

ANNUAL REPORT OXYGEN TRUST

20 24

Winner:
Removing Barriers
Champions 2024



Believing in young people



CHARITY NO. 1086608

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LEAVE A LEGACY GIVE MONTHLY OR A LUMP SUM

A regular gift ensures stability and helps us plan for the future. A legacy or lump sum can boost our capacity or create the opportunity to invest in something we otherwise couldn't afford.



VOLUNTEER MENTOR FUNDRAISER

Build a brighter future for young people and society. Get your business to sponsor us, volunteer in the shop or join our team of fundraisers!



The Oxygen Trust grants funds to the Oxygen C.I.O who manage all aspects of the delivery of the charity. Please visit the return for the C.I.O no. 1165522 for the full description of our work

ABOUT US

Oxygen's vision was conceived in 1999 by young people from Kingston's churches with the aim of reaching out to other young people in the community who are marginalised or disadvantaged. Their aim was to help young people who needed support and in doing so, demonstrate their faith, provide opportunities for them to explore their potential and discover their core values and beliefs.

These young people helped to establish this, The Oxygen Charitable Trust (1086608) which was set up on 1st May 2001. In 2016 the Trustees of the Oxygen Trust established Oxygen as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (1165522), which is a separate legal entity and bound by its own constitution document and has its own bank account, insurance and policies.

All the activity and operations of Oxygen sit under the governance of the C.I.O. with the Trust continuing to provide funds to support Oxygen's work. The following reports are a brief summary of the work undertaken using the funds of the Oxygen Trust. To view the full report on the work which is funded by the Oxygen trust please visit the Oxygen CIO (no. 1165522) submission on the charity commission website.

SIR ED DAVEY M.P.

leader of the Liberal Democrat Party

"These are challenging times for charities who are trying to respond to the huge need in front of them. Oxygen's work to support young people is vital for the local community!



I have been impressed by how they have managed to adapt the way they work so creatively with young people in crisis. The shop is a great way for young people to engage with Oxygen and make a contribution to the community through Social Action! I even did a stint on the till!

I want to thank John, the Trustees and all the staff and volunteers for all their hard work over the last year."

THE CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

RICHARD CALDWELL



Our young people currently face significant challenges. Young men remain disproportionately affected by underachievement, violence and knife crime, worsening mental health and few constructive outlets in the real world. Young women report significant mental health concerns, with self-harm rates rising. Gareth Southgate has helpfully highlighted young peoples' need for guidance, belonging, and purpose more than ever. Oxygen's varied programmes and mentoring offer vital lifelines, for the most vulnerable.

Referrals to Oxygen from constrained public services remain high. The Trustees are proud of the impact Oxygen has had in these circumstances, and you will read on about our programmes and some of their impacts inside this report. On behalf of the Trustees, I want to thank John, Charlie and the rest of the staff team for their hard work and dedication, sometimes in emotionally challenging circumstances. I also want to thank our volunteers and funders, who provide the time and financial resources to help Oxygen impact young lives for the better. Dear reader, I ask for your continued support and prayers, that Oxygen could continue serving young people in Kingston, Richmond and beyond to the glory of God.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

JOHN TREND



It is a real privilege to be leading a team who have a real heart for young people, can see their potential and want to encourage them to fulfill their potential. Young people need our support to cope with the pressures of this world, believe that a positive future exists for them and they can see a pathway towards it.

So many of the young people we meet are struggling with complex issues and challenges on a scale I have not seen before in the 35 years I have been involved in youth work. It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child

but that notion of the village assumes that we have a shared responsibility through a form of common connection with those raising our children and young people. However, due to social media, we no longer know who is influencing and shaping their minds, attitudes and aspirations.

It is vital then, that we have people in our community who have a heart and desire to be part of the village, able to meet young people where they are, walk alongside them, encouraging them, believing in them and being significant players in their lives. We need to help them up when they fall, help them understand the world they live in, build their resilience, celebrate their achievements and give them hope. That is what Oxygen does.

I want to thank the Oxygen team, its staff, volunteers and young people for the support they give and immense contribution they make in being part of the village!

