



Charity Number: 1175671

## Report to Faringdon Town Council AGM, April 25

The period from April 24/25 has been one of huge transition for the organisation and running of The Place. Previously the charity has supervised the council's contract with Spurgeons for the day to day running of the project and been responsible for applying for and administering additional grant funding. Spurgeons is withdrawing from all its family and children's centres, so this contract came to an end on 31st October 2024 and from 1st November the trustees became responsible for running The Place directly. Although our project users will not have noticed any differences, behind the scenes everything has changed. The Place has now become an employer, with everything that entails and no longer has the administrative support from the town clerk that it received previously. We also previously accessed our IT support and training through Spurgeons.

We have had to replace all the functions previously carried out by Spurgeons. To ensure we have access to essential expertise, after a tendering process the trustees awarded contracts to Worknest for HR support and H &S and to Cloudy IT. We have joined the Early Years Alliance which gives us access to numerous sector specific training courses. The Chair of Trustees now line manages the project's manager. We have re-written all the numerous policies required and introduced a new format for staff supervision. The bulk of the work involved in the transition has been done by the treasurer and chair.

Throughout this transition period The Place has continued to run its full range of activities (Please see attached the programme for October to December). It is important to us that The Place should help our users develop a sense of belonging to the community. We offer weekly Rhyme Time in the Library to encourage parents to use its services and regular activities at the local cycle park supported by the Farcycles. We have held singing sessions at the local Day Care drop in centre and a local care home, strengthening community ties. We also hold activities at the Folly. We have just been allocated an allotment and look forward to developing this as a new amenity for parents and children.

We are still in the process of collating the results of our annual service user's survey, but I would just like to share this piece of feedback:

“If every town had one the world would be a better place - less isolation, less family issues, less worry, less children going without and less parents struggling alone.”

Thank you to the Town Council for having the vision to help establish The Place and for its continuing support.

I am happy to answer any questions arising from this report or welcome any councillors to visit The Place. I can be contacted via email: [chair@theplace-faringdon.org](mailto:chair@theplace-faringdon.org)

#### Data

591 families used the project in the period from October 2023 to October 2024, reaching 615 children.

Joanna Cave April 2025