



Registered Charity: 1177322

Presentation to Abingdon Annual Meeting

28 April 2022

Introduction

- **Abingdon Carousel Family Centre** is a charity which was set up to run services in the former County Council funded South Abingdon Children's Centre in Caldecott Chase. When OCC withdrew funding, it was incorporated as a charity and is now in its fourth year of offering services to families.
- The Centre offers a variety of services both directly to the public using paid employees and volunteers and through making the building available to partner organisations. Service priorities are those which benefit families with children aged 0-5 years although other family and community services are also offered under an umbrella approach that tries to be relevant for the community as a whole.
- Our financial year runs from 1st August to 31st July. The statement of accounts for 2020 – 2021 is appended to this report.

Activities, Achievements and Performance: August 2020 – July 2021

- At the start of our year in August 2020 we mistakenly thought we were coming out of the Covid crisis but, as we now all know, there was plenty more to come!
- Socially distanced sessions had re-started in September 2020 but, following government guidance to lockdown in November, Carousel stopped social sessions but offered one-to-one support sessions to vulnerable families which were a lifeline to those who needed us the most.
- Saturday Club continued to provide the popular singing, story and activity videos on Facebook. Families followed either live or picked them up later in the week as it suited them. These videos remain on Facebook for anyone who wants to look at them and incidentally these also projected a positive image of Carousel showing funders and the wider community what we get up to.
- Meanwhile, during November, staff were able to take a series of training courses which helped them to plan new and more varied sessions for both parents and children.
- Socially distanced sessions were finally able to start again from 19 April 2021 and 3 sessions a week were usually fully booked with families relieved to be able to get out and meet others again. One to one sessions with vulnerable families continued and also specific support to families with children with SEND.
- In 2021 we had some staff turnover and towards the end of the year we interviewed for two new play-worker posts which were successfully filled ready for the new term to bring our staff back up to strength.
- The Trustees spent the year keeping a close eye on the financial picture, with concerns about the loss of room hire income which was clearly going to continue for some time to come. In January 2021, we welcomed Sharron Jenkinson, a new Trustee who brought with her a wealth of experience in the education sector. This consoled us for the loss of our good friend, Monica Lovatt, a supporter of Carousel since the early days, who had resigned at the end of 2020. Penny Clover became Vice-Chair and starred for us in the Town Council promotional video made in March.
- To replace lost room-hire bookings, which in previous years had contributed around £10,000 of income, the Trustees decided to target the many small grant schemes which had been either newly

set up, or their criteria widened, in response to the Covid crisis. Penny Clover tackled the challenge with extraordinary energy and, in quick succession, pulled in grants from the Doris Field Trust, Lennox Hannay Trust, Oxfordshire Community Foundation, the Cumber Trust, to name a few. We also secured grants from the Councillor Covid Relief fund and Abingdon Community Church. Our Manager obtained a grant from Waitrose as well as co-ordinating some room hires through a very tricky period of extra cleaning and social distancing so that in the end room hire income did contribute over £800 for the year. Our outlook became slightly less pessimistic as we realised we were often hitting our monthly income target of £1,000.

- In March, we successfully applied for money from Councillor Neil Fawcett's Councillor Priority Fund and were able as a result to upgrade and improve the efficiency of our office.
- In April we held a Garden Tidy Up Day along with a plant and book sale. It was a great opportunity to meet community volunteers and in particular our friends from Northcourt Co-Op. Penny had created a strong connection with this business; a second-hand book sale in their store brought in weekly donations and we were a chosen local charity that Co-Op members could give their points to. At the Garden Tidy Up Day, Co-Op staff painted the fence and weeded the car park border, some of us got covered in paint whilst refurbishing the funders' crayon display, whilst the Mayor and various other volunteers dug weeds out of the planters. The sun shone down and we all began to feel like life might just be returning to normal!
- Meanwhile, inspired by the Family Links training in particular, staff proposed to Trustees that a step-change in services should be planned for the post-Covid period including increased content in the general sessions and adding Family Links courses to really drive a long-term change in family lives. The Chair put together a funding bid to Garfield Weston Foundation and this was successful with a £7,500 grant being awarded just before the end of the year. This meant that we did not see the much-dreaded loss of many thousands of pounds and just fell short of breaking even, although it should be noted that the work which this grant will be funding will mainly take place in the year 2021-22.
- In such a difficult year, to have continued to support families, especially the most vulnerable, and to have emerged with £57,000 of income and a break-even position we feel that we should count that as a good effort on the part of staff and Trustees and a good outcome in the circumstances. As ever we thank the local individuals who support us month in and month out with a regular donation.

Financial Summary: 2020 - 2021

- In this very untypical year, our total income was £57,148 and our expenditure (primarily rent, service charges and staff costs) was £53,359.
- Taking into account the charity's risk profile which indicates that risk is concentrated in our largest income sources, and also taking into account structural inability to make sudden cost savings on large expenditure items such as rent and service charges, the Trustees have determined that Abingdon Carousel should hold reserves which, in a funding crisis, would allow the organisation to carry on delivering services for 6 months whilst new major grants are applied for and which allow time and funds for longer term cost-reduction plans such as paying for redundancies.

