



### **Building Resilience – There is a lot of support out there!**

This is a list of some of the incredibly useful resources available to Oxfordshire charities to help them with leadership mentoring and support, strategy, governance, funding, HR, finance and many other aspects of leadership. It is not an exhaustive list. Most organisations listed offer their support free-of-charge. We have only listed organisations but we know that there are also many individuals working as coaches, mentors and consultants who offer support. If you know of other organisations that should be listed here, please do contact [roz@charitymentors.co.uk](mailto:roz@charitymentors.co.uk) (and many apologies if we have inadvertently missed your organization off the list – it is just a beginning!)

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#### **Mentoring and Leadership Support in Oxfordshire:**

**Charity Mentors Oxfordshire** [www.charitymentors.co.uk](http://www.charitymentors.co.uk) : Short-term mentoring for charities and not-for-profits in Oxfordshire on specific challenges, relating to the long-term direction of the charity. Available to CEOs, managers, chairs, trustees and anyone responsible for the direction and purpose of the organisation. There is also a newsletter 3 times a year. Its coverage is based around leadership challenges along with local content about the sector, personalities and hot topics in Oxfordshire, as well as news of Charity Mentors Oxfordshire. If you would like to receive copies, email [info@charitymentors.co.uk](mailto:info@charitymentors.co.uk) or sign up to receive them automatically from the newsletter page on our website: <https://www.charitymentors.co.uk/newsletter/>

#### **Jennings Business Mentors (formerly Oxford Business Mentors).**

<http://www.jenningsbusinessmentors.org/about-us> : A free peer-to-peer mentoring service for business owners that also mentors charities.

**Monument Community Trust** <https://www.mct-oxfordshire.org/> : Monument Community Trust provides mentoring, advice and sometimes funding and other support to charities in Oxfordshire.

**OWLs** <https://www.oxfordwomenleaders.com/>: Brings together women passionate about social change for mutual support and events.

**Oxfordshire Charity Leaders Forum:** A forum (limited to 24 members at any one time) for leaders of local, small & medium sized charities dedicated to supporting beneficiaries in Oxfordshire.

#### **Oxfordshire infrastructure organisations who offer a range of support and advice covering skills, governance, funding, campaigning, trustee recruitment and volunteer recruitment:**

**OCVA (Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action).** <https://ocva.org.uk/>: Provide regular training workshops, forums, a newsletter, help with volunteer coordination and bespoke advice on funding and all charity matters. They have a useful page on funding sources

<https://ocva.org.uk/core/groupdevelopment/funding/> and can signpost leaders to forums and networks in Oxfordshire as well as a regular newsletter, Pulse available from website.

**Oxfordshire Community First.** [www.communityfirstoxon.org](http://www.communityfirstoxon.org) : Networks and advice for rural third sector organizations and businesses and help with community transport, community halls, housing and neighbourhood planning.

**OCF (Oxfordshire Community Foundation).** <http://oxfordshire.org/> : The mission of OCF is to inspire local philanthropy and develop community based solutions to key social problems. They have 3 areas of strategic focus: housing and homelessness, loneliness and isolation, and children and families. There is also a regular distribution of funds via 3 different programmes which target different sized groups and ambitions: “small and vital” offering up to £1.5k for groups with revenue of up to £100k; “delivering impact” offering between £1.5k and £10k; and “step change” offering up to £75k for groups with revenues between £75k and £750k. <https://oxfordshire.org/grants/>

**Oxford Hub.** <https://www.oxfordhub.org> : Delivers a wide number of social action programmes across Oxford and provides organizations with trustees through their “young trustee” programme, volunteers, incubation for social enterprises, and assistance with measuring and delivering impact for youth organizations.

**Oxfordshire Youth.** <https://oxfordshireyouth.org> : Work alongside Oxfordshire youth organizations providing networking opportunities, training, sustainability support and DBS checking service. They also provide bespoke sustainability and innovation support to children’s organizations and can signpost leaders to youth forums and networks in Oxfordshire. They also produce a newsletter, Sector Insider <https://oxfordshireyouth.org/sector-insider/>

**Community Action Groups.** <https://cagoxfordshire.org.uk> : Provide support and funding for community groups to organize events and projects to reduce waste and carbon emissions across Oxfordshire.

**ROBIN (Responsible Oxfordshire Business Involvement Network).** <http://www.robinoxford.org.uk/> : A network group that has quarterly meetings encouraging local businesses, public sector bodies and charities to meet and share skills and resources. There is also a LinkedIn page for inter-meeting communications where skills, resources and ideas are swapped between members. Membership is free.

**Help with recruiting volunteers:** Oxfordshire Volunteers <https://oxonvolunteers.org> (Oxfordshire); Volunteer Link-up [www.vlu.org.uk](http://www.vlu.org.uk) (West Oxfordshire); Volunteer Connect [www.canosn.org.uk](http://www.canosn.org.uk) (North Oxfordshire).

**Lieutenancy List.** An invaluable local resource which holds a confidential list of individuals who have put themselves forward to stand as trustees for charities. Charities looking for trustees should contact [office@stevenson-oxford.co.uk](mailto:office@stevenson-oxford.co.uk) to get more information.

**Oxfordshire Social Enterprise Partnership OSEP.** <https://www.osep.org.uk/> Network of support and funding for social enterprise in Oxfordshire.