STATEMENT OF BENNEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY

As a registered charity, and in line with the requirements of Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006, the Staff and Trustees of Oxygen have determined that Oxygen's work does have clear and identifiable benefits to those we work with, which are related to our aims.

These benefits are not the cause of any detriment or harm, nor are Young People excluded from benefiting from our work on the basis of their faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, spirituality or nationality.

Whilst we are a Christian charity, we work with young people of all faiths, beliefs, values and identities and place great emphasis upon involving them in the design and implementation of our services.

We innovate to create new programmes and resources to tackle some of the most challenging issues affecting our culture such as knife and violent crime, mental illness, underachievement and isolation, amongst others.

Young people benefit through reducing their involvement in crime, achieving better in education and fulfilling their potential to contribute to the community in which they live.

Oxygen's work improves the mental, physical, spiritual health and wellbeing of both young people and adults. We provide opportunities for people to grow, develop, discover their purpose and contribute to the world around them.



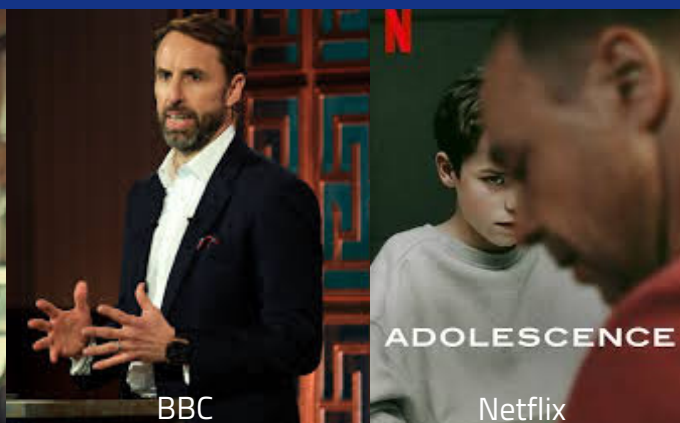
"Throughout two decades as a councillor in Kingston, including as Council Leader and as Mayor, I have always been a huge supporter of our wonderful voluntary sector.

I've known Oxygen from the start, and the way they support young people is second to none, but it's more than just that.

Oxygen work with our other voluntary sector organisations to promote active citizenship, innovate at times of need and are trusted partners to the Council, police, health and others. In short, Oxygen has a real impact on Kingston residents."

Cllr Liz Green
Mayor of Kingston upon Thames
2024-25

NEED



Oxygen receives 90-100 referrals a year for young people in crisis due to mental health struggles, disengagement from education, or risky behaviours. Issues like youth violence, unhealthy relationships, online misogyny, and toxic ideologies are having a lasting impact, as highlighted in popular media including Adolescence (Netflix), Gareth Southgate's Dimpleby Lecture, and Idris Elba's documentary on knife crime. Demand for our support has never been higher and it's still growing. Young people with a probable mental disorder were more likely to live in households that could not afford activities outside school or college and are at higher risk of exploitation. 69% of young people convicted of carrying a knife are white.

DATA

NATIONALLY



Girls' attendance at secondary school is deteriorating more rapidly than boys'. The pandemic impacted girls' mental health disproportionately.



20% of young people have a mental health disorder, a 16% increase since 2017

3/4

of children and young people cannot access the help they need

KINGSTON (+RICHMOND) BOROUGH

47% Increase in knife crime from October 2022.

3,534 Violent & sexual offences during 2023

59 Young people open to Youth Justice service in 2024 of whom 36 had concern for emotional wellbeing and 13 had an EHCP.

2 Wards in Kingston appear in the top 20% of areas of deprivation nationally.

OXYGEN

Receives 90-100 referrals each year of young people in crisis.

