



Annual Report 2021/22

Children's
Youth &
Community Work





Dear friends,



For many of us this past year has been very demanding. From dealing with the aftermath of COVID-19, to navigating the pressures of the cost-of-living crisis, and facing the mental health challenges that have emerged as a result. All of us have felt the effects of these obstacles. The need

for community and therefore the work of Oasis is more important than ever before.

Nevertheless, amid these challenges I have seen a resilience, determination and perseverance that I am deeply proud of. Our amazing team of volunteers, staff, and community members have continued to serve our local communities in inspiring and inclusive ways, transforming the lives of those around them.

I am particularly proud of how our communities have managed to substantially increase the number of food projects that we now operate post-Covid. Our communities have worked together with our teams to create local food pantries, clubs and fridges, either making use of a spare cupboard, transforming former caretakers' houses or even turning a double decker bus into a mobile social supermarket. They have all

identified a significant need, and have worked together to find a creative solution. This is at the heart of Oasis ethos. It is what we are all about.

Oasis communities are made up of thousands of people and run hundreds of projects and programmes through the year. It's impossible to reflect on them all in one report! But in the aftermath of the pandemic, last year saw a particular focus on building trusted relationships for young people, supporting families and creating fun and safety through the school holidays, alongside continuing to provide access to affordable food in the face of rising economic pressure for many households. We unpack those themes a little more in this report.

I am very excited to be sharing this with you and hope that you will continue to be encouraged by the life-changing work that Oasis is doing for a more inclusive, empowering and community-based future. A massive thank you to all who are involved in bringing this about, we couldn't do our work without you!

Wishing you all the very best,

Kat Simmonds

(CEO Oasis Community Partnerships)

“Oasis communities are made up of thousands of people and run hundreds of projects and programmes through the year.



Left: Oasis Hub Hull

Top left: Lister Park

Top right: Oasis Hub Oldham

Right: Oasis Hub Waterloo



18 Hub charities working with and in local communities.

Oasis Hubs

Yorkshire and the Humber

- Oasis Hub South Grimsby
- Oasis Hub Henderson Avenue (Scunthorpe)
- Oasis Hub Lister Park (Bradford)
- Oasis Hub Hull

Northwest

- Oasis Hub MediaCity (Salford)
- Oasis Hub Oldham

Midlands

- Oasis Hub Hobmoor (Birmingham)
- Oasis Hub Foundry & Boulton (Birmingham)
- Oasis Hub Blakenhale (Birmingham)
- Oasis Hub Warndon (Worcester)

Southwest

- Oasis Hub North Bristol
- Oasis Hub South Bristol
- Oasis Hub Bath
- Oasis Hub Lord's Hill (Southampton)
- Oasis Hub East Southampton

London and the Southeast

- Oasis Hub Waterloo (London)
- Oasis Hub Hadley & Enfield (London)
- Oasis Hub Ashburton Park (Croydon)



What we delivered



3 Violence reduction projects

- Working with young people who have been victims of violence
- 260 participants



8 Adult education initiatives

- Learning key skills, Maths and English, ESOL, job clubs, arts and crafts
- 814 adults participated



17 Advice and guidance projects

- Providing debt advice, welfare benefits and housing support
- 453 people participated



45 Community food projects

- Food pantries, food banks, and community fridges
- 5,736 participated



67 Family support projects

- Parenting support, early years, family activities, emergency support, health and wellbeing
- 3,628 parents/carers participated



82 Community events

- Fairs, celebrations, public events, smaller community activities, crafts and coffee mornings
- 13,923 participants

What we delivered (continued)



223 Youth and children projects

- Targeted mentoring, after school and holiday clubs, trips and residentials and open-access youth work
- 8,101 children and young people participated



Our team:

145 Staff
(11.5% increase since 2019/2020)



322,127
Meals provided through food projects, events, and Oasis Summer Sessions



650 Volunteers
(9% decrease since 2019/2020)

Oasis Mentoring Programmes

Our mentoring programmes help young people flourish in times of difficulty and isolation. The state of the nation report 2022 (*) indicates that more young people are experiencing problems with mental health such as increased feelings of anxiety and unhappiness since the pandemic.

