

Style Acre

Supporting people with learning disabilities



Annual Review 2024 - 2025



About Style Acre

Style Acre supports 275 adults with learning disabilities and autism across Oxfordshire. We offer supported living and day opportunities through our community hubs, employment support, wellbeing activities and gardening.

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.

Our Vision

To be the support provider of choice in Oxfordshire to people with a learning disability and / or autism and their families.

Our Mission

To provide supportive, creative and dynamic environments for people with learning disabilities and /or autism so they are valued as equals, can fulfil their potential, and live the life they choose.

Our Values



Caring

Treating everyone with dignity, compassion and kindness



Respectful

At all times and for everyone



Honest

To ensure we develop and maintain trusting relationships



Ambition

To ensure people have choice and control and the opportunity to fulfil their potential



Collaborative

Working with others to achieve our mission and vision

Overview 24 - 25

- 112 people were accessing support from our supported living care teams in 39 households. Approximately 95% of our households have 24-hour care.
- 35 people who live more independently or with their family in the community were supported from their homes by our community support team.
- 157 people were attending our day opportunities which include three community hubs in Wallingford, Didcot and Banbury, a shared market garden in Wantage and our Work Programme.
- Provided work opportunities for people we support through our own social enterprises - these being catering (including the Style Acre Tea Room in Blewbury, Retail (including the Style Acre Charity Shop in Wallingford), Green Acre, our garden maintenance business and sustainable medal making in Banbury.
- We focussed 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.
- People we employ 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.
- Approximately 122 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 continued to develop during the year offering a wider range of work placements. Catering has expanded from the Tea Room in Blewbury to now offer external catering; the Retail offering has grown from the Charity Shop in Wallingford to now include other retail platforms including Vinted; Green Acre has increased the days it offers gardening services; our sustainable medal making social enterprise has seen significant growth during its second year of operation.
- Our Ways to Wellness project has continued to go from strength to strength during the year with many new opportunities and activities being offered.

Ways to Wellness

Our Ways to Wellness programme brings wellbeing and wellness to the forefront in a fun and accessible way to both people we support and employ.

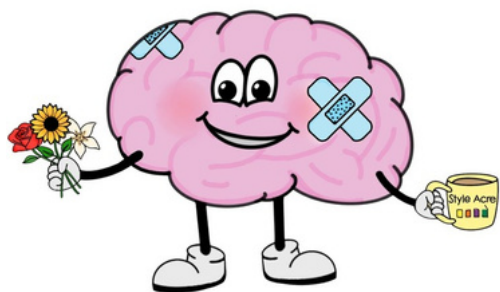
Wellbeing and wellness is important in everything we do at Style Acre, and we care deeply about the physical and mental wellbeing of everyone in our community.

Our Ways to Wellness programme aims to help people reflect on what wellbeing means to them, consider how they can maintain and improve their own wellbeing, set goals and take action, and inspire others by sharing their experiences.

Spotlight - Wellbeing Buddies

Our Wellbeing Manager is a Mental Health First Aid Instructor member and delivers Mental Health Aware and Mental Health First Aid courses to our employees.

All new starters are automatically enrolled on a Mental Health Awareness session, and all employees are given the opportunity to gain a qualification as a Mental Health First Aider and join our team of Wellbeing Buddies (currently 25 people).



Wellbeing Buddies are promoted throughout Style Acre as people for colleagues and people we support to reach out to whenever anyone needs a kind, non-judgemental and confidential ear. Each house and hub has a group of 4 or 5 Wellbeing Buddies from outside of their usual team who they can contact at anytime. The Wellbeing Buddies also have a presence at events throughout the year.



Fundraising, Volunteering, Community

Several fundraising and Style Acre events were held during the year including a fundraising summer soiree, Style Acre's Got Talent, Rock-and-Roll Bingo, our annual Santa Dash and in the new year an Abba tribute night which was a great success.

We also fundraised at several community events and were supported by a number of local organisations. Our biggest community event of the year was Truck Festival, selling 3,500 portions of chilli and nachos in the Feel Good Foodhall and raising over £16,000.

We were also fortunate enough to be invited back to the Wallingford Walled Gardens, raising £8,000 and the Thames Run where we received £800.

The people we support and our supporters also took part in the Superhero Triathlon and the Oxford Half Marathon to help raise funds for Style Acre.

