

Impact Report

2024 - 2025



Nurturing Brighter Futures



The Manor House, Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire, OX14 4RA
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Registered Charity No: 1140441 | Company Registration No: 7273425

Our Rainbow Values

**We are
a mindful
team**

**We are
playful**

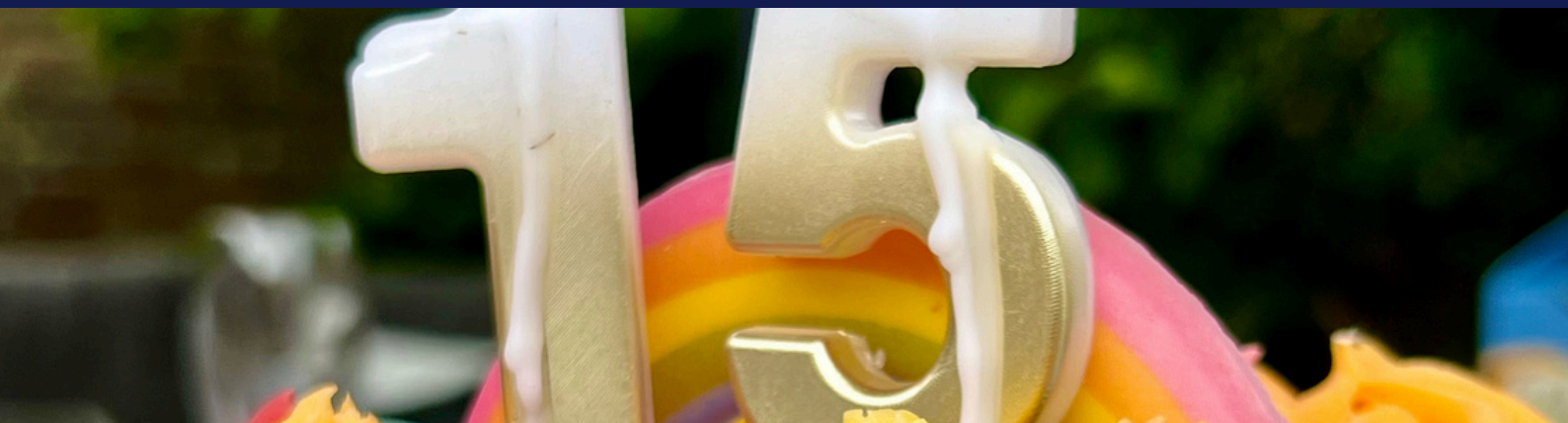
**We
create safe
spaces**

**We
never, ever
give up**

**We let
every child
shine**



A message from our Charity Director



Clear Sky - Celebrating 15 years of the Power of Play!

This year, Clear Sky turned 15!

I have read that the number 15 symbolizes a variety of concepts, including spiritual growth and enlightenment (Buddhism), rest and deliverance from hardship (Bible), balancing desires and overcoming weaknesses (numerology and occult), and spiritual and material alignment (angel numbers). (Thank you, Google).

Nothing could be more true of Clear Sky in our 15th year, ironically. Like all small charities we have certainly experienced hardship whilst trying to keep afloat in ever-turbulent funding waters. We've definitely experienced significant growth, and we have certainly overcome a multitude of challenges. Overall, on reflection, I think that we now sense a spirit of alignment and wellbeing in all that Clear Sky has achieved thus far.

This year, Clear Sky became home to the Oxfordshire Schools Mental Health and Wellbeing Network. We hope to make a significant and positive difference to more schools in the coming year through our new 'Emotionally Healthy Schools' platform which is already making waves in our current schools.

We've delivered well over 2000 1:1 therapy sessions again this year to vulnerable children, trained hundreds of therapeutic professionals, from Wales to Western Australia, and have developed innovative new online digital tools and programmes. We've smashed our fundraising efforts, made meaningful partnerships with new funders, and maintained relationships with our generous supporters. We've trained and cared for our staff, and they've cared for the values of Clear Sky in return.

