



Oxford Poverty Action Trust Annual Report 2022

Contents

- 1 Chair's Report
- 2 Legal Details
- 3 Financial Report
- 4 Grants Policy
- 5 Partners
- 6 Box Officer's Report

1 Chair's Report 2022

The Problem

The financial year 2022-23 largely saw general homelessness levels increasing by 4.8% from 2021-22. The number of households reported in temporary accommodation has been increasing since 2021-22, and now surpasses previous recorded highs. It is estimated that on 31 March 2023, 104,510 households were in temporary accommodation, an increase of 10.0% from the same period last year. ¹ In other words the risk of becoming homeless for whatever reason continues to increase. The level of homelessness in Oxford is significantly higher than in neighbouring local authority areas. In 2019 the estimated number of homeless people in Oxford was 237.² The number of rough sleepers is high for a city of Oxford's size, and is estimated to vary between 40 and 60 at any one time in the year. The DLUHC publication *Ending Rough Sleeping for Good* presented in September 2022 estimates that the number of people sleeping rough in England excluding London on one Autumn night has gone from 420 in 2010 to 740 in 2014 to 1280 in 2018 and down to 640 in 2021. ³ Everyone In, RSAP and Protect initiatives launched in 2020 will of course have assisted in this reduction. The problem of homelessness in the city continues. Many of the reasons are as before, well known – the cost of housing in Oxford, the rise in the cost of living, rental issues, the austerity imposed by central government on local government for the last twelve years, and the associated cuts to expenditure on housing, mental health and drug services. It is worth noting that there is a significant number of Airbnb properties in Oxford at the present time and several new hotels.

The OxPAT Response

Despite the problems, the charities engaged in supporting single homeless people in Oxford continue to do excellent work, and the Oxford Poverty Action Trust (OxPAT) continues to provide a mechanism for concerned citizens to donate to these local charities. Active since 1996 the Oxford Poverty Action Trust (OxPAT) has distributed around £750,000 to support homeless people in Oxford, including £54,458.73 in 2022. We have done that by soliciting donations which we then pass to other local charities who we perceive to be doing good work to help the homeless. OxPAT has no staff or premises and very few costs. In 2022, excluding the cost of buying Christmas cards, which we sell for a profit and, £118.73, spent on renewing the OxPAT Internet domain name, we had no costs. It is very difficult when you see a homeless person on the street to know how best to help. Surveys show that over 70% of money donated directly to the homeless will be spent on drink or drugs. Giving money to OxPAT means that your donation will be channelled through professional charities with the resources to understand the problems a homeless person is suffering with, and to help develop a plan to help the person address those problems. The OxPAT money will be spent by the charity involved on items or activities which will directly benefit an individual or individuals. It will typically be spent on shelter, food, clothing, advice, medical care, and training to help people get a job, or manage their finances better.

Activities in 2022

Fund raising 2022

In total £49,585.55 was donated by the public, resulting in a total raised of £56,100.19.

Oxford University RAG

OxPAT is very pleased to have been voted as one of Oxford University's RAGs partner charities for 2022/3

Lucy Group

We were pleased to support employment training by Crisis Skylight and The Porch in 2022. This was made possible by a grant from the Lucy Fund received in late 2021.

Christmas cards

Our 2022 Christmas Card was another beautiful card entitled *Magdalen College at Christmas*, a lovely Oxford street scene by local artist John Somerscales. We sold the cards directly to members of the public and through the Hayfield Deli in Hayfield Rd.

Contactless

Contactless collecting pilot Greater Change (www.greaterchange.co.uk) helped us to run a pilot of contactless giving in Oxford. They supplied us with contactless terminals which we placed in the Co-op on Walton St and in Alden's Fish Market in Osney. The terminals raised over £1,000 during 2022 and gave us experience of contactless terminals as a means of raising money. We wish to thank Greater Change, the Co-op and Aldens for supporting us with this.

Events

The OxPAT street collection and Carol singing at the railway station did not take place in 2022.

Carol singing by children of St Barnabas School at the Westgate Centre did go ahead just before Christmas and was very well received. Many thanks to the children, teachers and Cllr Susanna Pressel.

1 National statistics, Statutory homelessness in England: financial year 2022-23. 2 This is England: A picture of homelessness in 2019 – Shelter, 3 DLUHC publication Ending Rough Sleeping For Good presented in September 2022

Distribution

In 2022 OxPAT partnered with the charities listed in section 5 Partners below. We are convinced that these agencies are amongst the most effective in Oxford and we thank them for continuing to partner with us. Between them these charities provide a full range of support services for homeless people from helping those sleeping on the streets, to providing shelter in day centres and hostels, mental care, rehabilitation, and training and skills development to help them find employment.

