2025-2026

Annual Report

Oxfordshire family SUPPORT NETWORK



Oxfordshire Family Support Network

The Directors present their annual report and
financial statements for the year to 31st March 2026.

Report of the Directors

Introduction

This is the fifteenth Annual Report of Oxfordshire Family Support Network. Oxfordshire Family Support Network (OxFSN) is a unique user-led organisation based in Oxfordshire, run by and for family carers of people with a learning disability. We provide independent information, advice and support by families for families of people with a learning disability. Set up by family carers who wanted to share their experience and knowledge to help others in the same situation, we strive to improve lives of people with learning disabilities and their families. We are currently managed by a board of 6 trustees, of whom four are family carers of people with a learning disability. All of the individuals who carry out work on behalf of OxFSN are family carers.

OxFSN is, to our knowledge, the only charity of its kind in the country. Everyone who works with us is a family carer of someone with a learning disability. Whilst we work directly with family carers, our support gives them the information and help they need to advocate for their loved one – with the aim of driving better services for people with learning disabilities. We also help to bring family carers together, enabling peer support and reducing isolation.

OxFSN brings a voice to family carers, representing them at the highest level locally and ensuring their reality is recognised by health and social care services.
As a user led organisation, we are able to build trust with families and act as a bridge to statutory services and professionals, helping to drive positive engagement. Our small team are all fully trained and we work to an 'expert by experience' model, with experienced family carers training to become members of our staff team.
Our support aims to support family carers, not only to ensure their knowledge of systems, processes and rights – but to improve confidence, reduce anxiety and help people feel more able to self-manage.

Highlights ....

oxfsn Oxfordshire family SUPPORT NETWORK

FROM APRIL 2025 - MARCH 2026 .

OXFSN HAVE .....

01.

supported 192 family carers of people with a learning disability of which 103 were new to OxFSN





worked with 147 professionals across health, eduction, social care, and other sectors

02.

03.

ran 7 events which were attended by 116 family carers





connected with 41 organisations both locally and nationally

04.

New Opportunities

2025/2026 brought some exciting changes and great opportunities for OxFSN



New Office

We moved into our new office space at Baptist House in Didcot in September 2025. It's the first time we have rented an office and the space is transforming the way we work and what we can do.

Early Years Launch

Our new Early Years project began this year, supporting parents and families at the very start of their journey.
Delivered in partnership with **Cafelias**, an Oxfordshire-based parent-led project, the work is funded by **Global's Make Some Noise.**





Embolden 3

In January we found out we had been successful in obtaining a large 4 year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to carry on and extend our Embolden Project.
Families we had supported, colleagues and supporters joined us to celebrate in February.

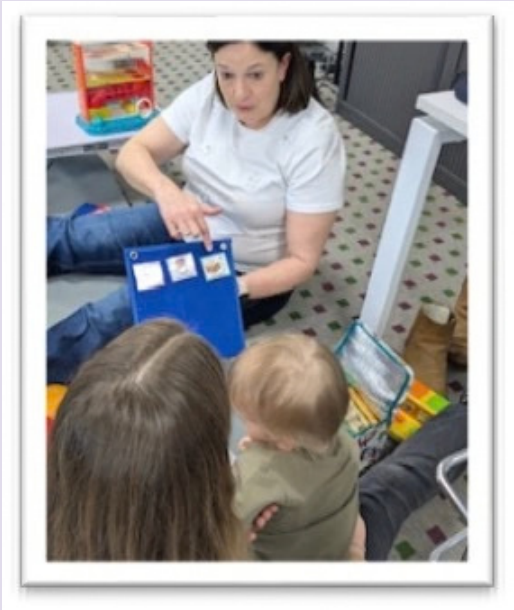
Our Projects

Family Support

The core services of OxFSN are information, advice and family support. Our family support service covers a range of services, from telephone, email and face to face support to information events and workshops. When we can, we visit special schools when they have their post 16 events. Much of our family support this year has been through events although, we still get a steady flow from families contacting us and referrals from professionals.

