



## **OBS Reserves Policy 2023/24**

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 is 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, holding reserves allows the charity time to plan the best way to reduce services or investigate other sources of funding.

The charity operates a mixture of face to face booked breastfeeding groups alongside one to one and group online support. The trustees believe it is reasonable to hold enough reserves to enable the organisation to transition towards a larger proportion of face to face sessions compared with online operations. The charity continues to move from a self-employed contractor organisation to employing staff. The trustees believe that it is prudent to hold enough reserves to provide a buffer for any unexpected employment costs, emergency expenses or potential redundancy costs, as well as to ensure that funds are available in a timely manner to continue to maintain our levels and nature of service provision.

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 between 6 and 9 months of expenditure in reserve.

Unrestricted reserves at the end of the year were £51,787 which represents nearly nine months of expenditure.