We don't need accolades or awards to validate our work. We simply do what we are here for, which is to ensure that children receive the very best care that they can have.

Thank you for supporting our vision. Here's to the next 15!

Anna



Our Team



Who's Who at Clear Sky HQ

- **Anna Hodgson** - Captain of Clear Sky (Charity Director)
- **Becky Hill** - Head of Therapeutic Thinking / Dramatherapist
- **Jess Haynes** - The Play Maker (Digital Services Manager)
- **Stephanie Treadwell** - The Ringmaster (Operations Manager)
- **Decca Warrington** - Playground Monitor (Therapeutic Services Manager) / Play Therapist
- **Nicki Francis** - The Juggler (Finance and Admin Assistant)

Our Therapeutic Team

Our amazing therapeutic team are all qualified in Play Therapy, Dramatherapy, Art Therapy, Dance & Movement Psychotherapy or Counselling and Child Psychotherapy. Our therapists are highly experienced and work tirelessly to meet the needs of children through the delivery of our therapeutic services.

Our Board of Trustees

Our dedicated Board of Trustees oversee the strategy, governance and implementation of our charitable objectives, supporting the Head Office team to deliver Clear Sky's vision. We are grateful to our Board for representing Clear Sky and for maintaining its governance and values.

A message from our Board of Trustees

It has been a very productive year for Clear Sky this year, with a very successful return on fundraising efforts, enabling the team to complete a number of long wished-for projects which have been launched across the year to further support families in need.

Despite the funding landscape continuing to be uncertain, the demand for Clear Sky's support and training has never been higher and we are grateful to those who continue to support the cause and who have made it possible for us to work with so many children and professionals in 2025. Our thanks go to the team who always go the extra mile to produce excellent results.

Fundraising

2024 - 2025

- We exceeded our fundraising target of **£40,000**.
- This was achieved through fundraising events, corporate donations, trusts and grants, resourcefulness and pro bono support.

2025 - 2026

- We have exciting plans afoot for 2025-2026 and our fundraising target for next year will be **£42,000**.
- Our charitable revenues enable us to offer all of our therapeutic provision at a significant subsidy.



Support our work

A Case Study....

The Employment Group in Heyford recruit candidates for the Industrial and Logistics sector for Clients in the Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes area.

They chose Clear Sky as their Charity of the Year and held fundraising events which all the team enjoyed participating in, including cake sales and a Christmas raffle. The team raised a whopping £750 to support children!

Julie of The Employment Group said 'We hope all the money raised benefits as many young people as possible'



Corporate Social Responsibility

If you are interested in supporting our work as a corporate partner via payroll giving, social investment or sponsorship, please get in touch for more details or an informal discussion.

We would love to hear from you!



Please follow us on social media
@ClearSkyCharity

Children's Mental Health

The Scale of the Problem

In 2023, NHS England reported that one in five children and young people had probable mental health disorder.

(Open Access Government, April 2024)

1 in 5

140,000

Children are reported to have never returned to education following the pandemic.

(Open Access Government 2025)

Only 48% of the 1.4 million children on the waiting list have had access to a mental health professional.

(Open Access Government 2025)

48%

74%

Up to 74% of low income parents are reported to be suffering from poor mental health.

(Unicef 2025)



A quarter of a million children are on the CAMHS waiting list. Some have been waiting for more than 2 years.

(Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, May 2024)

250,000

£260,000

It has been estimated that the overall lifetime costs associated with a moderate behavioural problem amount to £85,000 per child and with a severe behavioural problem £260,000 per child.

(UK Parliament Committees)

It is estimated that 7,450 children aged 5 to 10 years old have a probable mental disorder in Oxfordshire.

(Oxfordshire.gov.uk)

7450

Children's Mental Health

How Clear Sky Help

- We offer a range of therapeutic services for children and their families, teachers and other professionals, whilst keeping the child and play at the heart of everything we do
- We are experts in child-led Play & Creative Arts Therapy and our training is based on the very latest research
- We offer flexibility and best value to schools
- We have a significant impact on children's wellbeing and behaviour
- We contribute to research as members of a number of bodies and Parliamentary groups and we are home to the Oxfordshire Schools Mental Health and Wellbeing Network



2268+

therapy sessions
took place between
Sept 2024 - August 2025.