Our Early Years Project

Our Early Years project funded by Global's make Some Noise, got off to a fabulous start with a new group running every Friday in term time and a fabulous new podcast, SEND Help, available on Spotify. The project is run by Imogen and Naz, both young mums of little ones who have brought a new energy to the charity. The podcast is exceeding expectations in both output and engagement, and by the end of year one the team had released nine episodes. It is continuing to play a key role in reducing isolation and improving access to information for families who may not be able to attend in-person





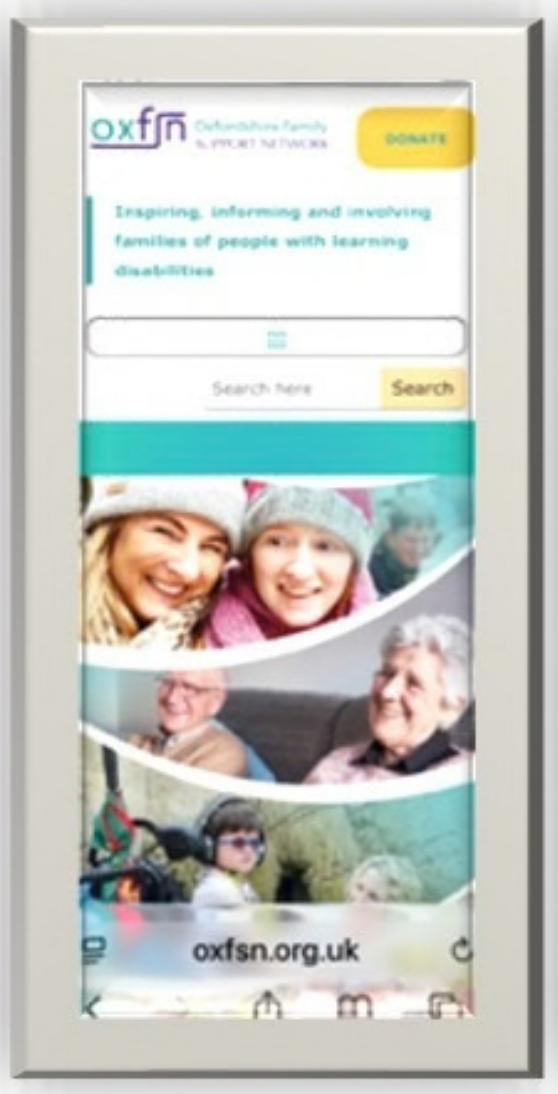
support. Feedback continues to be overwhelmingly positive. One listener commented:

"*This is wonderful – the organisation of the content and the thoughtful, generous and warm delivery. Thank you."*

"I listened to your last podcast with Naz, you were wonderful, so articulate, knowledgeable and relatable! I wish there had of been a podcast like yours around, when we received XXX's diagnosis"

Updated Website

Thanks to funding from The Postcode Society, our website had a revamp and now contains lots of new resources and information for families.
We've focused on 3 key stages, the Early Years, Moving into Adulthood and Older Carers, as these are key 'crunch points' in our caring journey and based around funded projects.



Embolden 2



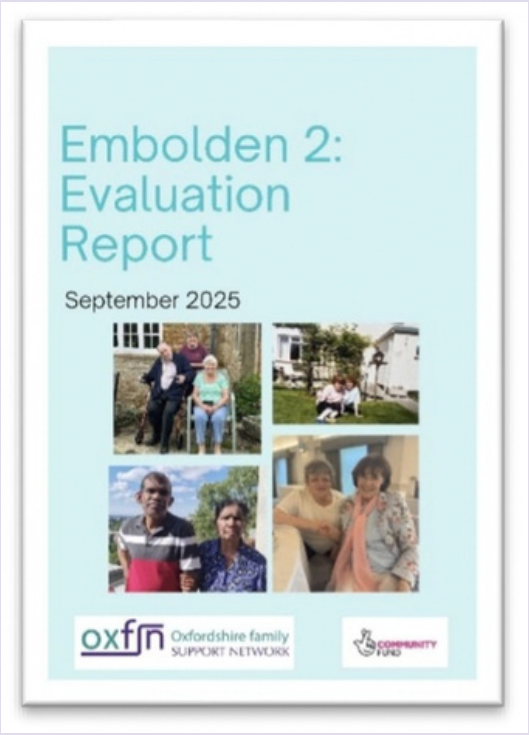
Embolden 2 ended in August 2025. 359 family carers and 180 professionals benefitted from the project over 3 years—far exceeding our original target of 125. We supported 34 Tier 3 families (target 12). These are typically parents in their late 70s, 80s, or 90s who require intensive, face-to-face, person-centred support to plan for the future.

