



Registered Charity: 1177322

**Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts
for the year ending 31st July 2023**

Reference and Administrative Details

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements of Abingdon Carousel for the year ended 31st July 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial Statements of the Charity.

Charity's Principal Address: The Abingdon Carousel Family Centre
Caldecott Chase
Abingdon-on-Thames
OX14 5GZ

Trustees	Sharron Jenkinson	Chair
	Penelope Clover	Honorary Fundraising Trustee
	Mark Rusher	Treasurer
	Ruth Hawkins	Lead Safeguarding Trustee
	Clr Samantha Claire Bowring	
	Clr Margaret Louise Crick	(resigned 11 January 2023)
	Lesley Witts	
	Winifred Lesley Legge	(resigned 30 June 2023)
	Jennifer Reading	(appointed 20 March 2023)
	Deborah Lymn	(appointed 20 March 2023)
	Michael John	(appointed 15 November 2022)

Centre Manager Georgina Hicks

Accountants (Payroll) Wenn Townsend
10 Broad Street
Abingdon
Oxfordshire
OX14 3LH

Independent Examiners Positive Community Finance Ltd
7 Scholars Rise
Stokenchurch
Buckinghamshire
HP14 3FL

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity was incorporated as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) on 26 February 2018 and is governed by a Foundation Constitution updated on the 5 October 2022. Trustees are selected and voted on to the board by existing Trustees in a quorate meeting.

Objectives and Activities

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. When OCC withdrew funding, Carousel was incorporated as a charity and is now in its fifth year of offering services to local families.

Carousel offers a variety of recreational, care, educational and adult development services both directly to the public using paid employees and volunteers and through making the building available to community focussed partner organisations. All Carousel activities are free to families although we encourage small donations where these can be afforded.

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 aims to be relevant to the community as a whole.

Carousel is an inclusive organisation that aims to reflect the views and needs of our families.

Specifically, Carousel aims to:

- Provide a range of facilities and programmes, through the provision of a safe and stimulating space, for children to socialise, learn and play and for parents / carers to receive guidance and support.
- Support parents / carers in developing skills and strategies for effective parenting.
- Enable parents / carers to engage in a range of opportunities to meet other families, undertake personal development activities and become active members of the community, so reducing isolation.
- Provide a community hub from which partner organisations can offer their services.
- Provide information and signposting so that families can access services across the wider community.

Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Carousel benefits from an experienced and stable staff team, enthusiastic volunteers and an excellent, innovative and motivating manager. The team are ably supported by the Trustees, who, following an audit of skills and a period of recruitment, are able to lead and advise on all relevant aspects of leadership and management of the centre. Consequently, this year has been one of growth and development. Carousel has become an important, relevant and much appreciated community facility.

By July 2023, 414 families had been registered, 253 of which were new families this year. 1,489 children have attended sessions. Activities, including stay and play sessions, sessions for parents and babies, and a very popular Saturday Club, are all well supported. Feedback from parents / carers is overwhelmingly positive and suggestions for improvement are acted upon. Carousel also runs programmes for parents under the umbrella 'Family Links'. In addition to the planned sessions, staff are on hand to advise parents / carers and signpost them to other agencies for specific needs. Innovations during this year have included sessions for families with children / young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and targeted support for mothers and children who are refugees or asylum seekers living in the community. From October 23, the centre will host a weekly antenatal coffee and chat group.

To support the work of the centre and ensure GRPR compliance, the centre invested in the development of database software for registering families to the centre and documenting any interventions or service referrals. This system enables management to efficiently report on centre activity and monitor efficacy.

Carousel works closely with a range of partners. This enhances provision available at the centre (for example, Play Therapy sessions, Speech and Language sessions). Staff and volunteers have also supported relevant activities in the community, for example a playday in the nearby park and a Street Play event in collaboration with a local play association. Future plans include a Make Space Arts Project (evening creative sessions for adults) and Citizen's Advice Bureau drop-in sessions.

