



**Red Kite**  
FAMILY CENTRE

*Being there for every family*

**2025**

# **Our Year of Family Support in Oxfordshire and beyond**



# Welcome to our 2025 Impact Report

It is not often that the team at Red Kite gets a chance to reflect on what they have achieved, as they are fully focused on how best they can support local families in the moment. It has therefore been wonderful to see this report come together to highlight the many and varied cogs that keep the Red Kite machine ticking over. Our skilled and caring staff drive what we do, constantly initiating and evolving creative practices to address the needs of the local community.

For our families, the rising cost of living, limited access to childcare, and mental health pressures are just some of the factors that make the support we offer all the more vital and appreciated. The families themselves are “Why we do it” and watching a baby develop, flourish, and graduate from our service as a happy, well-adjusted 5-year-old ready for school is a privilege, for both staff (Marie, Helen, Catherine, Becca, Kirsty, Liz), and trustees (John, Lottie, Sarah, Will, Fiona, Matt) as well as our dedicated volunteers.

We hope you enjoy reading this report and find out more about the impact the Red Kite Family Centre has on our community.

Please do get in touch and let us know what you think. We’d love to hear from you.

Rosie Pearce

Chair of the Trustees

[info@redkitefamilycentre.org](mailto:info@redkitefamilycentre.org)

# About us

RKFC is an independent registered charity founded in 2017, serving Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire families with children aged up to five from its centres in Thame and Chinnor. It acts as a vibrant one stop hub where parents can find a warm, community-centred space offering a broad range of services – including stay & play sessions, advice, tailored groups and courses, health visitor/midwife support and activities, even venue hire.



Guided by a vision of strengthening and supporting early family life, Red Kite provides practical, emotional, and social support to give children the best possible start in life. It also fosters connection and resilience among parents and caregivers in the local area.

Our experienced staff and trustees have a wide ranging knowledge of parenting and child development strategies which informs the myriad of experiences offered across our Family Centre activities.

**Staff: Marie, Helen, Catherine, Becca, Kirsty, Liz**



**Trustees: Rosie, John, Lottie, Sarah, Will, Fiona, Matt**



## Thank you!

Thank you to all our wonderful Volunteers. We are fortunate to have some wonderful individuals who help us in our sessions or at our events. We even have green fingered helpers who tend our garden. The board of trustees are also volunteers.



If you are interested in volunteering, we have regular roles in sessions, either weekly or monthly. We have one off assistance at events. We are also looking for service user trustees.

# Engagement & Reach Highlights 2025

**108**

**new families  
registered**

**448**

**families  
supported**

**328**

**sessions  
delivered**

**662**

**hours of play  
& learning**

**500+**

**support &  
outreach  
hours**

**101**

**staff hours  
per week**

**6**

**vocational  
volunteers**

**125+**

**regular  
volunteer  
hours**

**5**

**corporate  
volunteers**

**6**

**regular  
volunteers**

**7**

**trustees**

**6**

**part-time  
staff**

# Funding & Sustainability

**99**  
**individual**  
**donors**

**c. £9k**  
**company**  
**donations**

**7 grants**  
**totalling**  
**£25,641**

Red Kite relies on funding, grants, and donations from individuals, companies and groups to enable local families to thrive.

We also welcome pro bono donations of your valuable time and skills.

Put simply, without your generosity we would not be here to help.

**Last year it cost almost £120k last year to run the Red Kite Family Centre**



**£5**  
funds a Breakfast or Lunch club meal

**£10**  
funds a day of art, crafts and food supplies each month

**£25**  
funds one of our Neurodiversity support sessions

**£50**  
funds a session to run for six months

# Red Kite Business Angels: *Impact on your doorstep*

*Every year, Red Kite Family Centre supports hundreds of local families with stay and play sessions, parenting advice, and a welcoming space to connect.*

*When local businesses partner with us, they're not just making a donation, they're investing in their own community. Our amazing Business Angels are proud to do what they can to help local families feel supported and safe.*



**Fisher German, Thame:** *Chose us as their charity for part of their Big 25 Challenge celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They more than doubled their target, fundraising £2000, enabling us to cover the costs of our weekly lunch club group.*