> *'The Embolden Project has been a fantastic example of what can be achieved through strong partnership working and collaboration. It has been brilliant to hear of the wonderful outcomes that have been achieved for people and their families, and I am grateful to OxFSN for leading on this and working so closely with us.'*
> Karen Fuller - Director of Adult Social Care (July 2025)

Thanks to this funding, we were also able to run a wide range of information events — designed for older carers, but beneficial to all families of adults. A huge thank you goes to Kathy Liddell and Oona Banister for their tireless commitment and the great outcomes they achieved alongside families.

Events and activities in 2025 included:

- Supported Living
- Office of the Public Guardian
- Final end of project film development
- Case studies and end of project report completed
- End of Project Conference



> "As well as being very informative, the events also meant we got to speak to other parents, exchange experiences, and ask professionals questions. The coffee and chat events are really great too. There is nowhere else, no other organisation like this, that relates to our situation as older carers of an adult child. It is invaluable."

Strategic Partnership with OCC Adult Social Care

Our close working relationship with Adult Social Care was again a major benefit this year and enabled us to involve families in coproduction and to quickly respond and feedback issues that affect families. *Here's what we've been doing….*

Overview of Activities in 2025/2026

Attendance at Board meetings and strategy groups:

- The Learning Disability and Neurodiversity Improvement Board
- Co Production Board
- Carers Strategy Group (OCC)
- Building the Right Support Group – Complex Needs Sub-Group
  Safe space
  Supporting Living Sub Group
- Physical Health Strategy Group
- Learning Disability Strategy Group

Attended 'The Voice of the Person' Workshops through the Coproduction Board

Focus Groups

Ran a financial charging focus group so families could talk directly to the finance team and share their stories and concerns.

Supported Living Tender

- Supporting families to be part of the tender process
- Meetings with families, meetings with procurement and OCC Team
- Supporting families at Evaluation sessions

Event Workshops and Training

- Working with Families Training
- One Page Profile workshop for senior Leadership team

Oxfordshire Parent Carer Forum (OXPCF)

OxFSN continue to host and support the parent carer forum in Oxfordshire. Funding for this work is available annually from the Department for Education (DfE) via Contact and the Local Area Partnership. The Forum is now a well-established vehicle to ensure the voices of SEND parents in Oxfordshire are heard. We'd like to take this opportunity once again to thank the forum steering group, for their hard work and dedication to ensuring this happens.

Looking Ahead - The Future

Oxfordshire Family Support Network has worked hand in hand with family carers in Oxfordshire for nearly two decades (starting as a small project in 2007) As we approach our 20 year anniversary in 2027, it is an important moment for us to look back on the milestones we have reached and consider the progress we have made as a charity. This reflection gives us the opportunity to assess our impact and recognise the dedication and effort that has gone into supporting family carers of people with learning disabilities in Oxfordshire.

At the same time, it is essential to look forward and plan the next steps to ensure we continue to evolve, strengthen and sustain our work. Our aim is to build on the positive momentum generated through our recent projects. By doing so, we can identify areas where we can enhance our support and ensure we are in a position to address current and emerging needs within our community.

We have always been a small organisation, and with this has come the ability to quickly respond to constantly changing systems and processes and the shifting sands that is our sector. However, as we move forward, we must remain aware of the risks due to our organisation's growth. Although we have taken a measured approach to expansion, we are now entering a delicate phase regarding our size.