We were able to deliver our Work and Ways to Wellness programmes and our Garden Project through grants from charitable trusts, individual supporters, companies and local groups. Enabling us to provide amazing opportunities for the people we support.

In March 2025 we had over 54 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 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 all our supporters and volunteers who helped us in 2024/25 and would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your time, generosity and support.

Thank you!

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the charitable trusts, corporate partners, community organisations and individual supporters who have donated to Style Acre in the past 12 months and to those who wish to remain anonymous.

We couldn't do what we do without you. We're grateful to some new donors this year including the David Family Foundation, Well Together Programme, Sport England and National Garden Scheme whose funding has given people we support great opportunities.

One of the programmes we fundraise for is our Work Programme. Since 2009 our work programme has been removing barriers to employment faced by adults with learning disabilities by giving employment support in Oxfordshire. As a result of the programme 122 people undertake paid and voluntary placements in our own social enterprises, office's and hubs or with local companies.

James' story

James works as an administrative assistant for our "Quality Checkers" Programme which asks people we support to talk to their peers who live in Style Acre supported living houses about their lives, their support and their homes. The information is then shared as a report with all that were involved.

James' role co-ordinates the communication between the managers of the supported living houses and the individuals who are going to be performing the quality checks. James' role includes checking and writing emails, organising dates for visits and making sure all the people who are Quality Checkers have a profile that can be sent to houses in advance of a visit, together with a list of questions.

James has embraced his role with enormous enthusiasm, he loves working on the laptop, and when asked where he'd like this role to lead to, his response was "the sky is the limit." When asked how he felt about his job he said. "This is everything I ever wanted. Thank you so much for giving me this chance I am enjoying it immensely and I like learning new skills.





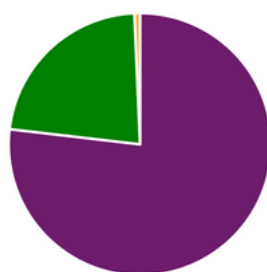
Financial Performance

Income 2024-25
Total Income -
£12,662,297



- Supported Living: £9,775,397
- Day Opportunities: £1,910,253
- Voluntary Income: £482,243
- Other Income: £494,404

Expenditure 2024-25
Total Expenditure -
£12,845,955



- Supported Living: £9,871,222
- Day Opportunities: £2,886,369
- Fundraising: £88,364

Available unrestricted funds of £1,680,098 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 at 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 looking for incredible, caring and patient Support Workers to join our brilliant team and make a difference.

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.

Message from Chris Ingram, CEO

As you will see from this annual report it has been another creative and exciting year at Style Acre. We have delivered record numbers of work placements, helping more people achieve their dreams and delivering some truly amazing support. Despite the financial challenges the sector faces we have continued to innovate, adapt and thrive.

We also started our 30th Anniversary celebration and kicked things off in typical Style Acre fashion with a massive ABBA party! It remains a real privilege to play my part in the Style Acre journey and next year marks my 10th anniversary and whilst there is lots to look back and reflect on, there is so much to look forward to in the coming year.



Message from the Chair of Trustees - Ian Boulton

Style Acre is a great organisation full of amazing people doing wonderful things. In 2025 we will be celebrating our 30th anniversary, growing from a single house with 20 people to today supporting 112 in supported living and 157 in day opportunities. We continue to look for new opportunities to support people with learning disabilities and their families, despite the many challenges facing adult social care right now.

This year we are highlighting our Ways to Wellness Programme where we focus on promoting and delivering accessible wellbeing activities for the people we support and our employees.

The Trustees are grateful to everyone in the Style Acre family for their invaluable contributions.



Style Acre

Supporting people with learning disabilities



Evenlode House, Howbery Park, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8BA

Phone: 01491 838760

Email: info@styleacre.org.uk

styleacre.org.uk

Trustees:

Ian Boulton (Chair)
Sarah Nye
Paul Townsend
Lara Fromings
Neil Rawsthorne
Rachel Cox
Julia Marsan
David Rice
Paul Brice

Ambassadors:

Rachel Knapp
Daniel Orpin
Grace Kerrigan
Lisa Swinburn

Patrons:

Sinead Cusack
John Craven OBE
(Emeritus)



Oxfordshire
Association
of Care Providers



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**



Registered Charity No: 1101626