- Therefore, the Trustees aim to keep 6 months running costs in reserve. Based on future predicted costs of running the programmes planned for 2022-23, which total £70,000, the current reserve target is therefore £35,000.

Developments from August 2021 to April 2022

- On returning in September 2021 we moved towards a more normal timetable but still with the need to pre-book. Many families returned after the summer break but some made it clear that they preferred a more drop-in style of session; some often forgot booking was necessary. As a trial we opted for a more regular drop-in system from October half term, with a close eye being kept on numbers. This return to 'normal' saw a greater number and variety of families attending. Through all of this families have continuously praised the centre and its staff for the friendly manner and the safe environment that has been provided for them. Most families had been very concerned at returning as a lot had children who had almost never socialised outside of their own homes, but they felt very reassured when coming to us, often for the very first time.
- It has been difficult at times as Government advice has almost always left out groups and services such as ours so we have tried to follow closely what schools or other centres have done to ensure the safety of all staff and families using the centre.
- The staff have been most creative in ensuring an offer that suits families and is continuing to welcome new families to the centre as well as those that attended before the pandemic. From September 2021 to April 2022, we have had 97 families visit us for sessions and this number continues to grow.
- The Baby Drop-In session has seen an increase in numbers. The Crawlers and Explorers session proved less popular so we agreed to trial a 0-4 Stay & Play session to replace this. On the first day, the numbers attending this session rose from 3 to 19 attendees. Thursday and Friday Stay & Play sessions are very well attended with currently around 30 families attending regularly.
- The first Family Links Nurturing Programme has now been completed. It has been extremely successful and feedback from attendees has been great. Having been part of the programme they were all keen to recommend it to others. The second course began on 26th April 2022.

Management

- The Centre Manager resigned in January 2022 to return to a school based post. We have been very fortunate in appointing a new, highly experienced Centre Manager, Georgina Hicks who starts in May 2022. During the interim, staff have undertaken day to day management and ensured a full programme remains on offer to families.
- Also this year, our Chair of Trustees, Heather Brown, announced her resignation due to a family move out of the area. Sharron Jenkinson took over the chair at the AGM in February. We are currently engaged in a review of Carousel's policies and practices to ensure that we reflect best practice across Family Centres and early years settings.
- We are working hard to bring room hires back up to the pre Covid levels. One of our new partners is SENSS (Oxfordshire SEN Support Service) who use the building to offer support sessions for families with children who have physical disabilities. Carousel was also happy to host 'Inspiring

Minds', an adult education community group who work in partnership with Abingdon and Witney College. Sadly, take up of their courses has been low so this collaboration is currently under review.

In Conclusion

- Carousel is thriving despite the challenges of the last two years. We are looking forward to a period of regeneration and know that the enthusiasm that Georgina Hicks will bring, supported by a committed and highly skilled staff team and willing volunteers, will attract new families to Carousel and support our aim of benefiting families across Abingdon.

Sharron Jenkinson: Chair of Trustees April 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JULY 2021

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Incoming resources					
Donations and legacies	2	16,193	40,108	56,301	58,899
Charitable activities			843	843	5,184
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-
Investments		-	4	4	12
Other		-	-	-	1,747
Total Incoming resources		<u>16,193</u>	<u>40,955</u>	<u>57,148</u>	<u>65,843</u>
Resources expended					
Raising funds	3	-	18	18	-
Charitable activities		6,350	46,991	53,341	51,724
Other		-	-	-	-
Total Resources Expended		<u>6,350</u>	<u>47,009</u>	<u>53,359</u>	<u>51,724</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		9,843	(6,054)	3,789	14,119
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		10,716	45,714	56,430	42,311
Transfers between funds		(3,962)	3,962	-	-
Total funds carried forward		<u>16,597</u>	<u>43,622</u>	<u>60,219</u>	<u>56,430</u>

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.
All incoming resources expended derive from continuing activities.

ABINGDON CAROUSEL

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JULY 2021

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	4	-	8,608	8,608	7,046
Total fixed assets		<u>-</u>	<u>8,608</u>	<u>8,608</u>	<u>6,882</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors	5	-	2,430	2,430	2,702
Cash at bank and in hand		16,597	38,353	54,950	55,078
Total current assets		<u>16,597</u>	<u>40,783</u>	<u>57,380</u>	<u>57,781</u>
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	-	5,769	5,769	8,397
Net current assets/(liabilities)		<u>-</u>	<u>35,014</u>	<u>51,611</u>	<u>49,384</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>16,597</u>	<u>43,622</u>	<u>60,219</u>	<u>56,430</u>
Total net assets or liabilities		<u>16,597</u>	<u>43,622</u>	<u>60,219</u>	<u>56,430</u>
Funds of the Charity					
Restricted income funds	7	16,597	-	16,597	10,716
Unrestricted funds		-	43,622	43,622	45,714
Total funds		<u>16,597</u>	<u>43,622</u>	<u>60,219</u>	<u>56,430</u>