Increased funding brings more opportunities but also greater commitments and higher overheads. While growth is undoubtedly positive, it introduces several risks, and it is essential that our infrastructure expands in tandem with our ambitions to ensure ongoing success and sustainability.

There are also significant changes occurring across the sector we need to be aware of and responsive to. Notable developments include the expansion of the Integrated Care Board (ICB) area to a Thames Valley wide ICB. There are also proposed local government reorganisation (LGR) with boundary changes which may have an impact, although so much is unknown at this stage it’s definitely one to watch. In addition there are new National Government initiatives such as Family Hubs and changes to SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) to be aware of. Each of these changes will influence the way we collaborate with partners and deliver services to our families.

As services face increasing demands and funding becomes more limited, it is essential to recognise the potential risk that our work may be perceived as optional or supplementary, rather than essential. We must actively work to demonstrate the vital role we play in supporting family carers and ensure that our contributions remain valued in an evolving landscape. As statutory organisations move into a wider geographical area and are further removed from the local area, we need to remain focused on the values of personalisation.

The next few years will also bring significant change for OxFSN. New people will join the charity, while some key members of the team begin to think about retirement. Our four-year strategy, due to be developed and published in summer 2026, will help guide us through this period.

And finally -

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has worked with us and supported us this year. In an increasingly complex health, education, and social care system, our role is to ensure families are heard, involved in co-production, and able to navigate services more easily.
We will continue to take our lead from the families we support, work closely with partners, and remain committed to simplifying the system wherever we can.

Thanks to our Funders for their support this year and to our amazing family carers for their generous donations and fundraising on our behalf

COMMUNITY FUND

global's Make some NOISE

PEOPLE'S POSTCODE LOTTERY

POSTCODE SOCIETY TRUST

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Department for Education

Oxfordshire Community Foundation
Local people helping local people

Finance Report for the year ending 31st March 2026

Summary
OxFSN received total income of £199,376 for the year 2025/2026, an increase of 12% from the prior year (£177,572). Expenditure rose to £194,551 (prior year £168,618), reflecting a planned and proportionate increase in activity made possible by the growth in income. This resulted in a surplus of £4,825, compared to £8,954 in the previous year.
The year-end bank balance stood at £175,002, up from £155,873, further strengthening OxFSN's financial position.

Income and Expenditure Account
We are pleased to report that income increased by 12% compared to the previous year, while expenditure rose by a relatively modest 15%. This resulted in a surplus of £4,825. The increase in expenditure was anticipated and aligned with the growth in income, enabling OxFSN to expand its activities and impact. Over the past two years, both income and expenditure have remained broadly stable, reflecting consistent financial performance.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2026				
	Unrestricted Funds £	Current Year Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Total Funds £
Ordinary Activities	14,344	185,032	199,376	177,572
Other activities	-	-	-	-
Total income	14,344	185,032	199,376	177,572
Expenditure	9,519	185,032	194,551	168,618
Retained surplus	**4,825**	**-**	**4,825**	**8,954**

Balance Sheet
Cash at bank £175,002. Accruals and deferred income (income received in advance) £95,441. Total net assets were increased by £4,825 (the retained surplus for the year) to £72,643

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2026		
Current Assets	**Current Year £**	**Prior Year £**
Cash at bank	175,002	155,873
Debtors, prepayments & accrued income	456	456
Total current assets	175,458	156,329
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	7,375	19,118
Accruals & deferred income	95,441	69,395
Total current liabilities	102,816	88,512
Net current and total assets	**72,643**	**67,818**
Represented by		
Unrestricted funds	72,643	67,818
Restricted funds	-	-
Total Funds	**72,643**	**67,818**

Reserves

Unrestricted funds: A general fund was established in prior years to provide a financial reserve capable of supporting the organisation's employment costs for a 12-month period. During 2025/2026, steps were taken to build the reserve in line with rising costs, resulting in an addition of £4,825. The unrestricted fund now stands at £72,643, offering a stable foundation for sustaining staffing and operational continuity.
Restricted funds: restricted grants are managed so as to match expenditure with income in the financial year.