43

We worked in 43
Oxfordshire Schools
this year!

118

children and young people
were supported by a Clear
Sky Therapist this year in one
to one and group sessions.

14

Clear Sky Play & Creative
Arts Therapists supported
children, families and staff
in schools.



Celebrating Partnerships

We were delighted to welcome two more schools to our 10 Year Partnership Hall of Fame this year.

Church Cowley St James Primary School and **Tyndale Community School**, both in Cowley, Oxford, were pleased to receive their celebratory plaques which they will proudly hang in their reception halls, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to caring for the emotional and mental wellbeing of the children in their care.

Congratulations!



Our Services



Therapy Services for Schools

Supporting children with Play & Creative Arts Therapy in Schools

Clear Sky supports Primary, Secondary and Specialist schools by providing individual and group Play and Creative Arts Therapy.

We have continued building and maintaining longer term partnerships with schools across Oxfordshire and beyond. More children are being supported with longer, more meaningful interventions than ever before.

Our therapists have also had more opportunity to support children with their transition from primary to secondary school, giving that much needed support at a time of change.

therapy sessions delivered in the last 8 years by Clear Sky

14,900

“Working with Clear Sky has supported and encouraged Key Staff to be reflective in their practice and support each other when working in challenging circumstances”

“I wish the services that were provided could be available for more of our children”

“It has really helped staff’s understanding of the needs of the children and how play therapy can be effective”

“...This has had a profound impact on the children we support”



What our schools say

Emotionally Healthy Schools



An online resource for your **WHOLE SCHOOL**



Our 'Emotionally Healthy Schools' platform goes beyond the therapy room. It is an online, on-demand resource aimed at supporting **WHOLE SCHOOLS** to effectively understand, direct and maintain positive emotional health, across the entire school.

Our user-friendly platform allows school senior leaders to: **Self-Assess**, **Plan**, **Share** and **Review** their school's emotional health.

"I've just watched the [Space to Shine] films and thought they were amazing. All were very informative, relatable, and very real. Throughout I could think of how things can be changed in our classrooms and playground to help support our children"

'The training was excellent, very clear and informative. I think it's an outstanding resource, explained in a truly insightful and precise way'

What's included:

- **Online training** in our established and tested 'Space to Shine' programme that builds core knowledge and skills to help staff to understand 'What Children Need'
- **Information** on where to find additional support
- Ready-made **Assembly Modules**
- **Practical Resources** to help teachers
- **Research** to help to underpin knowledge
- **Parent Resources**
- An **Online Community**
- **Tools for Senior Leaders**
- **Self-Care** resources to support staff wellbeing
- **Advanced Learning** options for those who want to adopt and practice more detailed attachment-based skills

50+

schools have access to our **FRAMEWORK** of support

Our Services



Support for Families

Supporting parents to use child-led play to promote emotional wellbeing for their children

We offer a number of parenting support programmes in the community which support families from birth to early adulthood. These programmes are delivered to groups of parents, or parents and child together.

In 2024/2025 we were fortunate to be able to provide training to practitioners all over the UK and overseas who are now skilled to deliver family support programmes in their communities.

Our parenting courses enable families to develop resilience, confidence and the skills to form secure attached relationships.

Find an Attachment Play Practitioner

Our searchable directory has over 135 Attachment Play Practitioners supporting families and children in their local area with Baby Bonding groups up to parent/teen sessions.

135+

Thank you to the families!

Over the past 15 years we have been supported by many families who wanted to give something back. Thank you to those families who have run cake sales, climbed mountains and raised funds so that we can help more children to overcome trauma!



Our Services



“A very informative, relaxed learning session, It would be so useful for everyone working in parent-infant services to attend this training.”