Approved by the board of Trustees on _____ and signed on its behalf by:

Sharron Jenkinson, Chair of Trustees

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JULY 2021

1 Accounting Policies

General information and basis of preparation

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), incorporated in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 2 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities is the delivery of children and family services from the building.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific funds. The aim and use of each of the restricted funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JULY 2021

1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Computer equipment: over 3 years
Leasehold improvements: over 5 years

Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JULY 2021

2 Donations and Legacies	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Abingdon Town Council	-	30,000	30,000	30,000
Transition Funding	-	-	-	16,793
Garfield Weston	7,500	-	7,500	-
OCC Cllr office upgrade	4,970	-	4,970	-
Other Grants	2,625	-	2,625	8,373
Donations from Individuals & Groups	1,098	10,108	3,360	3,734
	16,193	40,108	56,301	58,899

Resources Expended	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
3 Total Resources Expended				
Staff Costs	6,066	25,516	31,582	28,645
Facilities Management	-	15,030	15,030	17,593
Professional Services	-	1,908	1,908	2,208
Depreciation	-	2,400	2,400	1,960
Office Costs	-	2,137	2,137	703
Service Delivery Costs	284	-	284	615
Fundraising	-	18	18	-
	6,350	47,009	53,359	51,724

Net incoming resources for the year

This is stated after charging:

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Independent Examination	425	400
Other Accountancy Services	1,483	1,408
Depreciation	2,400	1,960
	4,308	3,768

Staff Costs

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Salaries	29,748	27,369
Training and Recruitment	1,834	250
Consultancy Fees	-	1,026
	31,582	28,645

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JULY 2021

4 Tangible Fixed Assets	Leasehold Improvements £	Computer Equipment £	Total 2020 £
<u>Cost</u>			
At 1st August 2020	7,191	2,842	10,033
Additions	-	3,963	2,124
At 31 st July 2021	<u>7,191</u>	<u>6,805</u>	<u>10,033</u>
 <u>Accumulated Depreciation</u>			
At 1st August 2020	1,347	1,640	2,987
Charge for the year	1,013	1,387	2,400
At 31 st July 2021	<u>2,360</u>	<u>3,027</u>	<u>5,387</u>
 <u>Net Book Value</u>			
At 31 st July 2021	<u>4,830</u>	<u>3,778</u>	<u>8,608</u>
At 31 st July 2020	<u>5,844</u>	<u>1,202</u>	<u>7,046</u>
 5 Debtors		Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Trade Debtors		75	-
Prepayments		2,355	2,702
		<u>2,430</u>	<u>2,702</u>
 6 Creditors		Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Trade Creditors		-	2,124
Other Taxes and Social Security		600	-
Accruals		7,797	4,773
Deferred Income		-	1,500
		<u>8,397</u>	<u>8,397</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JULY 2021

7 Restricted Funds	Opening Balance £	Incoming Funds £	Outgoing Funds £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £
OCC Cllr Priority Fund - Public Face Project	2,349	-	284	-	2,065
OCC Cllr Priority Fund - Sensory Room Project	4,560	-	-	-	4,560
Vale of White Horse DC - Sensory Room Project	1,464	-	-	-	1,464
Transition Funding - Round 2	2,343	-	2,343	-	-
Sovereign Housing Association – Saturday Club	-	2,625	2,625	-	-
Masons – Training	-	500	500	-	-
Oxfordshire Community Foundation – Covid support	-	598	598	-	-
OCC Cllr Priority Fund – Office upgrade	-	4,970	-	(3,962)	1,008
Garfield Weston	-	7,500	-	-	7,500
	<u>10,716</u>	<u>16,193</u>	<u>6,350</u>	<u>(3,962)</u>	<u>16,597</u>

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Oxford County Council Councillor Priority Funds were granted to update the building's exterior and develop a sensory room for children with special needs.

The Transition Funding - Round 2 was granted to increase the Saturday club capacity and develop the use of the building.

Sovereign Housing Association was granted to fund the Saturday Club.

Masons was donated to provide staff with training.

Oxford Community Foundation grant was provided for support to families during the lockdown.

Oxford County Council Councillor Priority Funds were granted for office equipment upgrades, the remaining funds were spent post year end.

Garfield Weston funds are to be spent on the Family Links programme which commenced after the year end.

The Vale of the White Horse District Council grant was also to develop a sensory room for children with special needs.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JULY 2021

Trustee Remuneration and Benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during the year (2020: £nil)

Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during the year (2020: £nil).

A small amount of reimbursed charity expenses were made

8 Other Related party transactions

The charity received £220 from Trustees without conditions during the year (2020: £730)