2 Legal Details

Trust

The object of the Trust is “for the relief of the effects of poverty, sickness, disablement and old age” in accordance with a Trust Deed made on 28th June 1998. The Trust has been granted registration as a charity by the Charity Commissioners. The Charity Number is 1070645. The Inland Revenue has accepted the Trust as a charity within the definition of section 506 (1) Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1998, as a result of which the Trust’s income and gains are not taxable to the extent that they are applicable and applied to charitable purposes.

The registered address is 25 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HA.

During the calendar and accounting year 2022 the following persons acted as Trustees of the Oxford Poverty Action Trust (known as OxPAT) for some or all of the time:

Paul Armstrong

Deborah Ceadel

Mary Gurr

Ralph Hall

Meg Movshon

Patrick Mulvihill

Ben Chataway

Officers during the year 2022 were:

Chair: Patrick Mulvihill

Secretary: Suzi Coyne

Treasurer: Paul Armstrong

The Patrons of the Trust are: Rt Revd. William Kenney CP Mrs. Felicity Dick, Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire

The Charity's Bankers are: The Co-operative Bank, King's Valley, Yew Street, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 2JU

The charity owns no functional property and there are no connected companies.

Special thanks to Jonathan Clark for website support.

Pat Mulvihill, Chair, October 2023

3 Finance

Table 1: OxPAT Financial Report for 2022

OxPAT Accounts (figures in £)	2021	2022
<i>Expenditure:</i>		
Admin and Special Purposes Sub-Accounts	-	118.73
Grants to Charities	69,245.00	52,900.00
Grants to Individuals ¹	907.79	-
Christmas cards	2,010.00	1,440.00
Bank error	-	-
Total Expenditure	72,162.79	54,458.73
<i>Income:</i>		
Boxes	477.83	726.15
Fund Raising	150.00	142.05
Organisations	6,100.00	3,321.41
Places of Worship	1,750.00	1,950.00
Private Donations (Gift Aid)	18,904.50	19,739.50
2020 Christmas cards	1,443.36	-
2021 Christmas cards	1,180.56	988.23
2022 Christmas cards	-	1,849.00
Donations via platforms (online & offline) ²	21,999.05	14,830.00
Other Private Donations (Non-Gift Aid)	18,330.04	12,298.85
Gift Aid payments from HMRC	-	-
Other ¹	1,480.00	255.00
Total Income	71,815.34	56,100.19

¹ Of the total £907.79 distributed to individuals in 2021, £200 was returned from the recipient as these funds were no longer required. This return is included as income in the 'Other' income line.

² Includes online donations made via CAF, CAF cheques, JustGiving, Stewardship, The Big Give or Charitable Giving; donations plus any gift aid collected on behalf of OxPAT are included in this row.

Table 2: Reconciliation with bank

	2021	2022
Opening balance	4362.25	4,014.80
Income	71,815.34	56,100.19
Expenditure	72,162.79	54,458.73
Closing balance	4,014.80	5,656.26

Income

2022 has been a strong year for OxPAT compared to historical levels, albeit income has decreased noticeably since our record year in 2021. Total income in 2022 decreased from £71,815.34 in 2020 to £56,100.19 – a decrease of over 20%. In the 20+ years OxPAT has been operating, we have collected over £700,000 from our donors.

Our income is spread across various categories of donors and donation channels. Box income grew last year, though it is generally lower than years prior, likely reflecting lower use of cash. Similarly, fundraising income also decreased, with 2022 fundraising income coming from a single event (carol singing). Income from Organisations decreased by around 45% from the 2021 level to £3,321.41 reflecting a drop in what are typically one-off donations from companies and educational

institutions. Income from Places of Worship increased slightly from 2021, reflecting increased collections this year from Places of Worship which regularly support OxPAT. Gift Aid eligible donations have seen an increase of around 5%, rising to £19,739.50 in 2022, reflecting both an increase in regular Gift Aid standing orders and one-off donations.

2022 Christmas card sales saw revenues of £1,849 in 2022. In line with previous years, a sizeable proportion of revenue from the Christmas card sales come in during the first few months of the next calendar year. Hence, much of the revenue from 2022 Christmas card sales is expected to be collected in 2023. Overall, the 2021 Christmas card sales brought in income of £2,168.79 across 2021 and 2022, leading to a profit of £158.79 for 2021 Christmas card sales, reflecting substantially increased printing costs in 2021.

