

Donnington Doorstep

Donnington Doorstep is an independent, community-based family centre, governed by a board of trustees, delivering a range of universal and specialist services. We're a supportive, nurturing and inclusive centre for children, young people and their families as well as a hub for local community activity. From our purpose-built centre in East Oxford and running for over 38 years, our activities focus on play, learning, support, and youth and community development.

Our Vision: Children, young people and families are safe, happy and thriving as part of their local community

Our Mission: Donnington Doorstep provides holistic support that is co-created with children, young people and families through building relationships, creating safe spaces and opportunities for development & growth.

Our aims:

- Increased happiness and emotional wellbeing for local children, young people and their families
- Improved mental and physical health for local children, young people and their families
- Improved life chances for socially excluded children and young people to enable them to realise their full potential
- A stronger, safer and more integrated community in Donnington and the surrounding areas

Our values:

- **Welcoming:** Everyone is welcome at Donnington Doorstep. We provide a consistent, safe, supportive space for people to connect with one another to build relationships, to learn, and to grow.
- **Relational:** We build compassionate relationships, we listen, we care and we work collaboratively with people, communities and partners.
- **Empowering:** Providing opportunities for people to develop confidence and autonomy as individuals and communities.
- **Adaptable:** We listen, we hear and we respond to individuals and our community, providing creative, flexible and innovative support.
- **Inclusive:** We take action to remove barriers to participation in our services, we treat people fairly and respectfully, we celebrate difference and strive towards ensuring equity for all.

In 2012 we became a registered charitable company. Our charity's purposes as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association are:

- To provide facilities and support for families living in the city of Oxford and its surrounding areas ("the area of benefit") to help relieve need, hardship and distress including the hardship and distress caused by the breakup of relationships and families
- To provide educational opportunities for children and young people living in the area of benefit and their families and carers
- To provide facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation for children, young people and their families living in the area of benefit with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

Our Services:

Early Years Drop – In and Family Support:

The Family Drop-In is our 'gateway' service for families with young children. The Family Drop-In is for parents and carers with children in their early years. Our service offers a wide range of exciting learning and play opportunities. Themed events also add to the sense of fun and a rich curriculum enhanced by the nurturing, empathetic and supportive atmosphere.

Community Kitchen:

Our Community Kitchen provides a home cooked hot lunch, twice per week, during Drop-In sessions and brings families together.

Via our partnership with Waste to Taste we have also been able to provide meals for vulnerable families as well as young people attending youth club and wellbeing cooking programmes for families.

Youth Work:

We offer young people safe spaces to explore their identity, experience decision-making, increase confidence, develop inter-personal skills and think through the consequences of their actions. Engagement in the youth work process is voluntary.

We believe in the **4 R's**:

- Resilience - children will persist with their activities and ideas when challenge occurs
- Resourcefulness - children are capable of solving their own problems using their own resources, they may seek help from peers and adults
- Responsibility - children can identify the consequences of their actions and recognise their feelings and the feelings of others
- Relating - children will treat each other with respect and kindness and adults will model respect and kindness with children

Step Out:

Started by Donnington Doorstep in 2011, the Step Out Project works with young people and families impacted by child exploitation. Step Out aims to enable young people at risk to make informed choices; to be able to recognise appropriate, healthy and safe relationships, and to raise awareness and educate professionals and parents. Offering compassionate, holistic support to young people through nurturing and trusting relationships, creating a safe space and providing a flexible approach. Our practice is based on a contextualised safeguarding approach, understanding that young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts. We know that young people who are supported emotionally are better placed to thrive and develop new skills and confidence.



Key Priorities for 2022 / 2023

Secure Income

- Fundraising strategy, including shortfall for 2022 / 2023
- Diversify income streams: Cafe/ Hire of building and office space
- Partnership / collaborative approaches to funding streams

Partnership

- Prioritising and developing partnership approaches across OX4 - scoping key opportunities
- Ensure organisation is best placed to influence wider county strategy on key themes relating to children and families and Child Exploitation.
- Maintain key partnerships.