**Lucy Electric, Thame:** *This annual donation goes towards our weekly Brilliant Babies group, helping us to offer new parents a space to meet others, enjoy much-needed time together and seek any advice that they may need in those early days of parenthood. Amazing Lucy employees also came to paint our centre as part of their corporate volunteering.*



**Thame Cars:** *A monthly donation that helps us run our Saturday Dads group, offering Dads and other male carers a monthly opportunity to meet others and take part in fun activities with their children and it even comes with a delicious bacon sandwich (vegetarian options available)*

## Thanks to all our Angels

Lucy Electric • Thame Cars • Aspen Financial • PCI Telecom

Barber Environmental • White Lion Residential

Kubota • SYLO HR • The HR Agency

Opendoorz business network • Business Buzz

Haddenham Health Care • Invictus • Fisher German • Logisnext UK Ltd

MVMT Gym • Waitrose • AJB Treecare • Made4Pressure

# A massive thanks also to our valued Community Partners:

Health Visitors • Midwives • Thame Library  
Chinnor Library • Thame Youth Project  
Sharing Life Trust • Thame Round Table  
Thame Rotary • Chinnor Rotary  
Thame Barns Centre • Chinnor Open Gardens  
21st Century Thame • Herland

**A recent letter from the health visitor team demonstrates how  
our efforts support not only families and local services,  
agencies as well as the wider community:**

*“I wanted to express my sincere appreciation for the outstanding work you do in supporting deprived and vulnerable families within our community.*

*As a healthcare professional working in the area, knowing we can refer families to you for support is invaluable and ensures their social and emotional needs are being supported in a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment. You have helped families access vital services, build confidence, and develop the skills they need to thrive.*

*The care you show goes far beyond your day-to-day responsibilities. Whether offering practical guidance, emotional support, or simply a listening ear, your commitment ensures that no family feels overlooked or alone. The positive impact*

*of your work is evident not only in individual families, but in the strength and resilience of the wider community.*

*Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your tireless efforts, empathy, and unwavering support. Your work is truly valued and deeply appreciated by our team and the families you support.*

*The family support workers in Thame are heavily relied upon by the health visiting team, especially since our services have been reduced as a result of limited NHS funds.*

*Thank you again Marie, Helen, Becca, Catherine and Sandra for everything you do.”*

Community Public Health Nurse  
Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

# How we support local families

## SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities)

We have several families visiting the centre for SEND support, whether coming to our Sensory Explorers group, termly SEND Support evenings or for 1-2-1 support. Often parents feel isolated, overwhelmed and unsure where to begin with the SEND process. We can help. During 2025 we:

- Provided clear signposting to relevant SEND support services and parent-friendly resources.
- Supported families in completing the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) application, explaining each section and gathering the necessary evidence.
- Took an active role in the EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) process by helping the family in preparing supporting documents and advocating for their child's needs.
- Accompanied families on visits to local early years settings to help them identify environments capable of meeting their child's developmental and sensory needs.

## Domestic Abuse (DA)

Red Kite Family Centre provides access to a designated safe space within the centre, ensuring privacy and emotional support.

We facilitated discreet meetings with external agencies, including IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) services, housing officers, and police where necessary.

Offered ongoing emotional support and practical guidance, helped the family create a safety plan and understand their rights.

## Form-Filling and Practical Support

Families have many reasons why they may need our support with paperwork and form-filling. During 2025 we assisted with:

- One-to-one appointments to help fill out forms, including the Disability Living Allowance application.
- Housing applications by liaising with relevant parties to ensure that all relevant documentation was gathered and submitted correctly on time.
- Signposting to financial and welfare rights services for ongoing support.
- Primary school applications.

## Multi-Agency Liaison

- Red Kite Family Centre acts as a link between the family and relevant agencies, including schools, preschools, health visitors, and social care teams.
- We attend multiagency meetings, advocating for the family's needs, and facilitating consistent lines of communication.
- As well as helping the family understand recommendations from each service we support them in following through on plans.

## Warm Space and Financial Hardship

- We welcome vulnerable families and offer a warm space providing a safe, friendly environment where they could stay for extended periods.
- In this environment, we were able to identify additional needs during visits including food insecurity and mental health pressures.
- We also connect families with supportive services, such as financial wellbeing teams, debt advice agencies, the local foodbank, and cost of living relief programmes.