Professional Development for Therapists

Training professional practitioners to support children and families' emotional wellbeing



Parent Child Attachment Play



Heart to Heart



Baby Bonding



We continue to deliver courses at volume both online and face to face in partnership with several organisations including the NHS across the UK.

412

Professionals were trained in our CPD accredited practitioner training courses between August 2024 and July 2025, an increase of over 62% on last year.

News about Moonbeams....



Our wonderful licensed partner Jacqui Shankly has sadly decided to take a break from delivering therapy and will be moving on to semi-retirement.

We are very grateful to Jacqui for facilitating Attachment Play courses and running our very popular mentoring sessions across the year. Fortunately, we know where Jacqui is so she will still be popping up for us now and again!

Mentoring

Along with Jacqui, Becky our Head of Therapy has been busy delivering group mentoring for our new overseas partners this year. She's had some very early morning starts to help support our new cohort in Australia.

Together, Becky and Jacqui have mentored 29 Attachment Play Practitioners this year!

29

Our Licensed Partners

We are delighted to be working with our accredited partners in Ireland and in other regions across the country. Our licensed colleagues deliver our suite of Attachment Play professional training and provide mentoring and support as well as delivering therapeutic work within their regions.

Big Toes Little Toes Ireland Linsey McNelis and Ruth McDonagh



In November 2024 we had a lovely weekend training eight practitioners in Parent-Child Attachment Play in Galway. We are excited for the parents who will get to work with these fabulous practitioners.

In March 2024 we were delighted to have the opportunity to train twelve teachers from nine different schools in Galway in Heart to Heart. It was wonderful to have this work funded by the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme and the Galway City Partnership. They had seen the impact of a piloted Heart to Heart programme in two schools in Galway and decided to train teachers so they can run the programme regularly within the school day.

Later in March 2024 we had another playful weekend training eleven practitioners in Heart to Heart. We are really excited to see the programme being brought to families in Galway, Wexford, Cork, Clare and even as far away as Singapore, following this training.

We continue to mentor and support Baby Bonding, Parent-Child Attachment Play and Heart to Heart practitioners in their ongoing role in supporting parents with their relationships with their children.

We look forward to more in- person training in Galway with Parent-Child Attachment Play on the 18th and 19th of October 2025, Baby Bonding on 15th - 16th November 2025 and Heart to Heart on 21st - 22nd March 2026.

Linsey and Ruth

Our Friends Overseas

Grace.4.Families Therapeutic Services - Grace Lim



Greetings from Singapore! Grace.4.Families Therapeutic Services is excited to bring the suite of Clear Sky's Attachment Play programmes to Singapore!

Attachment theorist D.W Winnicott said, "a baby alone does not exist" (1960). Every baby, and therefore child, exists in relationship with a caregiving figure (often but not always the mother) from birth. This fundamental truth emerges in every piece of therapeutic work with children. That was what stirred me, in my journey as a play therapist, to find and discover Clear Sky's programmes – Parent-Child Attachment Play (PCAP), Baby Bonding and Heart to Heart – to equip me to support parents' relationships with their children.

Following my completion of a mix of online and in person trainings for the 3 programmes in 2024 and 2025, I have begun to offer PCAP, Baby Bonding and Heart to Heart as programmes which parents can access in groups or one to one, onsite at the centre or offsite in homes or other suitable locations. Separately, I find myself using the deeper understanding of attachment theories and PCAP's 3 skills and shoebox framework when I engage with parents who bring their children in for play therapy, if they are ready.

There are so many possibilities in bringing the programme to Family Service Centres and Social Service Agencies in Singapore that support families. The 3 programmes allow such a wide age range (0-15) of children to be benefit and I look forward to bringing it to where it is needed.

As with all "new" programmes, it will be hard work raising awareness of the power of attachment and play-based attachment work. I do hope to grow the community of PCAP practitioners in Singapore and the Southeast Asian region, to grow the visibility of the programme and allow more families to benefit.

After all, as with most unfamiliar journeys, it is easier to walk with company than alone.