Oasis mentoring programmes are one way of supporting young people through these challenges. Our programmes run for our Oasis academy students to provide time, support, and encouragement to help young people interpret and manage life challenges including relationships with their peers, teachers, and parents. Mentoring is based on building a non-judgmental, developmental, and supportive relationship between a student and a mentor youth worker. The sessions provide the space for meaningful conversations that boost cognitive skills, provide perspective, and strengthen the ability to manage difficult emotions. The sessions are driven by students and aimed at providing additional support and encouragement that can help them to become the best versions of themselves.

45
targeted mentoring projects.

590
children and young people received targeted mentoring support.

48% (283)
initially presented with poor mental health.

(*)State of the nation 2022: children and young people's wellbeing research report February 2023 Department for Education



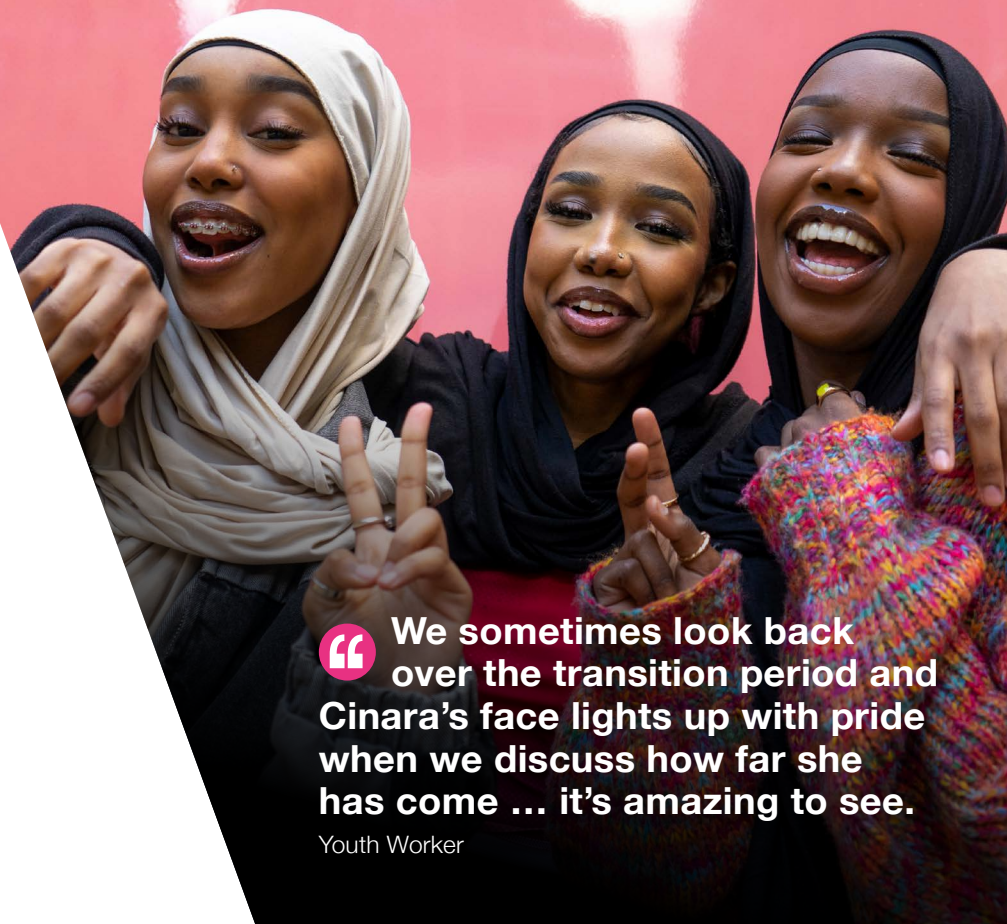
Cinara would often be found wandering in the corridors alone during lesson time. Cinara had built walls to protect herself, and staff found it difficult to reach her.

Cinara found the demands of school stressful and struggled to cope. She was further burdened by the weight of worrying about how her struggles impacted her mother. Her mum was frequently called to attend meetings at school to address Cinara's challenging behaviour.

“ School is feeling like a much happier place for me right now. I’m in school a lot more, I’m on time and I’m going to my lessons.

Cinara

But as she struggled to balance the demands of work life and her child's needs, she turned to alcohol to help her cope and she lost her job. Cinara blamed herself for the difficulties that she and her mum were facing. Cinara's self-blame negatively affected her confidence and self-esteem which manifested as self-criticism and anger, further impacting her struggles at school. When the community team began providing mentoring support for Cinara she was awaiting an assessment for ADHD. The mentoring sessions were structured around her interests to help her engage. This helped her to relax and communicate, allowing trust to develop between her and her mentor. Now, Cinara is making better social connections following involvement in youth sessions. She also asks to participate in particular lessons as she grows in confidence and learning. She is now able to communicate how Oasis's support has helped her and is full of pride when we reflect on her journey. She continues to flourish.