Reserves for the Year Ended 31st March 2026				
	B/fwd 1 Apr 2025 £	In year £	Transfers £	C/fwd 31 Mar 2026 £
Unrestricted Funds				
Total	67,818	4,825	-	72,643
Restricted Funds				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-
Total Funds	**67,818**	**4,825**	**-**	**72,643**

Accounting Policies

OxFSN follows UK generally accepted accounting practice (UKGAAP). The particular policies adopted are described below. They have been applied consistently in dealing with items considered material in relation to the accounts.

1. **Accounting convention**
   These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

2. **Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty. In the application of the Company's accounting policies, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from those estimates and the estimates and underlying assumptions are continually reviewed. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised, in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.**

3. **Critical judgements in applying accounting policies. The following are the critical judgements, apart from those involving estimations (see below) that management has made in the process of applying the Company's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements**

3.1 **Accounting for Accruals. Various methods are used for calculating different types of accrual. They include:-**

- i. **Trend analysis**
- ii. **Judgement of directors**
- iii. **Supplier statements**
- iv. **Formulaic approach based on historical cost information**

4. **Accounting for Doubtful Debts - Impairment of receivables**
   OxFSN is required to judge when there is sufficient evidence to impair individual receivables. It does this based on the age and status of the receivables.

5. **Revenue**
   Revenue in respect of services provided is recognised when, and to the extent that, performance occurs, and is measured at the fair value of the consideration receivable. Where income is received for a specific

activity that is to be delivered in the following year, that income is deferred.

6. Other expenses
Other operating expenses are recognised when, and to the extent that, the goods or services have been received. They are measured at the fair value of the consideration payable.

7. Property, plant and equipment. Recognition property, plant and equipment is capitalised if:

- it is held for use in delivering services or for administrative purposes;
- it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to, or service potential will be supplied to OxFSN;
- it is expected to be used for more than one financial year;
- the cost of the item can be measured reliably; and
- the item has cost of at least £5,000.

Where a large asset, for example a building, includes a number of components with significantly different asset lives, the components are treated as separate assets and depreciated over their own useful economic lives.

8. Grants
Revenue grants are treated as deferred income initially and credited to income to match the expenditure to which they relate.

9. Cash and cash equivalents. Cash is cash in hand and deposits with any financial institution repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are investments that mature in 3 months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. In the Balance Sheet, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and that form an integral part of OxFSN's cash management.

10. Provisions are recognised when the Company has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that the Company will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period, taking into account the risks and uncertainties.

11. Contingencies A contingent liability is a possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the trust, or a present obligation that is not recognised because it is not probable that a payment will be required to settle the obligation or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured sufficiently reliably. A contingent liability is disclosed unless the possibility of a payment is remote.

A contingent asset is a possible asset that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the trust. A contingent asset is disclosed where an inflow of economic benefits is probable.

12. Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the goods or services have been received. Financial liabilities are de-recognised when the liability has been discharged, that is, the liability has been paid or has expired.

Independent examiner's report

Report to the trustees of Oxfordshire Family Support Network Limited on Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2026.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income does not exceed £250,000.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- **examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;**
- **to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section ,145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and**
- **to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.**

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- **to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and**

- **to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or**

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Peter Crabb. Independent Examiner
3rd October 2026

Charity name:	Oxfordshire Family Support Network
Charity registration number:	1143367
Company registration number:	7583197
Registered office:	30 Tamar Way, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 7QH, Oxon
Directors and Trustees:	Yvonne Cox - Chair Jan Roast Charmian Hearne Jessica Patton Ms Kathleen Rist Simon Jones
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc Banbury
Independent examiner:	Peter Crabb, 22 Murcot Road, Upper Arncott, Oxon, OX25 1QH
Solicitor	Cooperatives UK, Hanover Street, Manchester, M60 0AS