Of 365 referrals received in the last 4 years:

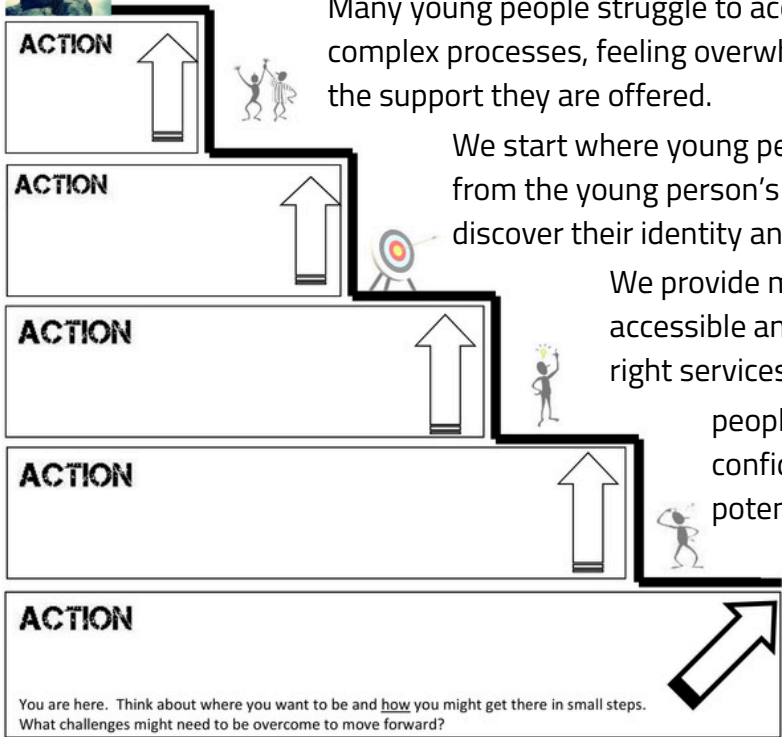
- 67% Have an educational need or disability
- 14 Looked after by the Local Authority
- 174 Subject to a referral to the Local Authority for safeguarding concerns
- 232 Considered by the referrer to be a risk to themselves or others
- 84 Of those presenting a risk thought to be high or very high.
- 70 Not in education
- 28% Black, Asian or Mixed heritage

Data from Rocket Science, Young minds and ONS

METHODOLOGY + IMPACT



“It takes a village to raise a child, but if the child does not feel that they are accepted by the village then they can burn the village down.” Young person talking about the issue of Knife and violent crime.



Many young people struggle to access the help they need, often facing complex processes, feeling overwhelmed and having little ownership over the support they are offered.

We start where young people are at, try to understand the world from the young person’s perspective, gain their trust and help them discover their identity and understand the challenges they face.

We provide multiple entry points to make support accessible and ensure young people are guided to the right services. Our innovative programmes put young people at the centre, helping them build their confidence and resilience, discover their full potential and develop aspirations for the future.

Young volunteers	217
Adult volunteers	131
Volunteer hours	5000+
Street Pastor shifts	162
Mentoring hours	825
Re-engaged in training / education	53
Annchi Bags made	3500+

Figures cover last 3 years
to Jan. 2025

"We have worked with Oxygen for over 15 years and have developed a relationship that is invaluable to our students and the school as a whole. We have always been keen that our students feel part of a community and that we can provide support and guidance in a variety of contexts, our work with Oxygen has facilitated this. Oxygen offers an after school club for our students, but provides much more than this. The support that they give to our students ranges from mentoring to work experience to involvement in a wide variety of projects. We hope that Oxygen will continue to work with our school community long into the future."

David Smith,
Headteacher, Coombe Boys School



OXYGEN SHOP

117 HIGH ST. NEW MALDEN



"I have really enjoyed volunteering at Oxygen, everyone is really friendly and I find a wonderful sense of community here as well as working in a shop and talking with members of the public"



OXYGEN ENTERPRISE

Oxygen Enterprise: a programme designed to identify young people's talents and help them develop business ideas utilising the opportunities provided by the shop. Young people come up with their idea and submit an outline business plan. We seek to identify the funds needed and a business mentor for them to work with to take their idea to the next stage.



WHAT'S THE POINT?



The *What's the point?* programme is a Social Action project developed in 2013 with young people to give them the opportunity, in a safe place, to discuss key issues. The project gives them a voice, helping them to understand a range of perspectives, determine their values and beliefs and build their identity and enabling them to take action. This demonstrates our desire to put young people's voice at the heart of what we do and the programmes we develop.