Strategy Development

- Development of strategy 2022 - 2025
- Streamlining of service delivery in line with needs assessment and fundraising strategy
- Management of change across the organisation
- Impact assessment approach implemented

Invest in Core

- Staff recognition and reward - Oxford living wage, annual leave entitlement, refresh appraisal process
- Building maintenance and improvements
- Improve efficiency and increase capacity with staff and volunteer opportunities and training

Our Key Partnerships 2022 / 2023:

- **OX4 Early Years Alliance:**

OX4 EY Alliance is a comprehensive **locally rooted** network of community anchor organisations providing or supporting Early Years services in OX4. The Alliance builds relationships to create **place based system change** to address the **root causes of inequality** that impact on children's lives forever.

- **OX4 Food Crew:**

The OX4 Food Crew is an alliance of 9 grassroots organisations, working together to tackle food inequality in the OX4 postcode of Oxford. This place- based alliance was born in 2020 with the founding members being Waste2Taste, People Place and Participation Ltd (Flo's) and Ark-T. It was born out of our shared belief that local organisations working collaboratively is the most informed, efficient and thorough way to address the systemic food related issues that are experienced by our local communities. Our partnership has an ongoing commitment to hear voices of often unrepresented and unheard communities and co-produce responses to the challenges they face with dignity and respect.

- **Art-T and Waste to Taste –Samworth Transformation Grant:**

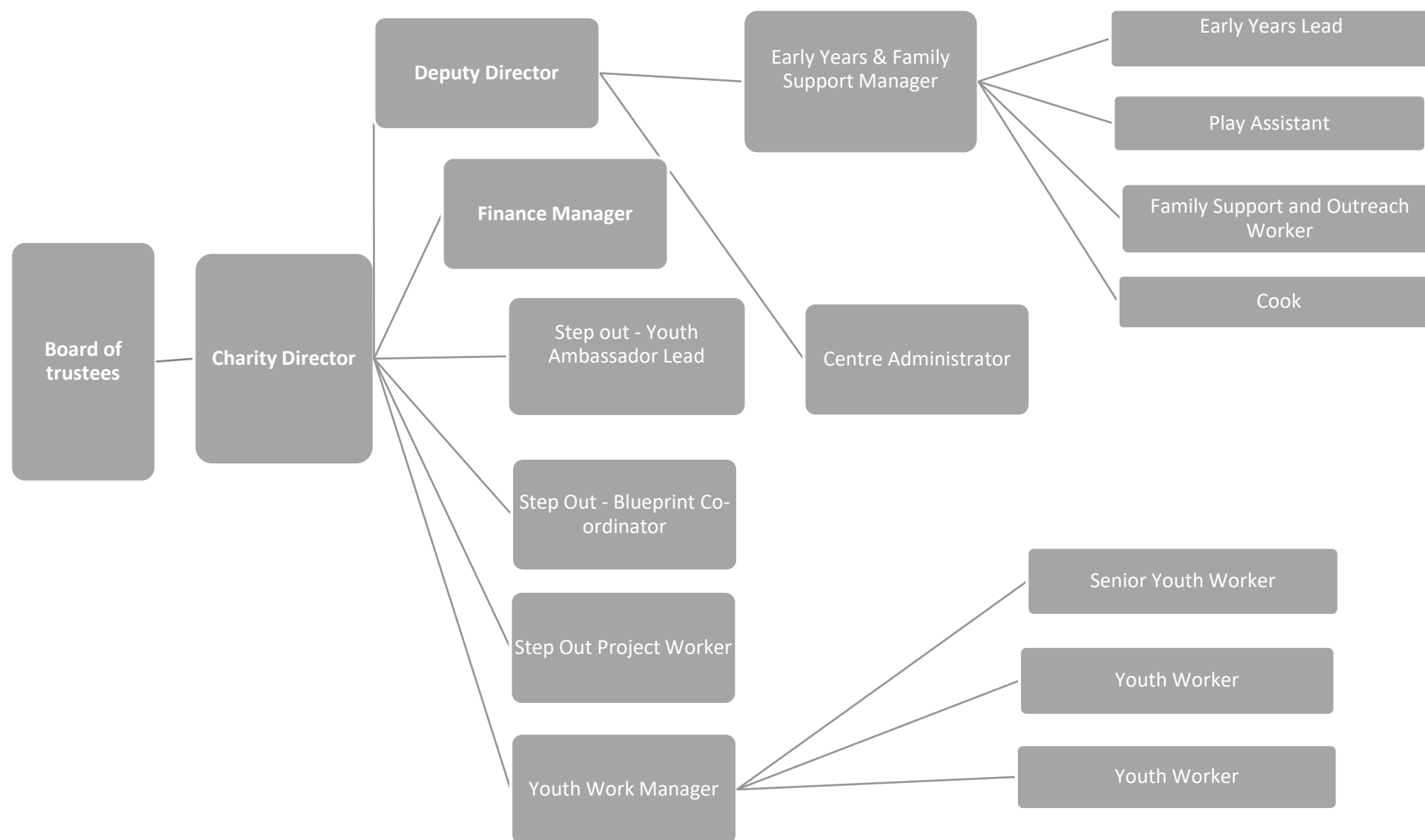
OX4:2030; a project which will harness shared expertise in key areas of Exploitation (Donnington Doorstep), Food justice (Waste2Taste) Creativity and Mental Health (Ark-T), to create a deeper & more joined up approach to working with our community. Through collaborating on this work we will be able to:

