

Oxfordshire Breastfeeding Support

Reserves policy

OBS will review the level of reserves held, both restricted and unrestricted, at each Trustee meeting.

The charity relies on donations from individuals 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 wider economic conditions, holding reserves allows the charity time to plan the best way to reduce services or investigate other sources of funding.

The charity is working towards securing more sustainable grant funding and in order to focus on making these applications it is considered prudent to hold funds in reserve so that the charity can continue to operate if fundraising activities reduce.

At present the drop in sessions are held at free venues, however if any of these locations were unavailable or circumstances changed then the Trustees believe it is reasonable to ensure enough cash reserves are held to enable weekly rental payments to be made.

The charity aims to run 4 drop in sessions a week (rising to 5 in 2019/2020) and in order to assist in planning of future services levels and to enable giving notice to both service users and facilitators of reductions in service levels because of a lack of funds, the Trustees consider it reasonable to hold between 9 and 12 month's expenditure in reserve.

£5,000 of the reserves held at 31/03/2019 are to be used to fund an additional session per week, on a trial basis, in a new location.

Unrestricted reserves held at the end of the year were £47,024 (2018: £41,797). Annual expenditure for 19/20 is forecast to be £46,000 so the reserves level is line with the policy.

Date of policy: June 2019

Date for review: June 2020