

# Style Acre

Supporting people with learning disabilities



## Annual Review

2022 - 2023



# About Style Acre

271 adults with learning disabilities and autism are supported by Style Acre across Oxfordshire. We offer supported living and day opportunities through our community hubs, employment support, wellbeing activities and gardening sessions.

People we support may have mild, moderate or severe and profound learning disabilities and/or autism. Style Acre works closely with its sister charity Acre Housing who provide specialised housing for some of the people supported by Style Acre.

## Overview of 2022

### In March 2023

- 109 people were accessing support from our supported living care teams in 37 households, 95% of which have 24-hour care.
- 32 people who live more independently or with their family in the community were supported from their homes by our community support team.
- 162 people attended our day opportunities which include three community hubs in Wallingford, Didcot and Banbury, a shared market garden in Wantage and a Work Programme.
- Our own social enterprises provide work opportunities for people we support - the Style Acre Tea Room in Blewbury, the Style Acre Charity Shop in Wallingford and Green Acre, our garden maintenance business.
- We focus on promoting and delivering accessible wellbeing activities for the people we support and our employees through our Ways to Wellness project.

The year has seen Style Acre largely return to 'normal' after the restrictions brought in during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Regular activities, hobbies, work and outings have returned.
- Our employees have gone above and beyond to help people we support to rebuild social connections and to reconnect with their communities. Providing outstanding personalised support to manage any anxieties.
- Our community hubs are back to delivering their normal timetables, along with new activities.
- Our Work Programme has supported people to return to their work and voluntary placements during the year and new placements started.
- Our garden project at Wantage Market Garden has continued to offer opportunities for 1:1 and group activities.
- Our social enterprises have increased the number of work opportunities.
- Our Ways to Wellness project has gone from strength to strength, encouraging employees and the people we support to work towards goals to improve their physical and mental health.
- Our mental health programme has continued, with 34 wellbeing buddies across all of our services supporting our employees and the people we support as needed.

## Spotlight - Work Programme

Katy-Anne enjoys working at the Tea Room every week and feels valued and fulfilled in her role. She really enjoys working front of house and using the till as she likes to meet and chat to the customers. Katy-Anne's mum says "Katy-Anne has had various opportunities over the years to do cookery and catering courses, and to work in coffee shops in 'closed' settings...I was delighted when I found that Style Acre's Tea Room would give her a chance to use her skills in a real commercial setting, interacting with members of the public, but with support as and when needed.."





## Fundraising, Volunteering, Community

2022/23 was packed full of fundraising and community events, we joined Jubilee Celebrations in Didcot and Blewbury, held a Masquerade Ball and a Halloween Disco. We also ran annual events such as Style Acre's Got Talent, Wallingford Santa Dash, Tea Room Summer Fete and Outdoor Cinema. We also attended local events and festivals.

We are very grateful to the people that supported us through completing many different challenges including the London Marathon, Oxford Half Marathon, Blenheim 7k and Iron Man UK.

Grants from charitable trusts enabled us to deliver services such as our Work Programme and Garden Project. Support from individuals, companies and local groups helps us provide amazing opportunities for people we support.

Over 40 volunteers help us at our social enterprises, our hubs, with gardening sessions and at our fundraising and community events. Teams of company volunteers have also worked wonders at our hubs, gardens and supported living houses. We appreciate every hour given by our volunteers, their time makes a big difference to people we support.

A very big thank you to everyone who helped us in 2022/23!



# Message from Chris Ingram

It has certainly been a challenging year for many but it has been so wonderful to see what we do at Style Acre return to normal. As you can see it has been a year full of fun events, activities, holidays and great support. It has also been brilliant to see the success of our 'Work Team' who have exceeded all expectations in ensuring there are more opportunities than ever for placements and paid work.

Our social enterprises have also gone from strength to strength and we look forward to creating wonderful new opportunities for people in the coming year. It has been a great team effort from everyone and it has been a real privilege to work alongside such a wonderfully dedicated and caring group of people.