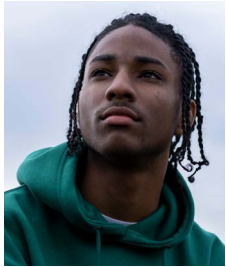
“ We sometimes look back over the transition period and Cinara's face lights up with pride when we discuss how far she has come ... it's amazing to see.

Youth Worker

“ These sessions have given me the opportunity to talk about my mental health and how I am feeling. They have helped me clear my head at the end of the day, they have helped me relax and ease my stress levels.

Cinara

Finley's story



Finley and a friend were mugged whilst out in the local community. Following the incident Finley became increasingly angry, anxious and on edge.

He reported feeling most stressed at school and on a number of occasions, he became angry and swore at members of staff. Finley's mum also reported that his behaviour at home was becoming increasingly challenging. Although Finley had been referred for CBT therapy, there was a long waiting list. School felt that the mentoring scheme would really help Finley and after meeting with a youth worker, Finley agreed to participate in weekly mentoring meetings.

“ We talked about understanding feelings and emotions. We looked at what anxiety is and explored coping techniques for managing my anxiety.

Finley

“ What I have valued the most is the relationship that I have built with my mentor as seeing him would brighten up my day and I would be a lot more chilled after our sessions.

Finley

“ Today has been fantastic! I have seen students whom we've struggled to connect with at school, not just engage, but thrive. We need more teachers to see the incredible work that you guys do ... it will give them refreshed hope.

Deputy Principal



A Summer to Remember!

49 Oasis Summer Sessions holiday and transition clubs.

3,088 children and young people accessed our holiday and transition programmes.



Holiday programmes

Our holiday programmes enable young people to access fun and varied activities, whilst also ensuring they receive a hot and nutritious meal. This not only helps to combat holiday hunger but keeps young people active and healthy. We provide a variety of activities, offering experiences to children and young people that they haven't had before, opening up new opportunities.

Holidays at Oasis Hub Hobmoor

Oasis Hub Hobmoor (OHH) run holiday activities for 14 weeks of the year for local children aged between 5 and 16. The holiday programme operates from 9am until 5pm, providing a wide programme of activities delivered by qualified sports coaches and art and play specialists, in a safe and secure environment. Over the last five years OHH has supported a group of teenagers onto a Young Leaders' programme who originally started as participants in the holiday programme and now want to give back. OHH offers them training so they are equipped to lead small groups of young people under the supervision of a qualified coach.

“ Families desperately need this project because parents and carers have few choices during holiday times, especially if they are on a low income. Most of our parents have children who are eligible for free school meals. They say Oasis Hobmoor becomes their second home and the young people say they make many new friends. We are a diverse and inclusive community supporting young people from 15 different ethnic communities and 20 different schools. Parents whose children have additional needs tell us it is a 'life saver – we would not know what to do without it'.

Hub Leader Andy Brown



Oasis Hub Blakenhale Summer Sessions

At Oasis Hub Blakenhale, children are really happy and look forward to coming to our Summer Sessions. It not only gives them the opportunity to socialise with their peers but also ensures they receive a nutritious meal four times a week. The club is open to everyone but focuses on children who are eligible for free school meals. The club offers a variety of fun activities including cooking, golf, slime making, crafts and water fights. This helps the hub to develop relationships with children and their families.

“ My daughter has had the pleasure of attending a variety of sessions, it has been a wonderful and enriching experience.

Parent



Transition Programmes

Moving from primary to secondary school is a particularly significant change for children. Across our Hubs we run a number of transition programmes that range from holiday activities to more intentional programmes that support children to learn about change and how to cope with it.

Moving Up at MediaCity

Oasis Hub MediaCity delivered a transition project that supported 30 children in year 6 and their parents/carers during their transition to secondary school. The purpose of the project was to improve confidence, health and wellbeing, school engagement, reduce anxiety and enable friendships to flourish.

