this year. You have fought for every goal, up against strong opponents, showed great match play and improved your skills. But what makes us all so proud of you is the sportsmanship you display. You are the ambassadors for our club and you play with fairness and integrity, being good winners and when needed, good losers too.

There are some fantastic results in the league tables, with a special mention to U15 Thunder for coming top of your division. I also wanted to say well done to U17 Thunder. I have watched you play together from Year 6, starting in Division 4 and losing almost every match through to coming third in Division 1 this year. You have worked so hard, showing determination and perseverance at every stage, and truly play as a team. We are sorry to see you leave Juniors but the fact that you are all moving up to Seniors together is an exciting new start which I know you will enjoy.

This year has been an interesting one from the club's perspective. We started the season concerned for our finances and were unable to invest in the new kit we needed, but our over-riding aim was to keep the membership fee at £40 as we did not want to lose any players due to the cost, especially so soon after the pandemic. The leisure centre fees continue to increase, up 40% since 2020, but we secured a Youth Grant from Faringdon Town Council for the maximum amount of £2,000, which along with £750 from Waitrose and recently, £500 from Tesco has made a huge difference. We have purchased new posts, padding and match balls, and over the summer will be buying new dresses and more equipment. We will go into next season in a more secure financial position and will again apply to the council for another Youth Grant to help with our leisure centre costs in particular.

This brings me to the future of the club. There are two parts to this: firstly, the potential merging of the Juniors and Seniors divisions of the club, which we will discuss later during the AGM, and secondly to solve the issue of our training space. This has been a difficult year with many challenges around the leisure centre, both with availability and operationally, and also with the quality of the school courts. I would like to note here that the school are very generous, giving us free time on the netball courts when the nights are light enough, and their allocated time in the leisure centre on a Thursday until 5pm. We have started to work with Faringdon Town Council to secure our own playing facility in the town, which is our long-term goal, but in the short-term, we are hopeful that the council will fund the resurfacing of the outdoor courts and fixing the floodlights at FCC so that we have good quality, safe courts to play on without the significant cost of the leisure centre.

The barrier to securing our own facility is land, and the council are currently looking but not having much luck, so if any of you have any contacts, or hear of any land in the town that

might be available, please get in touch. I appreciate that this is a long stretch, but there are other ways in which our community can support the club. We are always on the lookout for commercial sponsors to help us with our running costs, and if any of the parents are interested in getting involved in coaching, please come and have a chat with us. Finally, we will also need some new Team Managers next season, to support at matches and with general team organisation. It's not a difficult job and is very rewarding, and speaking from experience as Amy and I have shared U17T for the last two years, it does make it much easier to share the role, so please consider if you can buddy with someone.

The final note from me is to thank our committee and coaches, who work tirelessly on behalf of the club. Our coaches not only teach great netball skills but are friendly voices to which the players can turn for support. The fact that we retain players from when they start at the club through to U17 when many of them progress to Seniors speaks volumes about the enjoyment they get from training and playing for our club, which is testament to our coaches. I would also like to thank Amy, at the end of her first year as Secretary and Treasurer; I think we have moved the club forward this year to be on a more firm footing and look forward to what we can all achieve next year.

Nicola Ferguson
Chair, Faringdon Netball Club
20th April 2023