



Oxfordshire Youth

Chair of the Board of Trustees



A message from the CEO

Thank you for your interest in joining our Board of Trustees.

This is an exciting time to join Oxfordshire Youth as we continue to grow and strengthen our transformational impact and our ongoing learning.

I am in my ninth year with Oxfordshire Youth, and I have never been so proud of the results that we achieve as an organisation, the changes that we bring about, working with and for young people, and our advocacy of authentic youth voice

Come and be a part of our mission to create lasting positive change for young people in Oxfordshire.

Jodie
CEO



About Oxfordshire Youth

Oxfordshire Youth is a boundary-breaking organisation, passionate about creating a future for and with young people that offers them the best possible opportunity to realise their potential.

Our staff are redefining the youth sector in Oxfordshire: we envisage a world in which young people have the tools they need to approach life with creativity, resilience, and good mental health.

Oxfordshire Youth has experienced significant growth over the past two years, seeing our staff team grow from 11 colleagues in 2020 to 54 in June 2022 and our turnover increase by over 650%. This is an exciting time in the life of the charity!

OY's culture revolves around our six core values:

trustworthy, inclusive, innovative, ambitious, reflective, self-nurturing



Our Mission and Vision

MISSION

To meet the needs and aspirations of young people and build a resilient youth sector across Oxfordshire



VISION

For all young people to be empowered, feel respected and know that they are valued



Our Work

SECTOR SUPPORT: We support organisations across Oxfordshire's youth sector, providing relevant skills and training to anyone working with young people and ensuring that they are connected to the wider range of opportunities available.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND SKILLS: We provide learning and skills development opportunities to support young people in a range of settings including school, youth spaces, and in our Young People's Supported Accommodation (YPSA) service. This is also where our work to promote youth voice happens.

YPSA: Launched in October 2020, this is a service that supports young people aged 18-24 to move into independent living. Over a period of 18 months, young people live in shared houses and have access to services and life-changing opportunities in education, employment and training.



Our Impact

We work with, and for, a sector comprising over 150 youth organisations which collectively reach over 26,000 young people across Oxfordshire. We work with decision-makers to create change and invest in youth work in the county. In addition, as a direct delivery partner, our work in the fields of youth mental health and youth homelessness is breaking down barriers that young people face.

We see ourselves as strong advocates of the power of youth voice and co-production. This is demonstrated through our Youth Voice Network, our youth-led podcast *Are You Listening?*, the events that we co-produce with young people, and our various youth boards and forums that are bursting with creative young people, authentically sharing their lived experience and their views to create change, one step at a time.

We play a key role in leading change through cross-sector collaboration - changing systems to work in favour of young people – and through creating platforms for authentic youth voice to influence policy and shape services directly.

Together with our partner Oxfordshire Mind we have brought together over 450 professionals to re-imagine the mental health landscape at our Youth in Mind event; we have partnered with youth sector colleagues to create Compass Youth Partnership, helping young people at risk of criminality; and we are in the second year of a bold transformation of supported housing for young people in Oxfordshire that takes a youth work approach.



Our Impact

7,000

contact sessions with young people using the YPSA Service

100% of the Children & Young People's Forum members agreed that it had a positive impact on the sector

101 sessions on youth development delivered to young people & adults

92% of young people attending our Building Resilience programme agreed that it addressed issues that were most relevant to them

290+ adults attended training on children and young people's mental health awareness

130+ 18-25 year-olds supported by the YPSA

*Data taken from the 2021-2022 OY Impact Report



The Role of the Chair

The Chair leads the Board of Trustees for Oxfordshire Youth, ensuring that it governs the charity effectively, in service of the charity's vision and mission. The Chair leads in an inclusive way, supporting the Board to work together well, and providing support and challenge to the Chief Executive. The Chair is an ambassador for Oxfordshire Youth and is pivotal to its continued growth and success.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing strategic leadership to the charity
- Ensuring that OY pursues its aims and objectives as outlined in its governing documents and that it remains legally and financially compliant
- Driving the continual development of OY
- Representing OY and being a figurehead for the charity
- Developing of the Trustee Board
- Chairing bi-monthly Board meetings
- Championing the mission, vision and values of OY



Your Commitment

- The Trustee Board meets six times a year (every other month).
- The Trustee Board has three sub-committees, which also meet once every other month:
 - Finance and Risk
 - Safeguarding, Quality and Impact
 - People, Culture and Digital
- Trustees may sometimes meet more often as part of specific project groups to advance the objectives of the charity.
- Trustees are encouraged to engage in staff development, training and mentoring with the staff team.
- The Chair also meets regularly with the CEO and should be able to respond quickly to the occasional ad-hoc issue.
- Oxfordshire Youth holds two whole-team Awaydays per year, and Trustees are encouraged to attend.



The Board of Trustees

The fundamental role of the Trustee Board is to receive assets from donors, safeguard them, and apply them to the charitable purposes of Oxfordshire Youth. The Trustee Board must always act in the best interests of Oxfordshire Youth, exercising the same standard of duty of care that a prudent person would apply if looking after the affairs of someone for whom they have responsibility. Trustees are ultimately and legally responsible for everything Oxfordshire Youth does. Trustees fulfil this responsibility by deciding the strategy, establishing organisational policies, and implementing appropriate monitoring, reporting and control mechanisms to ensure and evidence compliance.

Oxfordshire Youth Trustees are encouraged to use their specific skills, knowledge or experience to help the Board reach sound decisions. This may involve leading discussions, identifying key issues, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, and evaluating or offering advice on areas in which the Trustee has particular expertise. Trustees must ensure that the charity has a clear vision, mission and strategic direction and must focus on meeting these.

Oxfordshire Youth's Board currently consists of 10 Trustees.



The Recruitment Process and How to Apply

- To apply, please send your CV, a completed Trustee Application Form and a covering letter to recruitment@oxfordshireyouth.org by 11 September 2022. The Trustee Application Form can be downloaded from our website.
- Applications will be shortlisted against the selection criteria (person specification) after the closing date.
- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to the Oxfordshire Youth office for interview.
- The interview process will consist of an informal 'Meet & Greet' session with Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team, followed by interviews with Trustees and the CEO.





Our Approach to Diversity

Oxfordshire Youth supports a huge range of individuals throughout Oxfordshire. As an organisation, we are committed to reflecting the diversity of the young people and the youth sector that we serve, and to working in partnership with them.

Our recruitment policies are based on equity, diversity and inclusion, and we are particularly interested in supporting those whose voices are less heard to be involved in the organisation at all levels. This includes the Trustee Board. We welcome applications from those people who reflect the diversity of the work that we do and who have first-hand experience of our programmes.

We believe that diversity in the workplace creates dynamic, relevant organisations, fostering spaces for innovation and creativity. We particularly welcome applications from those with protected characteristics which are underrepresented on charity sector boards.



More Information

- If you would like to speak to the current Chair of Trustees, the CEO, or another member of the OY team at any point in the recruitment process, the HR team will be able to help you – please email: recruitment@oxfordshireyouth.org.
- If you have any specific questions or would like more information about OY, please do ask.