The programme was multi-faceted and included a 12-week multimedia storytelling project which aimed to increase understanding of the young people's personal transition story and their worries and hopes for the next stage in school life. Each young person developed their arts and multimedia skills by attaining Bronze Level 1 Arts Award Accreditation. In addition, a virtual tour of the academy was created which enabled young people to familiarise themselves with the building and layout, increasing their confidence for when they arrived in September. Finally, the young people attended the summer transition holiday club across two weeks of Summer 21. They were introduced to Oasis

Academy MediaCity, the hub, the Oasis ethos and the 9 habits. Activities included English and Maths tutorials, orienteering around the academy building, pizza making, creating Salford inspired artwork, participating in drama/theatre workshops, sports, school readiness,

“ The project made me realise it isn't as scary as I thought, it is just a new environment to get used to.

Year 7 student, Oasis Academy MediaCity

an inflatable assault course and a trip to a local adventure centre. The club supported the young people by increasing confidence through practical sessions on travel safety advice, the academy day timetable, who's who, and how to pack a school bag.

“ Thank you so much, you have made Jade feel so welcome, this week has been great. She has made two new friends and they have been texting at the end of each day as well. She is no longer worried about September, because she knows she has friends and isn't alone. Thank you for making me feel so welcome too, it has been a really great week and all the activities have been fantastic and so well organised.

Parent feedback, Summer Transition Holiday Project

“ This has been the best day ever! I wanna do it all over again.

Child



Accessible, Affordable Food

Oasis Community Hubs ran 45 community food projects providing free and affordable food to 5,736 people and their families, equating to 322,127 meals.

Oasis community food projects have grown and diversified from food banks to community fridges, all supplying free or low cost, high quality, surplus food each week. Oasis Community Pantries are a way for community members to access food at an affordable price, where they might otherwise struggle to meet their food needs. Typically, a £4-5 weekly membership provides our Community Pantry members with £25-£30 worth of food & household goods. We also run other community food projects including community fridges and emergency food hampers. This ensures that our communities have access to good quality fresh food in a way that is sustainable.

But it's about more than just providing essential food. Our community food projects have become a place where community is built, open and healthy relationships are formed, and friendships are made.

South Yardley food pantry and café, a partnership between Oasis Hub Hobmoor and South Yardley Methodist Church, is one of several 'Your Local Food Pantry' initiatives offering hope and dignity to people facing financial challenges. It's less a handout, more a hand-up. Customers here pay £4 a time and get to choose their own basket full of essentials and treats to top up their store cupboard and fridge. Fifty customers a week of all ages, backgrounds and ethnicities mingle together over the course of a two-hour session, enjoying a cuppa and a cake whilst waiting for their turn to shop.

“Coming here is just brilliant, the people are lovely, it genuinely is lifesaving.

Food pantry customer.

“This place and the people here mean the world.

Food pantry customer.

Oasis Hub North Bristol food pantry was established in April 2022 and partners with Fareshare Southwest who work to reduce the amount of food sent to landfill by providing a way to match up surplus in-date food with individuals and families who will benefit. The pantry is not just helping families who without it would not have food at home, it is also about creating a community, educating people on new foods, and reducing our carbon footprint in more economical and friendly ways by reducing the amount of food that goes to landfill. This vital project runs once a week and is completely run by volunteers who are passionate about their community and the people who live there.

“It's about survival, we are all struggling for food. If we didn't have this, we would run out.

Food pantry customer.

“The queues are twice as long. More people are having to use it. It's our lifeline.

Food pantry customer.

Oasis Hub Southampton food pantry enables people to have ownership and “buy in” by being members of not just the pantry but the wider Oasis community. Pantry members can get involved in decision-making over how the affordable food scheme runs and help shape future programmes at the Hub as well as volunteer.

“We have so much to thank this place for. It's really hard going at the moment. This makes a very big difference to us; it means money we would normally be spending on food we can put towards heating bills.


Pantry member



Whilst the implementation of our community food projects is often driven in the first instance by community team staff, we are also building strong teams of local volunteers who are able to take our food projects forward, ensuring community ownership.

Emily volunteers at our community food project helping to make up food parcels, she also helps to set up our afternoon café where people can come for a cuppa, chat and grab something to eat. "Being a part of something is the best experience for me, to be needed and wanted is brilliant."



