

Style Acre

Supporting people with learning disabilities



Annual Review

2023 - 2024



About Style Acre

267 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 23 - 24

- 115 people were accessing support from our supported living care teams in 38 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.
- 163 people were attending our day opportunities which include three community hubs in Wallingford, Didcot and Banbury, a shared market garden in Wantage and a Work Programme.
- Provided work opportunities for people we support through our own social enterprises - the Style Acre Tea Room in Blewbury, the Style Acre Charity Shop in Wallingford, Green Acre, our garden maintenance business and our new medal making business in Banbury.
- We focus on promoting and delivering accessible wellbeing activities for the people we support and our employees through our Ways to Wellness project.

Style Acre has had a very busy and active year.

- People we support have taken part in a wide variety of activities, hobbies, work opportunities, outings and holidays.
- Our employees have gone above and beyond to provide supportive, creative and dynamic environments enabling people to fulfil their potential and live the life they choose.
- People we support have had the opportunity to work in fulfilling jobs, learn new skills, engage with their natural environment and focus on their health and happiness.
- Approx. 107 of the people we support undertake paid or voluntary placements either within Style Acre or with local companies.
- Our garden project at Wantage Market Garden has continued to offer opportunities for 1:1 and group activities.
- Our social enterprises have grown and developed. Alongside the Tea Room, the Charity Shop and Green Acre, we have opened a sustainable medal making social enterprise and an eBay business.
- Our Ways to Wellness is offering new opportunities and activities.

Spotlight - Ways to Wellness

Our Ways to Wellness programme provided lots of opportunities this year, including interactive music and sensory activities with Soundabout, cookery with Maymessy, Bell Boating at the Henley Regatta for the Disabled, and working with Oxfordshire Palliative Care Network on the 'A Good Death' project.

We added a Silent Disco into our weekly Ways to Wellness activities and an extra gym session in Thame. We also had our biggest ever team take part in the Superhero Triathlon.

We focused on healthy eating, creativity and mental health, and we introduced mandatory Mental Health Aware training for all new starters.





Fundraising, Volunteering, Community

2023/24 was another busy year, full of wonderful Style Acre events, including Style Acre's Got Talent, the Kings Coronation, our Sparkle and Dine Ball and Santa Dash.

We were also chosen as the Charity of the year for Rokefest which raised £6K and the Springs Golf Club who raised over £17K.

The biggest event of the year was Truck Festival, where we were invited into the Feel-Good tent and sold chilli and nacho's to festival goers, raising over £10K for the charity.

People also supported us through completing many different challenges including the London Marathon, Oxford Half Marathon and the Blenheim 7k for which we are very grateful.

Grants from charitable trusts enabled us to deliver services such as our Work Programme and Garden Project and it is the support from these trusts, individual supporters, companies and local groups that help us provide amazing opportunities for people we support.

In March 2024 we had over 47 active volunteers supporting us at our social enterprises, in our hubs, with gardening sessions and at our fundraising and community events. We also had a number of corporate volunteers who also worked wonders at our hubs, gardens and supported living houses. Our volunteers make a difference to the lives of the people we support and play an important role in Style Acre.

We are grateful to everyone who helped us in 2023/23 and would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity and support.

Message from Chris Ingram

It is an absolute privilege to be the Chief Executive of such a wonderful charity. The creativity, passion and love shown by my wonderful colleagues never ceases to amaze me. This annual report shows just a small snapshot of all the wonderful support they have provided over the last 12 months.

It is amazing to see new things happening all the time; opportunities for the people we support to try different things, to develop new skills and friendships and to grow in confidence as they do so. It isn't the easiest time in social care, but I am delighted by the resilience and tenacity shown by the team as we look forward to celebrating our 30th anniversary.



Message from the Chair of Trustees - Ian Boulton

This year's report shows that we are fully back, delivering on our Mission. The Trustees thank all of the Style Acre family for the great work they have done.

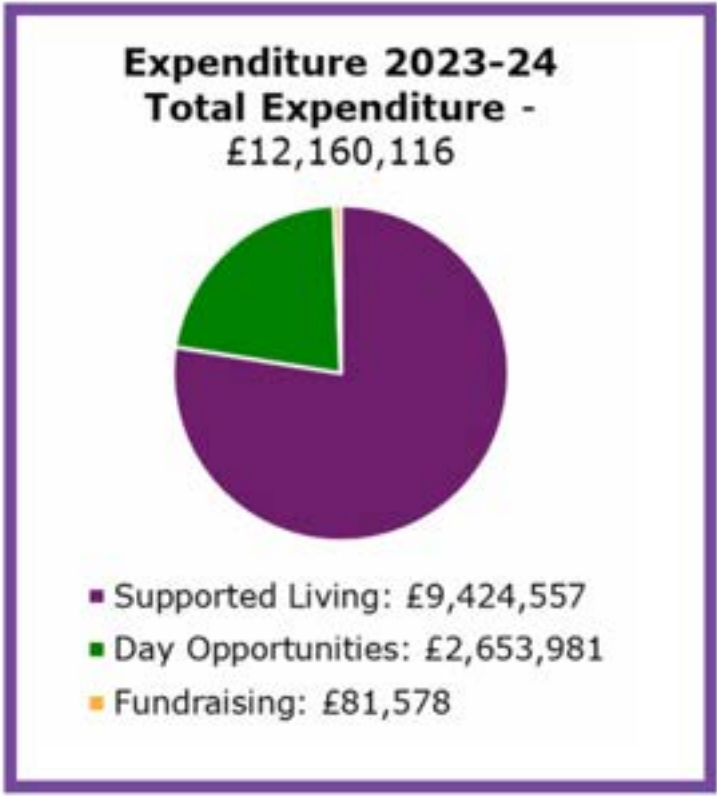
The Ways-to-Wellness programme is a great example of how we innovate to support the entire Style Acre family. It's success is seen in the positive benefits it is having on everyone who takes part. We continue to look for more opportunities to enrich people's lives.

The coming year will be challenging; costs continue to rise and local authority budgets will be constrained. But we have a firm base to face those challenges





Financial Performance



Available unrestricted funds of £1,891,921 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 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

Supporting people with learning disabilities



Evenlode House, Howbery Park, Wallingford, Oxfordshire,

OX10 8BA Phone: 01491 838760

Email: info@styleacre.org.uk

www.styleacre.org.uk

Trustees:

Ian Boulton (Chair)
Sarah Nye
Keith Tibbs
Paul Townsend
Lara Fromings
Neil Rawsthorne
Rachel Cox
Julia Marsan

Ambassadors:

Rachel Knapp
Daniel Orpin
Grace Kerrigan
Lisa Swinburn

Patrons:

Sinead Cusack
John Craven OBE
(Emeritus)



Registered Charity No: 1101626