1. Examine the needs of our physical spaces to become green and exploitation free
2. Explore the potential of the three organisations to share staff resources in fundraising & marketing & specialist strategic leadership
3. Fuel the creation of a Community Consultation and Research Driven strategy for the partnership and beyond, which works with the whole family/whole community in mind to find out what our communities really need from us to lead greener and exploitation-free lives.
4. Tackle social justice issues through adopting a contextual safeguarding approach

- **Safe! and Ark-T – Blueprint:**

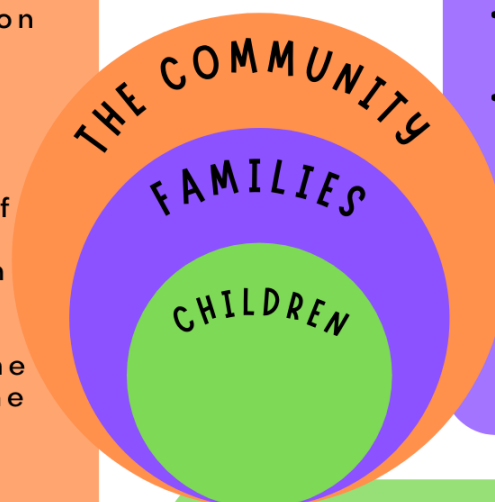
A partnership project with **The Ark-T Centre**, an arts and community organisation, **Donnington Doorstep**, a community based independent family centre and **SAFE!** Working with young males aged 11-16 through creative mediums to tackle social issues. The consortium group will work with children and families at risk identified and referred through multiple routes, coordinated by Step Out.

Our Structure:



Our Theory of Change

- Everyone in the community has access to knowledge and support at Donnington Doorstep.
- The voices of local families, children and young people are heard and listened to in the creation and provision of our services.
- We work in collaboration with partner agencies in order to maintain open communication across the sector and respond to the current needs of local families, children and young people.
- Our services and projects are utilised within the Oxfordshire community and local third sector, and we are recognised for our support and knowledge.
- There is improved awareness of the issues facing local families and young people.
- We lead on innovative social impact work across the local and national third sector.



- All families in the community have a safe, nurturing, and welcoming place to access knowledge and support at the heart of the community.
 - Families are empowered to access support and information through our services.
 - Families receive support throughout parenthood to create strong family units.
 - Families have positive relationships, increased wellbeing, improved sense of agency and the confidence to reach their potential.
- Families are connected with others in the community to form a supportive social network and build a stronger sense of community.

- We provide fun and inclusive social, educational and developmental opportunities.
- We provide a safe, welcoming space in which to connect with peers and trusted adults at the heart of the community.
- Building positive relationships, showing increased wellbeing and improved sense of agency and confidence
- Children are supported to reach their potential.
- Children and young people feel safe within their context.
- Children and young people are empowered to advocate for themselves and their peer group.