**Reciprocate.** <http://reciprocateox.org/> : A membership network for Oxfordshire companies to channel CSR initiatives in a meaningful way (Reciprocate is currently hosted by OCF). They can provide training and skills to some charities and run seminars and network meetings.

**Oxfordshire Fundraising Forum.** Contact Lucy Walker [walker@helenanddouglas.org.uk](mailto:walker@helenanddouglas.org.uk) . Open to all fundraisers to discuss all things fundraising. There is a LinkedIn page and breakfast meetings around 4 times a year in central Oxford.

**Accounting for Community, Engaging Students (ACES), Brookes University accountancy help for charities** <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/business/undergraduate/careers/accounting-for-community-engaging-students/> Brookes will provide second and final year accountancy student to provide accountancy/bookkeeping help to charities. Various charities do use this service and it can be a very useful resource although, clearly, the quality of the help depends on the quality of the student so supervision is required.

**Oxfordshire Business Enterprises** <http://oxonbe.co.uk/> Free face to face advice for Oxfordshire businesses. Free advice to anyone planning to start a business or within 2-years of starting it.

### **Useful websites with information on mentoring, consultancy and advice:**

**The Charity Commission.** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>: Your first stop for most issues relating to charities including: searching for a particular charity (gives financial details, trustees etc); how to set up and register a charity (and the differences between the different types of structure); guidance for trustees and charity advisers; regulatory alerts, inquiry and case reports; how to close a charity. Full list of publications: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission/about/publication-scheme>

**Association of Chairs.** <https://www.associationofchairs.org.uk/> : Support Chairs of charities and non-profits. Membership is between £50-100 pa. They run training and networking events (eg sessions for new chairs) and provide free resources on their website, for instance "A question of balance: A guide to the chair and CEO relationship"  
<https://www.associationofchairs.org.uk/resources/download-gob/> (the Charity Commission also has excellent guidance on trustee and chair duties and responsibilities). The Beacon programme is specifically for supporting chairs of smaller charities  
<https://www.associationofchairs.org.uk/beacon/>

**Cranfield Trust:** <https://www.cranfieldtrust.org/pages/9-empowering-learning-improving-lives>  
Provides consultancy and mentoring to charities free of charge. Also useful templates and resources covering everything from business planning, risk management, finance & accounts, fundraising etc.

**Clore Leadership:** <https://www.cloreleadership.org/about-us> : Provides scholarships for leadership training and free mentoring to organizations involved in the arts, culture and creative sector.

**ACEVO (Associaton for Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations):** <https://www.acevo.org.uk/>  
Charity leaders network. Offer support, advice and leadership training to charity CEOs [not all of these are free of charge]. Membership costs £685 for 3-year membership for a CEO of an org with revenue between £150-500k.

**Small Charities Coalition.** <https://www.smallcharities.org.uk/home/>: Set up to support small charities. Run training courses, peer-to-peer mentoring and other services (eg <https://www.smallcharities.org.uk/resources/>) and have just launched a useful website that guides through the process of registering a charity or CIO with the Charity Commission  
<https://charitysetup.org.uk/>

**King's Fund Cascading Leadership Programme** <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/courses/cascading-leadership-programme#more-information-and-applying> : A lottery funded, peer-to-peer mentoring programme aimed specifically at the voluntary sector. The first pilot was in 2019. Not currently taking applications but Charity Mentors will keep an eye on developments and let you know!

**Impetus Private Equity Foundation** <http://www.impetus-pef.org.uk/who-we-are/our-mission/>  
Provides management support, pro-bono guidance and funds to charities who they have identified as having a promising track record in helping young people aged 11-24. They have been involved with several Oxfordshire charities.

**Pilotlight** <http://www.pilotlight.org.uk/> Pilotlight charge companies a membership fee and then matches them with charities to offer mentoring and share skills (there is also a membership scheme for individuals of £1,500 pa). Again, they have worked with several Oxfordshire charities.

**Lloyds Bank Foundation** <https://www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk/> Provide funding and mentoring to small but vital charities in the UK, so worth knowing about. Will fund over a number of years and will consider some core costs. They have been involved with several Oxfordshire charities.

**NCVO's knowledge and skills hub.** <https://knowhownonprofit.org/> Various resources on charity matters plus online training courses eg how to write a marketing plan (have no idea of their quality) or advice on working collaboratively advice:  
<https://knowhownonprofit.org/organisation/collaboration/working-collaboratively/working-together-to-achieve-your-mission-ncvo#>

**FSI (Foundation for Social Improvement)** <https://www.thefsi.org/> Provide training and resources for charities. Membership is free if turnover less than £1mn. For instance, they offer a 5-7 hour, e-learning "fundraising strategy" course, for a small fee.

**Charity Catalogue** <https://charitycatalogue.com/> Lists useful online tools that help charities increase impact and productivity (CRM systems, design tools, website programmes, photo stocks etc).

**IT for charities** [www.itforcharities.co.uk](http://www.itforcharities.co.uk). Gives useful details of database and CRM providers.

**HR advice for charities:** See <https://www.smallcharities.org.uk/resources-hr/>. Also <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/trusted-suppliers/supplier-list/299-hr-services-partnership> . And Cranfield Trust's <https://www.cranfieldtrust.org/pages/11-hrnet>