

Oxfordshire Breastfeeding Support: Reserves Policy 2020/21

OBS will review the level of reserves held, both restricted and unrestricted, at each Trustee meeting. The charity relies on donations from individuals, grants and fundraising to fund the majority of its charitable activities. The nature of these income streams are that funds are not certain to be received and are not evenly spread throughout the year. As future income from donations is uncertain and would be affected by the wider economic conditions then holding reserves allows the charity time to plan the best way to reduce services or investigate other sources of funding. The charity has been awarded some long term grant funding, most notably £114k over 4 years from the National Lottery. This has meant that the charity feels more confident in holding a reduced level of reserves compared to the prior years and use this money to invest in the sessions that aren't funded by the grants.

At present the drop in sessions are held online, however as the transition is made back to face to face then extra costs may be incurred and the Trustees believe it is reasonable to hold cash reserves to enable rental payments to be made. Also with operating conditions likely to be uncertain for the foreseeable future the Trustees believe that it is prudent to hold enough reserves to provide a buffer for any emergency expenses, as well as to ensure that funds are available in a timely manner to continue to expand our level and nature of service provision.

The charity is now holding an increasing number of sessions a week, and in order to assist in the planning of future service levels and to enable giving notice to both service users and facilitators of any reductions in service levels because of lack of funds, the Trustees consider it reasonable to hold around 9 months of expenditure in reserve. Unrestricted reserves at the end of the year were £47k which represents about 8 months of expenditure, along with an additional £17k of deferred grant income which has been earmarked for future activities.