Grace.4.Families Therapeutic Services is born from my journey with children for the last two decades in different capacities: mother, educator, early interventionist, community volunteer, church ministry worker, and, more recently in the last 7 years, play therapist.

Grace

Our 2024 Conference



Polyvagal Connections...

This year's theme was 'Polyvagal Connections' and we were thrilled to host keynote speaker **Courtney Rolfe**, who opened the learning for the day with her wonderful talk, followed by a round table reflective exercise. The session became lively with the introduction of colourful balloons which enabled participants to engage with themselves and those around them before time was given for learning to be put into practice. We were able to offer Courtney's book, co-authored with Deb Dana, which Courtney kindly signed for delegates and were not surprised at all that we completely sold out on the day!

After a well earned lunch, where delegates were able to browse our superb exhibition area, we were joined by **Dr Dan Hughes** by the magic of technology from 'across the pond'. Dan gave us a one hour talk in his inimitable style, leaving delegates feeling 'inspired' and 'motivated'.

The afternoon heralded 4 amazing workshops, each allowing participants to attend a 90 minute hands on experiential session with a sector expert. Delegates were able to choose from **sessions on movement, art, imaginative play, or 'painful connections'**.

After yet more tea and cake, our fabulous Trustee **Martyn 'Eek the Clown' Cooper** closed the day for us, by sharing his very personal and moving story of trauma and resilience. Martyn's message was that no matter what life throws at you, it is how we respond to our situation that can make or break us.

We hope that delegates left us at the end of the day feeling uplifted and motivated by the stories they had heard and the tools they had acquired. We've certainly had this reflected in the feedback received so far, with several people asking us to confirm their place for next year!



Institute for Play and Attachment



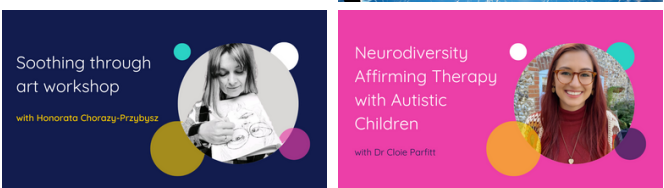
More than
100
hours of learning

Our online learning hub for professionals

Since its launch in 2019, the Institute for Play and Attachment (IPA) continues to provide easily accessible and relevant training delivered by sector experts.

With a curated learning area, research library, resources bank, self-care hub and online community, the Institute for Play and Attachment welcomes all therapists and therapeutic professionals working with children and families.

This year on IPA ...



This is a wonderful resource!
I love the self care and personal
development support, I've been
looking for exactly this!

the resources
are fantastic!

I very much appreciate
all of the wonderful
training modules

100+
members

To join the IPA community please visit www.clear-sky.org.uk

Campaigning and celebrating

We have been out and about again this year and to see many new and old colleagues at a range of conferences, talks, events and fundraisers.



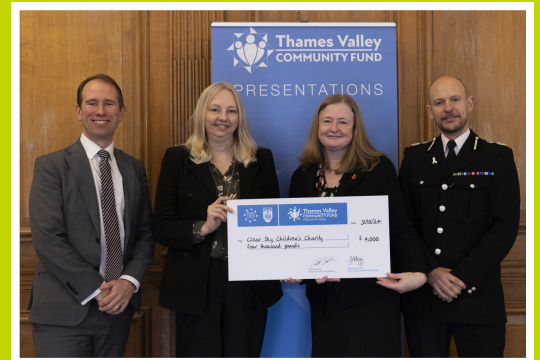
James Cowper Kreston Foundation kindly presented Anna and Jess with a grant cheque.

It was great to meet Lewis from the grants sub-committee in October to take receipt of the 'Big Cheque' and tell him more about our work.

We are grateful to James Cowper Kreston Foundation for their support!

In further October fundraising success, Anna and Steph were delighted to attend a reception at the Wycombe Swan to receive a grant cheque from the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner.

It was a pleasure to meet colleagues old and new, and to re-purpose funding recovered through the proceeds of crime emphasises the importance of the work being delivered in the community by so many good causes across the region.