Donations made via fundraising platforms such as Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) or Just Giving, have decreased substantially – by around one third - between 2021 and 2022. Platform revenue reflects a number of regular donations made via CAF, as well as additional one-off donations. Revenue via fundraising platforms includes any Gift Aid collected by a given platform on our behalf.

Non-Gift Aid donations also decreased by around one third from 2020 to 2021, generally reflecting fewer one-off donations which were not expected to be repeated. Gift Aid for direct donations to OxPAT in 2022 will be claimed in 2023.

The Other income category reflects donations made directly to our bank account which are not attributable to a specific individual/organisation as well as a fundraising not linked to a specific organisation or event. This Other income dropped to £255 in 2022, noting that this income stream generally fluctuates year to year.

Expenditure

The total grants made by OxPAT in 2022 amounted to £54,458.73, the vast majority of which was donated as regular distributions to our core agencies, totalling £52,900. There were no grants to individuals (paid via various charities) made in 2022.

Our costs for Christmas card printing were £1,440 in 2022, covering Christmas cards printed in that year. This decrease compared to 2021 (when printing costs were over £2,000) reflects a smaller order due to substantial stock remaining from the 2021 printing order. Administrative and special purposes expenses in 2022 were £118.73, spent on renewing the OxPAT Internet domain name, as reflected in the special purposes account below.

Special purposes account

Within the totals above we keep track a of special purposes sub-account, which currently contains funds from a donation from the Oxford Round Table. This was originally given for box replacement and refurbishment but the Round Table has now agreed that it may be spent on anything we consider appropriate.

Table 3: Special purposes account reconciliation with bank

	2021	2022
Opening balance	740.69	740.69
Income	-	-
Expenditure	-	118.73
Closing balance	740.69	621.96

We would like to thank all our donors, large and small, for their generosity towards us. In particular we would like to thank our regular donors, both organisations and individuals, who have supported us over the years including St Leonard's Church Eynsham, Magdalen College Trust, Aston Tirrold and Upthorpe Parish Council, Datasalon, the Dragon School and the Lucy Fund. We are also very grateful to Howard Cox for carrying out our independent examination.

We would also like to thank the charities to whom we give the money. We have no doubt that the money we pass to them is used efficiently and effectively in support of people in Oxford who are homeless, or in danger of homelessness.

Paul Armstrong, OxPAT Treasurer, October 2023

4 Grants Policy Core Principles

1. OxPAT funds are to be used to provide direct help to homeless or vulnerably housed adults.

2. OxPAT funds can be used to fulfil basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. They can also be used to help people address the issues that have led to them becoming homeless, by building confidence and self-esteem, improving skills, and addressing dependency issues.

3. OxPAT funds are not to be used to fund administration nor on-going costs, or to discharge statutory duties.

4. OxPAT funds will only be distributed to or through recognised charitable agencies; and must be spent by or under the supervision of such an agency. Distribution The monies received by OxPAT are distributed through agency welfare funds to be spent on welfare services, rehabilitation, accommodation and training and education to help people to get off the streets and move forward.

Core Agencies

OxPAT will aim to distribute most of its funds to a core group of agencies via regular monthly donations to their welfare funds. It is each agency's responsibility to ensure this money is spent in accordance with OxPAT's core principles and to report back at the end of the calendar year or more frequently as appropriate as to how it has been spent.

Specific applications

Some of OxPAT's funds will be used to fund specific applications which are not from the core agencies. Examples of successful applications include requests for clothing, bedding, work tools, and transport costs to enable a person in need to travel to a job. To apply for a grant for a homeless, or vulnerable, person, please download the OxPAT Grant Application Form from the OxPAT website (www.oxpat.org/), and follow the instructions on it.

5 Partners

Core agencies during 2022 were:

Aspire Oxfordshire

The Gatehouse

Connection Support

Crisis Skylight Oxford

Elmore Community Services

Homeless Oxfordshire

St Mungo's/Outreach

Edge Housing

The Porch

Matilda House

6 Box Officer's Report

Box Locations

Collection boxes at:

St. Michael at the North Gate Shop

Oxford Town Hall

Wellcome Trust Centre (Old Road Campus)

Hayfield Deli

Blackwells (Broad Street and Westgate SC)

Magdalen College Bar

Oxford Railway Station

LMC International

Iffley Turn Practice

Daunts Books (Summertown)

Catherine King, Box Officer, October 2023