There have been a number of improvements to the premises over the last year. Volunteers have decorated several rooms and improved outdoor space. This year has also seen the completion of a new “Relaxation Station” at the centre which provides a quiet room with sensory equipment for all centre users to enjoy and additionally provides a safe and private space for parents/ carers to talk to staff.

Attendance figures September 2022 to July 2023

Session	Total Adult Visits by session	Total Children Visits by session
Monday Baby Group	204	203
Tuesday 0-4	281	309
Thursday 0-4	249	306
Friday 0-4	220	255
S Club 0-10	245	416
Total visits	1199	1489

New Families Registered 253
 Total Families Registered 414

**Breakdown of families attending Centre sessions by postcode
 August 1st 2022 – July 31st 2023**

Group	OX14 - Adults	OX14 - Children	OX13 - Adults	OX13 - Children	Other - Adults	Other - Children
Baby Group	165	163	28	28	8	8
Tuesdays	189	286	15	15	7	6
Thursdays	203	254	26	29	17	18
Fridays	192	215	7	9	21	21
Saturdays	205	386	1	1	19	29

Financial Review

The unrestricted surplus for the year ended 31 July 2023 was £12,048 and the trustees forecast a breakeven position for the year ended 31 July 2024. The main reason for the surplus was an upfront payment of £17,500 from Abingdon Town Council.

Taking into account the charity’s risk profile which indicates that the main financial risk relates to the dependency on the annual Abingdon Town Council grant of £35,000 (£30,000 in previous years) and general fundraising. The Trustees acknowledge the ongoing support from the Abingdon Town Council for £50,000 of grants in the year, which includes £17,500 grant in advance of expenditure for the next financial year.

Abingdon Carousel has the 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 12 months whilst new major grants are applied for and which allow time and funds for longer term cost-reduction plans. Therefore, the Trustees aim to keep 12 months running costs in reserve amounting to approximately £47,000. At the 31 July 2023 further reserves are required.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Approved by the board of Trustees on 16 January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Sharron Jenkinson, Chair of Trustees

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Abingdon Carousel

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Abingdon Carousel (the Trust) for the year ended 31st July 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Lee Mathers MIAB, MCIOF (Cert)
Positive Community Finance Ltd
21 Littlewood
Stokenchurch
Buckinghamshire
HP14 3TP

ABINGDON CAROUSEL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JULY 2023

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Incoming resources					
Donations and legacies	2	4,943	68,937	73,880	37,178
Charitable activities		5,974	12,733	18,707	5,469
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-
Investments		-	89	89	3
Other		-	-	-	-
Total Incoming resources		10,917	81,759	92,676	42,650
Resources expended					
Raising funds	3	-	439	439	-
Charitable activities		7,673	69,272	76,945	59,316
Other		-	-	-	-
Total Resources Expended		7,673	69,711	77,384	59,316
Net income/(expenditure)		3,244	12,048	15,292	(16,666)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		7,112	36,441	43,553	60,219
Transfers between funds		(1,718)	1,718	-	-
Total funds carried forward		8,638	50,207	58,845	43,553

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

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JULY 2023

	Notes	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	4	-	10,591	10,591	10,281
Total fixed assets		<u>-</u>	<u>10,591</u>	<u>10,591</u>	<u>10,281</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors	5	-	1,782	1,782	729
Cash at bank and in hand		8,638	45,786	54,424	37,379
Total current assets		<u>8,638</u>	<u>47,568</u>	<u>56,206</u>	<u>38,108</u>
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	-	7,952	7,952	4,836
Net current assets/(liabilities)		<u>8,638</u>	<u>39,616</u>	<u>48,254</u>	<u>33,272</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>8,638</u>	<u>50,207</u>	<u>58,845</u>	<u>43,553</u>
Total net assets or liabilities		<u>8,638</u>	<u>50,207</u>	<u>58,845</u>	<u>43,553</u>
Funds of the Charity					
Restricted income funds	7	8,638	-	8,638	7,112
Unrestricted funds		-	50,207	50,207	36,441
Total funds		<u>8,638</u>	<u>50,207</u>	<u>58,845</u>	<u>43,553</u>