Phyllis Court Christmas Fair in November was a spectacular event where we were able to take a stand and share information with Club members who generously supported us as Charity of the Year!

Jess and Steph spent the afternoon selling our lovely Christmas cards and chatting to new friends.

Our thanks to Lesley and the PCC Charities Committee.

Phyllis Court Club played host once again to a fabulous charity fundraiser in December, with Henley's Living Advent event taking place there.

An incredibly festive evening of music and dancing where Anna helped to sell hundreds of raffle tickets at this free event, supported by Phyllis Court.



Learning and sharing

Playful Connections.
Emotional
Regulation in the
Classroom.



We continue to work alongside the National Education Union and were pleased to support their 2024 learning programme once more by providing another virtual course for them in Autumn 2024.

Becky delivered this event to 143 teachers online and we look forward to delivering our next event this coming Autumn.

We are delighted to be partners with Didcot Girls School who so often support Clear Sky. On this occasion we were able to support them along with other local businesses, with some mock interviews for their leavers. Becky was blown away with the quality of the responses and character of the girls, who we know will all go far!



Summer would not be complete without the wonderful Abingdon Fine Arts Society Garden Party, which has become a wonderful feature of our fundraising year.

Our thanks to Patricia and host Pervin for hosting a wonderful day in her garden, raising funds for Clear Sky. Their generous contribution provides play and creative materials for our team!

We were delighted to work with Luminary Motion this year who produced three amazing animated films for us - visualising our work which is sometimes hard to convey in words.

We are thrilled with the results. Many thanks Alex!



It was a delight to get lots of our therapists together earlier this year to undertake a new Adoption training which we were pleased to collaborate on with Julie McCann, BAPT Supervisor and Lecturer at the University of Roehampton.

As providers to Adoption Services Oxford and ATV, this training gives our therapists the additional confidence and skills required when working with the complex needs of adopted children.

Our Partners & Supporters



Thank you to all our supporters and partners who have donated money, raised sponsorship, volunteered or worked with us to provide services.

Our Strategic Partners



Our Memberships



A special thank you to Lady Wood for her huge generosity in offering us a practical office and meeting space within the beautiful grounds of The Manor House.

Our Partners & Supporters

Trusts, Grants and Donors

Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust
Arts Society Abingdon
Benefact Group
Bentley Small Grants Programme
Boutell Bequest
Berkshire Nurses Relief in Sickness Trust
Coop Local Community Fund
Doris Field Charitable Trust
Dorchester Abbey Tea Rooms
Henley Living Advent Calendar
IQ Oxford
James Cowper Kreston Foundation
Lamplight Database Systems Ltd
Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust
OCF The Didcot Powerhouse Fund
OCF Step Change Fund
OCF Well Together Fund
PF Charitable Trust
Phyllis Court Club

Samuel Storey Family Charitable Trust
Shanly Foundation
Souter Charitable Trust
Stanton Ballard Charitable Trust
Stockwell Cliffe Charitable Trust
The Ammco Trust
The Bartlett Taylor Charitable Trust
The Cooper Charitable Trust
The Employment Group
The Evelyn May Charitable Trust
The Persula Foundation
The Pixel Fund
The Vandervell Foundation
The Vinehill Trust
Thrive Together
TK Maxx Foundation
Truck Trust
TV Police and Crime Commissioner
Wallingford and Didcot Rotary CF

Thank you to our individual donors and all those who donated anonymously through our online giving platforms and to those who gave their time to help us this year as volunteers!



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Get in touch



CHILDREN'S CHARITY

NURTURING BRIGHTER FUTURES

✉ Clear Sky Children's Charity
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🌐 clear-sky.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1140441
Company Registration No: 7273425

We welcome all grants and donations,
however small.

Every penny gifted to Clear Sky helps us to
deliver the therapeutic services that we offer.
Our small and dedicated team work hard to
deliver services for children across the UK.

**We would love to have
your support!**



Please follow us on social media
[@ClearSkyCharity](https://www.instagram.com/ClearSkyCharity)