## And in their words...

*"Helen helped me to get out of the house to get to the group. Coming to the Lunch Club is helpful and I get to spend time with my kind of people."*

*"You've created an environment where children are safe and parents can relax."*

*"It's about the relationships and having the space to build those here in a non-judgmental place."*

*"Baby Group is lovely, but Lunch Club is great because there are people in a similar situation to me. I can socialise and it's helpful that it's free to attend."*

*"It's so problematic navigating the system with no parent handbook and you have really helped me."*

*"I'm five years into this now with both children and I have been exhausted by this school transition, but feel I am getting somewhere this week after your help."*

# SEND Events

Along with our regular SEND support, Sensory Explorers group, SEND Support evenings and 1-2-1 support, we have also run additional events to help both families and the community access the tools they need to create a more open, informed and engaging environment



## Red Kite Neurodiversity in Clubs Event A Positive Evening of Learning and Connection

In April, Red Kite Family Centre hosted a well-received event focused on neurodiversity in clubs, bringing together local clubs, professionals and parents to share learning and experiences. The evening aimed to raise awareness of neurodiversity, highlight good practice already happening in clubs, and explore practical ways to better support neurodiverse children. Speakers included representatives from ADHD UK, SEND at Heart, Active Oxfordshire and Gosford All Blacks, who shared inspiring examples of inclusive practice, including the creation of a SEND rugby team. Attendees also benefited from hearing the parent voice and had opportunities to network with a wide range of local organisations. Feedback was extremely positive, with over 90% of respondents highly satisfied. Many attendees described the event as informative, inspiring and offering positive, practical ideas they would take back to improve inclusion within their own settings.

## SEND Professionals Network

We're delighted to share the success of our SEND Professionals Network, which has brought together a diverse and enthusiastic group of professionals committed to improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND. Held at the Thame Cricket Club, we welcomed professionals from schools and early years settings, social care, health services, the county council, independent providers and voluntary organisations. Twenty-six professionals attended across the sessions, creating a vibrant space for meaningful networking and shared learning.

The impact has already been clear. Professionals have gone on to share expertise, make valuable connections and offer free training for families, schools, and early years settings, alongside improved referral pathways into appropriate services. The network has also strengthened links across teams, including collaboration with the Short Breaks team.

Building on this positive start, we're excited to continue growing the network.

# Proud moments



**Hedgerow planting in Elms Park with 21st Century Thame (March)**



**Our Celebrating Neurodiversity in Clubs evening (April)**



**Easter Messy Play (April)**



**Thame Market community plant stall (May)**

**102 more families engaged with us during 2025**



**The Opendoorz race night raised £2700**



**Teddy Bears Picnic at Cuttlebrook Hall care home (June)**



**Thame Carnival (June)**



**Neurodiversity Day at Renboga (July)**



**Thame Market Community Day (Aug)**



**Planting trees with Red Kite families at Her Land (Nov)**



**Sensory Explorers outing to see Dick Whittington in Oxford (Dec)**

# Thank you

Running Red Kite Family Centre is not without its challenges. Rising costs have affected us as well as our community, resulting over the last two years in a funding shortfall of £30k per year. We will not be able to sustain this shortfall beyond the next financial year.

We are very grateful for the generous support of our community, not just in financial terms but pro bono help and volunteering. Local businesses, community fundraising and regular individual donations currently provide 35% of our income but we need to raise more. Whatever the size of the donation, it all adds up and is always gratefully received.

We know our community will continue to support us and we are committed to continuing to provide a place of sanctuary for our families.



**Do you run (or work for) a local business that would like to support us?**  
Become a regular **Business Angel**. £20 per month supports one of our families.

**Are you an individual who would like to donate regularly?** We are always looking for more **'Friends of Red Kite'**!

**Do you have some spare time or be happy to share your skills?** How about becoming a **volunteer**?

**Are you a gardener with any spare seedlings or plants?** Join in with our fundraising plant sale!

**Would you like to help us to organise fundraising events?** We would love to hear from you!

Please contact us at

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[Instagram](#) • [Facebook](#)

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