



# **Oxford Poverty Action Trust Annual Report 2023**

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## 1 Chair's Report 2023

### 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. From Census 2021 there were an estimated 13,955 people at hostels and temporary shelters for the homeless; this is only a small proportion of all people experiencing homelessness, and therefore much lower than other official estimates for this group<sup>1</sup> Around two in five people identified as homeless were disabled. 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.<sup>2</sup> The number of rough sleepers is high for a city of Oxford's size and is estimated to be 86 at the present time. This figure may be considered an underestimate as female homeless people are less visible than male homeless. A survey is being carried out by others to better estimate the level of female homelessness. 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 many years, and the associated cuts to expenditure on housing, mental health and drug services.

### 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 £800,000 to support homeless people in Oxford, including £65,337.18 in 2023. 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 2023 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 2023

#### Fund raising 2023

In total £49,585.55 was donated by the public, resulting in a total raised of £61,546.43.

#### 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 2023. This was made possible by a grant from the Lucy Fund.

#### Christmas cards

Our 2023 Christmas Card **sales comprised various designs of** lovely Oxford street scenes by local artist John Somerscales. We sold the cards directly to members of the public and through the Hayfield Deli in Hayfield Rd.

### Events

The OxPAT street collection and Carol singing at the railway station did not take place in 2023.

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. People experiencing homelessness, England and Wales: Census 2021

## Distribution

In 2023 OxPAT partnered with the charities listed in section 5 Partners below. We consider 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 2023 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

Ralph Hall

Meg Movshon

Patrick Mulvihill

Ben Chataway

Officers during the year 2023 were:

Chair: Patrick Mulvihill

Secretary: Deborah Ceadel

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, September 2024**

### 3 Finance

**Table 1 - OxPAT Financial Report for 2023**

OxPAT Accounts (figures in £)	2022	2023
<i>Expenditure:</i>		
Admin and Special Purposes Sub-Accounts	118.73	-
Grants to Core Agency Charities <sup>1</sup>	52,900.00	64,700.00
One-off grants <sup>2</sup>	-	637.18
Christmas cards	1,440.00	-
Bank error	-	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>54,458.73</b>	<b>65,337.18</b>
<i>Income:</i>		
Boxes	726.15	754.55
Fund Raising	142.05	256.09
Organisations	3,321.41	2,369.73
Places of Worship	1,950.00	1,699.71
Private Donations (Gift Aid)	19,739.50	30,137.50
2021 Christmas cards	988.23	-
2022 Christmas cards	1,849.00	75.00
2023 Christmas cards	-	990.29
Donations via platforms (online & offline) <sup>3</sup>	14,830.00	17,408.95
Other Private Donations (Non-Gift Aid)	12,298.85	6,889.44
Gift Aid payments from HMRC	-	-
Other	255.00	965.17
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>56,100.19</b>	<b>61,546.43</b>

**1** In the 2022 annual reports, this expenditure line was reported as 'Grants to Charities'. It is renamed in this year's report for clarity. **2** In the 2022 annual report, this expenditure line was reported as 'Grants to Individuals'. It is renamed in this year's report for clarity, since one-off grants which we fund for individual purposes are nevertheless paid through charities. **3** 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**

	2022	2023
Opening balance	4,014.80	5,656.26
Income	56,100.19	61,546.43
Expenditure	54,458.73	65,337.18
Closing balance	5,656.26	1,865.51

#### Income

2023 has been a strong year for OxPAT compared to historical levels, with total income increasing around 10% from 2022. Total income in 2023 increased from £56,100.19 in 2022 to £61,546.43. In the 20+ years OxPAT has been operating, we have collected around £800,000 from our donors.

Our income is spread across various categories of donors and donation channels. Box income was broadly similar last year to 2022. Fundraising income increased around 80%, with 2023 fundraising income coming from a single event. Income from organisations decreased by around one third from 2022 to £2,369.73 reflecting a drop in what are typically one-off donations from companies and educational institutions. Income from places of worship decreased slightly from 2022 to £1,699.71. Gift Aid eligible donations have seen an increase of nearly 50%, rising to £30,137.50 in 2023, reflecting primarily a single, large one-off donation.

The 2023 Christmas card saw revenues of £990.29 in 2023. In line with previous years, a proportion of revenue from the Christmas card sales come in during the first few months of the next calendar year. Hence, further revenue from the 2023

Christmas card is expected to be collected in 2024. Overall, 2022 Christmas card sales brought in income of £1,924 across 2022 and 2023, leading to a profit of £484 for 2022 Christmas card sales.

Donations made via fundraising platforms such as Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) or Just Giving, have noticeably increased - approaching a 20% increase - between 2022 and 2023 to £17,408.95. 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 45% from 2022 to 2023, generally reflecting fewer one-off donations which were not expected to be repeated. Gift Aid for direct donations to OxPAT in 2023 will be claimed in 2024.

Other income 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. Other income increased to £965.17 in 2023, noting that this income stream generally fluctuates year to year.

## Expenditure

The total grants made by OxPAT in 2023 amounted to £65,337.18, the vast majority of which was donated as regular distributions to our core agencies, totalling £64,700. Grants to individuals (paid via various charities) made in 2023 stood at £637.18.

No further costs were incurred by OxPAT in 2023. Christmas card sales were made using existing stock from previous years.

## Special purposes account

Within the totals reported in Tables 1 and 2 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**

	2022	2023
Opening balance	740.69	621.96
Income	-	-
Expenditure	118.73	-
Closing balance	621.96	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, Lime Walk Methodist Church 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, September 2024

### 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/](http://www.oxpat.org/)), and follow the instructions on it.

## **5 Partners**

### **Core agencies during 2023 were:**

Aspire Oxfordshire

The Gatehouse

Connection Support

Crisis Skylight

Elmore Community Services

Homeless Oxfordshire

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 Dental Practice

Daunts Books (Summertown)

**Catherine King, Box Officer, October 2024**

