



OXFORDSHIRE PLAY

ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

For the Period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

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

Treasurer = Meryl Smith

Trustees = Anne Bissell and Megan Douthwaite

OPA STAFF

Manager = Martin Gillett

Training Officer = Wendy Boone

Finance Officer = Jade Jarvis

Oxford Therapeutic Playwork Staff = Jane Gallagher

Sessional Playworkers = Tracy Rampton and Sharon Derbe

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 – 2020/21

Income	£54,256
Expenditure	£67,847
Loss	£13,591
Reserves	£37,209

These accounts reflect the full impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on
our projects and services

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

Trustees Annual Financial Report

As expected and planned for the full impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic and the devastating impact of various Coronavirus Lockdowns and Restrictions were fully felt during this last Financial Year.

We were only able to deliver 75% of our Oxford Therapeutic Playwork Project, 25% of our Armed Forces Support Project and our entire season of Community Play & Activity Days were Postponed.

We are very grateful to the Government's Job Retention Scheme which meant that we were able to retain all our Staff on the Payroll during this period and they are now back at work in the new financial year. We are also extremely grateful to the Oxfordshire Community Foundation and the support we received from their COVID Community Resilience Funding during the last year which ensured that we were able to survive this turbulent year and continue operating. Thanks also to Storage King Oxford who offered us 'rent free' storage during the year to help with our core costs

As expected our Income reduced hugely in the last Financial Year to only £54,248.54 and as a result of this we worked very hard to reduce our costs to an absolute minimum, this included;

- a) Moving to a smaller office to reduce our rent payments
- b) Cancelling our landline telephone and moving to a mobile service only
- c) Restructuring our printing contract to further reduce costs

Overall this meant that we were able to reduce our Core Operating Costs (excluding Staff Costs) from £16,513 in Financial Year 2019/20 to £15,713 in this financial year

Our various Funders have been extremely flexible during this period for which we are very grateful and as a result the vast majority of our approved funding, where we were not able to complete project delivery, has been deferred into Financial Year 2021/22 which puts us in a very strong position moving forward subject to the Government Roadmap out of Lockdown 3 meeting all of its targets and proceeding as planned

The last year has massively highlighted that the Mental Health of our Children & Young People is just as important as their Physical Health and we will continue to help our Children with their Wellbeing in every project that we deliver

I must pay tribute to the amazing OPA Staff for their loyalty, professionalism and their hard work over the past year – always putting the needs of our beneficiaries at the forefront of their work and to the OPA Trustees for steering the organisation through this most difficult of times

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.



play 4 life



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!

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>OXFORD THERAPEUTIC PLAYWORK</u>
FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY	
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>

OPA has received 3 year funding from BBC Children In Need to deliver this project across 3 schools in Oxfordshire, this was our 2nd year of delivery and took place at Thameside School in Abingdon following our Year 1 delivery at Rose Hill Primary School in Oxford, we were also able to secure funding from Comic Relief which meant that we could also deliver sessions at Windale School in Blackbird Leys in Oxford. All of these schools are situated in wards which suffer from issues when measured using the Indices of Multiple Deprivation

Despite the Coronavirus lockdowns and restrictions we were able to deliver 75% of our planned sessions with 1 cohort being held over into the new financial year

- We worked with 4 Cohorts of 6 x Children to deliver 10 x 1 hour Therapeutic Play sessions within School Hours, each over 1 Full term
- 24 Children in total – 12 from each 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

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



PROJECT	<u>South Northamptonshire Youth Engagement (SNYE)</u>
FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY	
PROJECT DETAILS	Supporting Infrastructure, Projects and Services for Children & Young People across the District of South Northamptonshire

Working with our partners at South Northants Council, Northamptonshire Association of Young People, Towcester Town Council, Brackley Town Council and other local Stakeholders we helped launch South Northants Youth Engagement (SNYE) which was officially registered with the Charity Commission in 2019 as Registered Charity Number 1181573.

SNYE is the strategic lead for work across South Northants and has 7 Trustees.

In addition to SNYE there are 2 working groups tasked with delivering projects and services across the District, Brackley Youth Engagement (BYE) and Towcester Youth Engagement (TYE).



Numerous successful funding applications were submitted during 2020 to deliver on the core aims of the SNYE Business and Operational Plan which means that in the next financial year SNYE can start to deliver its work through staffed provision with Youth Co-Ordinators and Youth Workers in post.

Following the successful creation of the Charity and the secured funding OPA withdrew from its support role to concentrate on its core work across Oxfordshire in 2021/22

PROJECT	<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.


As with much of our work in this financial year this was severely restricted by the pandemic and meant no ‘in person’ events could take place, the networks continued Online via Zoom and Teams

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

PROJECT	Armed Forces Support Project	
FUNDED BY	ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST	
PROJECT DETAILS	Deliver project work at both RAF Benson and Dalton Barracks to include; Weekly Stay & Play sessions at each location Bi-weekly Saturdays sessions at each location A Community Play and Activity Day event 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 have 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.

The financial year 2020/21 should have seen us deliver a full year of project delivery but due to Coronavirus lockdowns and restrictions we were only able to deliver 3 months of sessions in September, October and December



<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>Covid Support</u>
	 <p>The image contains three distinct logos and a graphic. On the left is the Oxfordshire Community Foundation logo, featuring a stylized green and blue circular emblem with human figures. To its right is the Storage King logo, which consists of a blue crown with three yellow circles above it and the words 'STORAGE KING' in bold blue letters below. In the center is a red rectangular graphic for the 'Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme'. This graphic includes the HM Government logo, the text 'Coronavirus', and details: 'Claim up to 80%' and 'Up to £2,500 per person'. At the bottom of the red graphic is a yellow and black striped banner with the text 'GET HELP • PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS • SAVE JOBS'.</p>
PROJECT DETAILS	<p>We were extremely grateful to Storage King Oxford who supported us through the Pandemic by offering us free rental of our storage locker during lockdown, this saved the Charity well over £1,000 which enabled us to keep our core operating costs to a minimum</p> <p>We were also very grateful to the Oxfordshire Community Foundation who funded us twice through their Covid Resilience and Recovery Funds to a total of over £11,500 during our long periods of inactivity during the 3 National lockdowns, if it was not for support like this in continuing to pay our core operational costs then it is unlikely that the Charity would have survived the consequences of the pandemic</p> <p>We are also grateful to the Government for the introduction and support offered by the Job Retention Fund which enable us to retain all our staff on the OPA Payroll and who are now all back at work</p>

Friends of OPA are now able to support the Charity
via 3 of the local Council Lotteries in South
Oxfordshire, 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



OXFORDSHIRE PLAY ASSOCIATION

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