"The lads have grown up a lot and changed their perspectives, as well as their behaviour. Oxygen have helped turn them around significantly. One boy, who was getting in trouble every week, has now become a prefect! " Teacher

OXYGEN MENTORING



Oxygen has been delivering mentoring for over 20 years and currently engage over 20 young people per week in mentoring sessions. We are now receiving nearly 100 referrals per year of young people many of whom are in crisis. "The mentoring my son is receiving from Oxygen is the only thing that is working for him right now. I don't know where we would be with out Oxygen!

Oxygen's mentors start from the young person's perspective and help them feel that they have a voice, some control and are working in a way that puts their needs first.

KINGSNYMPTON YOUTH CLUB



Oxygen runs two clubs a week on a Tuesday and Thursday, during term time, and offers additional holiday provision including Trips, community activities and sports. Over the last year, attendance has increased and we have strengthened our partnership with Achieving for Children and are looking to continue our involvement in delivering youth work into the future.



RM1 COOMBE BOYS



Rm1 is an after school club running at Coombe Boys School in New Malden. The project was initially conceived to assist young people in the transition from junior school to secondary, a process which can be challenging and disruptive for many and particularly for those with complex needs or vulnerable to bullying.



STREET PASTORS

KINGSTON



Oxygen oversees the work of Kingston Street Pastors with Charles Bamford managing the project, supported by Rose Hickman with operational management delegated to a volunteer board called the SPITT Team which includes: Lesley Charlton (chair), John Trend, Teresa James, Alison Holt, Scott Fraser, Karl Rutledge and Sue Shaw.

This year we have continued to deliver Kingston Safe Zone, a place of safety in the night time, staffed by Street Pastors volunteers. Situated outside Kingston Station it has become a beacon for people seeking support from first aid to food and drink to phone charging, but it has particularly helped women and girls who might feel vulnerable to come to the Safe Zone for support and reassurance.

In September 2023 we said goodbye to our Deputy Coordinator of 6 years, Brenda Robertson, although she stayed on as a Street Pastor. We are grateful to Sue Shaw who stepped in to provide support as Interim Deputy until Rose joined the team, bringing with her a wealth of experience from her time working with volunteers at the Passage.



Stats 2023/24 (vs Previous Year)	
300	Vulnerable people supported (293)
1330	bottles / glass collected (1189)
62	Safe Zone deployed (55)
2288	Total contacts (1708)
2898	Volunteer hours (2358)
844	Food / Drinks given out



In June 2024 we began operating Friday afternoon patrols with funding support from Kingston Council. Our teams now go out twice per month alongside our regular night time patrols on Fridays and Saturdays. Working in the daytime has presented new opportunities for us to engage with younger people, shoppers in the town centre and provide pastoral support and a listening ear to those working in the retail sector in Kingston.

HEADSTART

LONDON YOUTH + FAMILY ACTION



"the insight day at Brands to Life gave me the motivation and belief in myself to apply for jobs and I'm so grateful for the opportunity! I love working with vulnerable people and really enjoy giving them care and making them feel valued"

Young Person



YOUTH PARTICIPATION

JACK PETCHEY AWARDS



The Jack Petchey Awards give young people an opportunity to make a difference in deciding what trips and activities we do and what resources we buy to facilitate the programmes we run at Oxygen.

YOUNG LEADERS

Young people lead and collaborate through our youth board on where to go on our next trip, sitting on the interview panel for strategic and management roles, helping set up a Minecraft server for our digital youth work platform and deciding how the shop should be adapted and improved.



The Holy Cross School
Learn Joyfully. Live Fully.



FUEL PROJECT

FEED UR EVERYDAY LIVES



We ran FUEL sessions during the Easter holidays with our youth work team and the young people had a great week full of activities like building the biggest paper giraffe, egg toss and a trip to Richmond Park among other fun things. Along with that they had delicious food prepared by Lizzy's Mobile Kitchen.

In the Summer, we ran a full FUEL Programme at Kingsnympton Youth Centre in partnership with Achieving for Children. Oxygen delivered 16 days of fun-filled activities and food for young people in the local area. We had an average of 15 young people per day and ran several trips and arts activities too. Many thanks to Dave Padgett for his legendary stamp carving workshop which ran at the shop and the youth centre!