 I became involved with the pantry when it first opened. I had to use the pantry myself, due to my son's poor health and the cost-of-living increase. After the great help I received from the pantry, I wanted to give back and got involved by volunteering at the pantry. Apart from the help I received to feed my family, my best experience has been volunteering with the hub and being part of a team. It has helped my mental health and self-confidence. It's great to feel valued. I love making our members feel welcome, especially as I have been in a similar position. Being part of the team that delivered Christmas boxes to families was brilliant.

Challenges and opportunities for the coming year

We hope this report has shown the enormous amount that has been achieved in our communities this past year. But of course, there are still challenges (and therefore opportunities) that lie ahead for us.

Collaboration

We never want to fall into the trap of simply providing services ‘for’ people, rather than working with and alongside our local communities. We are committed to building community through fostering healthy relationships. Our food projects and social spaces are an excellent example of where we have done this – and we will continue to do more, staying rooted to our ethos of inclusion and working together. As the needs around our academies grow, we also plan to step up our integrated working, providing more family care, mental health support, and developing effective partnerships between our education and youth work teams, young people, and their families.

Sustainability

We have grown financially over the past year, but there is still more demand and opportunity than we can meet, particularly in light of the economic crisis and sharp increases in the cost of living for so many households. We need to grow our financial capacity and our long-term sustainability. That means raising funds, but it also means increasing community participation, promoting a ‘sharing economy’ (re-using, recycling, reducing waste), and making sure our internal processes and systems are fit-for-purpose. And that our staff and volunteers can work efficiently, effectively, and with the time and space they need to continue to do their incredible best!

Flourishing

Our Oasis vision is for individual and community flourishing, sometimes both despite and because of adversity. We experience the reality of hardship, poor mental health, stretched services, trauma, and inequality in our local neighbourhoods – and we’re committed to bringing change where we can. In this coming year we will continue to grow interventions and programmes that respond to rising levels of violence experienced by young people, school absence, and poor family wellbeing. As part of this, we will be launching the therapeutic ‘Oasis Encounter’ programme to empower parents and carers to make a difference in their relationships with their children.

I’m confident that the challenges of the year ahead also have the potential to be incredible opportunities for growth and transformation. I have no doubt that we will continue to contribute to the flourishing of healthy and inclusive communities. I can’t wait to see where we will be a year from now!

Wishing you all the best,

Kat Simmonds

(CEO Oasis Community Partnerships)

Financial Highlights

Thank you

We are very grateful for the financial support from our many donors, grant funders and commissioners. Without you and the essential support you provide we would not be able to serve our communities in the way we do. You are an integral part of helping to create healthy and inclusive communities that transform lives.

Income

We are excited to report another year in which we have continued to grow financially with **£4.5 million** being raised. This represents a **10.3%** growth since the last report in 2019/2020.

A surplus of £149,581 (£64,517 unrestricted, £100,720 designated, £185,784 restricted) has been posted across the group of hub charities.

↑ **10.3%**
growth

Expenditure

As expected with the growth in income, expenditure has also increased by **5.8%** from last year to **£4.4 million**. Salaries make up over half of our expenditure and, along with other direct costs, represents 92% of total expenditure for the group.

This year has been challenging with the impact of Covid-19 but we have been well equipped to deliver many front-line services in the communities that we serve throughout the country.

↑ **5.8%**
increase

Income

Donations	397,950	9%
Grants	2,538,002	56%
Commissioned Services	1,365,474	30%
Other	221,986	5%
Total	4,523,412	100%

Expenditure

Wages and Salaries	2,559,628	58%
Other Direct Costs	1,452,742	33%
Premises Costs	223,371	5%
Support Costs	110,004	3%
Governance Costs	28,086	1%
Total	4,373,831	100%

Who are Oasis?

The Oasis vision is for community – a place where everyone is included, making a contribution, and reaching their God-given potential.

We have been pioneering sustainable, holistic community development for 35 years. We work in many communities affected by inequality that impacts all areas of life. So we work in a joined-up way across our communities to create change – economically, socially, physically, spiritually; in education, housing, justice, health, youth, and family support; with people of all ages and in all situations.

We believe that things can change. Where systems leave communities disadvantaged we're bold about pioneering alternatives and trying new things. We're not satisfied with the status quo where it keeps people trapped in poverty, or constantly at risk of exclusion.

Our Values

We have five core values that inform everything we do.

- A passion to include everyone
- A desire to treat everyone equally, respecting differences
- A commitment to healthy, open relationships
- A deep sense of hope that things can change and be transformed
- A sense of perseverance to keep us going for the long haul



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