Approved by the board of Trustees on 16 January 2024 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 2023

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 2023

1 Accounting Policies (Continued)

Tangible and Intangible Fixed Assets

Tangible and Intangible 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 and intangible 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
Garden project:	over 3 years
Database development:	over 3 years
Sensory room and equipment:	over 3 years
Storage shed:	over 3 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 2023

2 Donations and Legacies	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Abingdon Town Council	-	50,000	50,000	30,000
Other Grants	3,943	5,079	9,022	2,150
Donations from Individuals & Groups	1,000	13,858	16,858	5,028
	4,943	68,937	73,880	37,178

3 Total Resources Expended	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Staff Costs	4,832	37,793	42,625	34,306
Facilities Management	-	19,823	19,823	15,816
Professional Services	-	828	828	809
Depreciation	-	7,050	7,050	4,756
Office Costs	-	3,778	3,778	2,652
Service Delivery Costs	2,841	-	2,841	977
Fundraising	-	439	439	-
	7,673	69,711	77,384	59,316

Net incoming resources for the year

This is stated after charging:

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Independent Examination	425	400
Other Accountancy Services	403	409
Depreciation	7,050	4,756
	7,878	5,565

Staff Costs

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Salaries	42,088	34,306
Training and Recruitment	587	-
	42,625	34,306

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JULY 2023

4 <u>Tangible Fixed Assets</u>	Database Development	Leasehold Improvements	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
<u>Cost</u>				
At 1st August 2022	-	9,197	11,226	20,423
Additions	5,935	-	1,425	7,360
Disposals	-	-	(2,842)	(2,842)
At 31 st July 2023	5,935	9,197	9,809	24,941
<u>Accumulated Depreciation</u>				
At 1st August 2022	-	3,864	6,278	10,142
Charge for the year	1,978	2,107	2,965	7,050
Disposals	-	-	(2,842)	(2,842)
At 31 st July 2023	1,978	5,971	6,401	14,350
<u>Net Book Value</u>				
At 31 st July 2023	3,957	3,226	3,408	10,591
At 31 st July 2022	-	5,333	4,948	10,281
5 Debtors			Total 2023	Total 2022
			£	£
Trade Debtors			805	729
Prepayments			977	-
			1,782	729
6 Creditors			Total 2023	Total 2022
			£	£
Other Taxes and Social Security			601	841
Accruals			7,351	3,995
			7,952	4,836

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JULY 2023

7 Restricted Funds	Opening Balance	Incoming Funds	Outgoing Funds	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
OCC Cllr Priority Fund - Public Face Project	1,088	-	895	-	193
OCC Cllr Priority Fund - Sensory Room Project	4,560	-	1,242	-	3,318
Vale of White Horse DC -Sensory Room Project	1,464	-	1,241	-	223
Christs Hospital	-	3,900	702	-	3,198
Quakers - Cost of Living	-	574	368	-	206
OCC – Antenatal	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
Grants and Donations Saturday Club	-	3,225	3,225	-	-
Grants and Donations Database project	-	1,718	-	(1,718)	-
	<u>7,112</u>	<u>10,917</u>	<u>7,673</u>	<u>(1,718)</u>	<u>8,638</u>

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Oxford County Council Councillor Priority Funds were granted to

- update the building's exterior
- develop a sensory room for children with special needs

upgrade office equipment

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

OCC Antenatal grant was to fund one year of Antenatal coffee and chat group for parents expecting children (including those adopting and surrogacy).

Christs Hospital grant was to fund one year of Family Links courses.

Quakers Cost of Living donation to support any cost of living and low income family needs.

Grant and Donations were received to fund a Saturday club.

Grants and Donations were received to fund elements of the database project.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JULY 2023

8 **Trustee Remuneration and Benefits**

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during the year (2022: £nil).

Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during the year (2022: £nil).

The charity's insurance provides trustee indemnity cover.

9 **Other Related party transactions**

The charity received £3,997 from Trustees without conditions during the year (2022: £620).