DIGITAL YOUTH WORK



Our Digital Youth Work project was an innovation designed to engage young people during lockdown but has enabled us to support a new group of young people who would not attend a face-to-face youth group. In fact the project is particularly successful at supporting young people who are isolated and struggle in social situations or are just very into gaming.

The project provides opportunities for young people to connect with Oxygen's Team so that they can receive valuable support and build social skills.

"Going onto the Minecraft youth club on Wednesdays is the highlight of my week. I can chat to Charlie and get help if I am not feeling great" Gamer

PARTNERS

Oxygen can only function alongside other agencies with whom we have built lasting partnerships and collaborations. The last couple of years have resulted in a seismic shift in the relationships between agencies and community partners and particularly between Government and the Voluntary, Faith and Community Sector.

"It was great to have Oxygen visit our Sunday morning services at St Paul's Kingston, so that more people can hear about the work that they do and see their passion for young people across the Borough. It helped inform the way we continue to partner with and pray for Oxygen throughout the rest of the year." Rev. Adam Rylett, St. Paul's Church.

OXYGEN BOARD

TRUSTEES, C.E.O. AND ADVISORS

TRUSTEES

Richard Caldwell
(Chair of trustees)

Peter Wilkins
(Treasurer)

Brian Austen

Tracey O'Shea (11.09.23)

Rita Keeya (02.05.24)

Vice President:
Stephen Barnes

Chief Executive Officer
John Trend, M.A. Dip.
Theo., Dip. H.E.

IEasybooks Wales Ltd,
Unit 4, Dragon 24, North
Dock, Llanelli, SA15 2LF

Bankers: Co-operative
Bank + Lloyds TSB

"Oxygen is like a family. They are there when you need them! The shop gives me somewhere to go where I can contribute to the work they do with other young people. It gives me purpose in life"

"The Headstart programme delivered by Oxygen has had a real effect on the lads at Coombe Boys School. It has given them a real opportunity to think about their futures, prepare for the choices they need to make as well as increasing their confidence and self belief." Head of Year 10

"We love volunteering in the shop as it gives us a chance to help others, develops our social skills and job experience and it's fun."

RISK MANAGEMENT

Oxygen's delivery is undertaken under the Oxygen C.I.O. Trustee Board and staff team assess the risks and threats encountered in delivering our work and take steps to minimise and manage risk, to ensure that beneficiaries, staff, volunteers and the general public are protected from avoidable harm. This includes putting in place controls over finances, the delivery of our services to young people, the management of the shop as well as theoretical risk where that can be foreseen.

The Oxygen Team is suitably qualified to undertake the work of the charity and undertakes training on fire safety, mental health first aid, youth work practice, trauma informed practice, food hygiene amongst other subjects to ensure that consideration, assessment and mitigation of risk is built into our daily routines. However, accidents do happen and, when they occur, they are evaluated to identify if steps can be taken to prevent harm in the future. All staff and volunteers working with young people undergo an enhanced DBS check.



OXYGEN TEAM

THE STAFF TEAM



We are an award winning Team! We were delighted to be recognised at the 2024 Kingston Borough Business Awards winning the "Removing Barriers Champion" and coming Runner Up in the "Best Charity" category. We are also proud when our staff achieve their goals and celebrated Danica qualifying as a Youth Support Worker.

All our team work hard to respond to the increasing need and go the extra mile to demonstrate that everyone is valued and believed in.

John Trend, CEO

Charles Bamford, Deputy CEO and Street Pastors Coordinator

Rose Hickman, Street Pastors Deputy Coordinator

Adam Kelly, Targeted Project Worker

Tomi Elegbede, Targeted Project Worker

Danica Hall, Youth Worker

Kat Field, Sessional Youth Worker

Lucy Savage, Sessional Youth Worker

James Kuhrt, Sessional Youth Worker

Michael Novotny, TFG GAP volunteer

Bill Steel, Administrator and mentor

VOLUNTEERS + CHAMPIONS

Oxygen is delighted to have a strong team of over 350 committed volunteers* and a network of people in churches, local businesses, and organisations who champion our work and ensure we continue to have the resources we need to improve young peoples lives and make the world a better place. *Adults and young people over the last 3 years

Huge thanks and respect to Stuart Burrows for his efforts in completing the Serpentine Swim to complete the London Classics in aid of Oxygen. Well done Stuart!