## Message from the Chair of Trustees - Ian Boulton

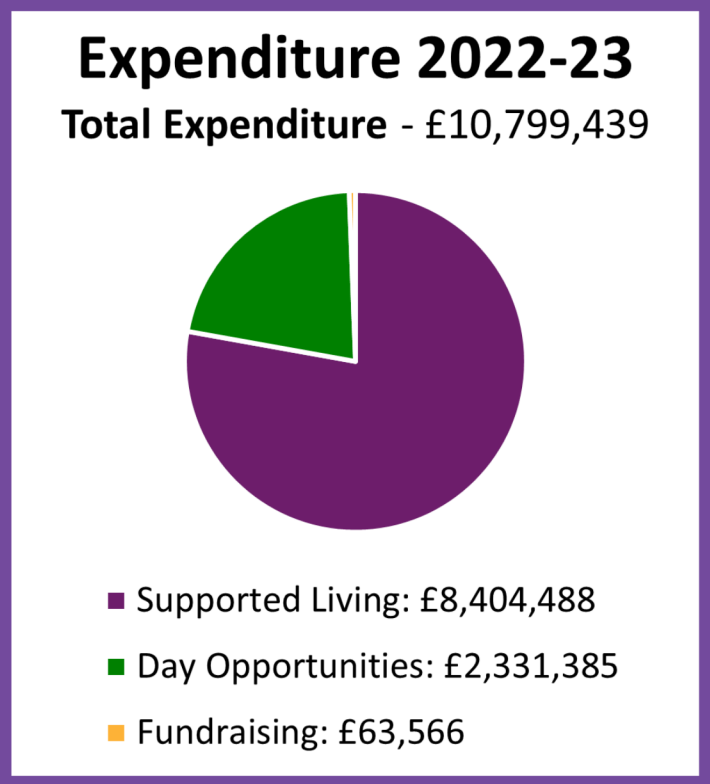
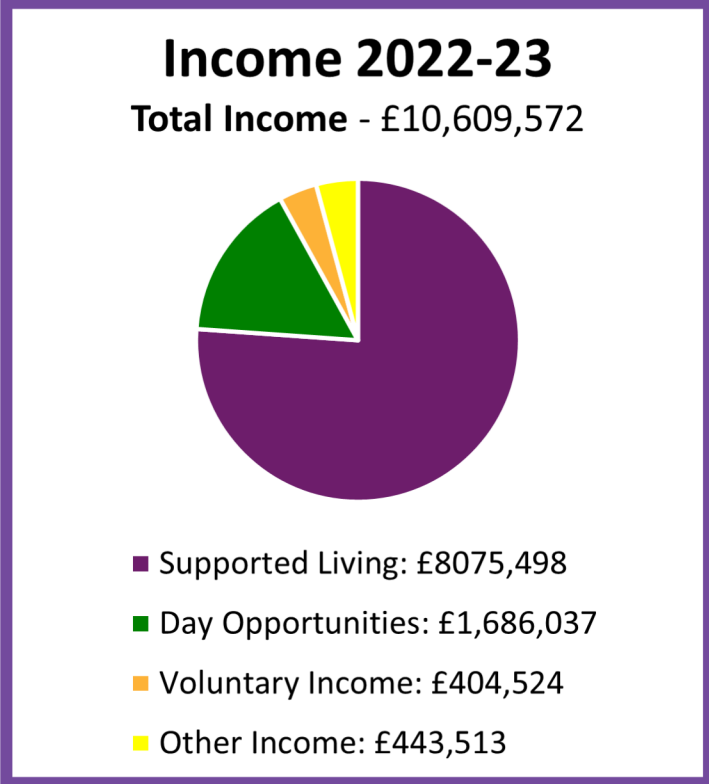
During the last year we have been getting back to normal after Covid. The people we support asked us to get back to "having some fun" and our colleagues and volunteers have responded brilliantly. Their hard work and dedication is what makes Style Acre the wonderful organisation it is.

The families of those we support tell us how glad they are that their loved ones are in such good hands. Keeping, developing, and retaining the best people is difficult. The situation in adult social care is tough, both nationally and locally, and often doesn't get the priority and recognition it deserves. The Trustees thank everyone in the Style Acre Family for all their efforts.





# Financial Performance



Available unrestricted funds of £2,012,800 are held in reserve at the end of the year to enable the charity to continue to operate for approximately two months and invest in future developments.

# Get Involved!

## Volunteer

Volunteers have key roles helping at our community hubs, Tea Room, Charity Shop, as buddies, at gardening sessions and with fundraising and events. As a volunteer you can have fun while developing skills, meeting people and making a difference. We welcome individuals and groups who may wish to volunteer with their colleagues.

## Donate

A one-off or regular donation to Style Acre helps sustain and create amazing opportunities for people with learning disabilities and autism. Visit our website if you would like to donate. We can also support you to raise funds with your own event (such as a cake sale) and we regularly have challenge events such as half marathons that you can enter to help raise funds.

## Local companies

We love to work with local companies as their charity of the year, event partner, through employee match funding or employee volunteering. We regularly arrange for teams of colleagues to come and volunteer with us. We can also support employers to participate in our Work Programme which arranges work or voluntary placements for adults with learning disabilities and autism.



## Partnerships

Our additional programmes depend on voluntary income and working with partners. Our Work Programme, Garden Project and Ways to Wellness all work with local organisations and funders so people we support can access opportunities. We're always looking for new partners, get in touch with us at [community@styleacre.org.uk](mailto:community@styleacre.org.uk) if you have an idea about how we could work together.

## Work with us

Become a member of the Style Acre family and make a big difference to people we support and their families. We are rated outstanding by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and were awarded the Care Employer of the Year award in 2020 by the Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers.

We value our employees and provide comprehensive training so that everyone can provide outstanding support to adults with learning disabilities and autism. Visit our website to view the latest vacancies.

# Style Acre

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