We also have to acknowledge Andy Liddle who, at the time of writing completed the 2025 London Marathon in 3 hours 41min! Fantastic effort Andy!



Thanks to Dan Trend, Simon Trend, Brian, Helen and Ross who helped John complete the arduous 100 mile route through beautiful Essex countryside raising over £5000 for Oxygen which was match funded to £10,000!

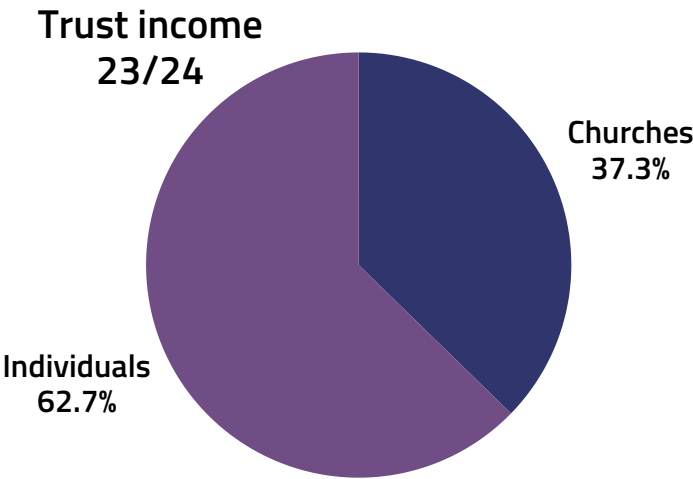
FINANCE OVERVIEW

Oxygen has managed to develop a range of varied funding streams and receives strong support from several local churches, businesses and individual donors, many of whom are faith motivated as well as local Trusts and Foundations. We also have our charity shop in New Malden High Street which provides a vehicle for supporters to give by donating goods as well as a courageous team of Fundraising Champions who raise financial gifts through sponsorship.

To achieve the Objects of the The Oxygen Trust, funds received are given in the form of grants to the Oxygen C.I.O.

The significant increase in demand in tackling young people's mental health needs has been reflected in the competition for grant funding. It is likely to become harder to secure money through bids to grant givers in the future.

Income	£
Expenditure	£



Faith based giving accounts for at least 27.3% of Oxygen's income, although this is actually much higher given that a sizeable proportion of donors to the shop are also faith motivated.

The chart on this page is a summary of income received by the Oxygen Trust and granted to the CIO.

In recent history, Oxygen has successfully secured multi-year funding of £50k per annum, enabling us to expand our mentoring capacity and hire more staff to meet the needs of young people. However, despite exceeding grant performance targets, securing ongoing funding has proven challenging. As a result, we've had to use reserves in both 2023/24 and 2025 to maintain current staffing levels. By mid-2025, we may face the difficult decision of reducing staff to align spending with income. We are exploring a range of funding strategies and remain hopeful that additional funds will be secured to avoid losing valued staff members in whom we've made significant investments.

We are immensely grateful to those amazing supporters in the local community who run events and fundraise for Oxygen! The quiz night at the Wych Elm Pub, wine tasting at ST. Marks church, the table sale in the New Forrest or a grateful family running "Who let the eggs out" all give the team a great boost! Thank you! Every bit helps!



THANK YOU

If you would like to play a part in helping vulnerable young people through Oxygen, then please do get in touch.

"To me, Oxygen are a group of people who see the growing image of God in young people and help them unlock that in themselves. They work in various ways with various partners and from experience, I know that Oxygen workers will go the extra mile for the young people in their care. In a sense, Oxygen can help inspire the wider church to be more truly what God wants it to be." Rev. Robert Stanier, St. Marks Church, Surbiton.



"For the 2.5 years I have been with you I cannot thank you all enough for the support you have given me especially from educational settings where things haven't worked out as expected. Even though my life has not been according to what I have planned you have tried your absolute hardest to give me a bright future. I praise you for this."



CONTACT US

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MENTOR



DONATE

