

"The best feeling of skater hockey is the feeling of making a nice save, to made my adrenalin rush, the socialising and joking around with my team makes me feel accepted"



"Without the Community Chest I wouldn't have been able to go on my course"



"The Children's Panel made me feel happy, important and proud"



"Tom's self confidence and enjoyment have soared. The Community Chest has made a huge difference to Tom"



"I felt really proud and special knowing the award came from other children and young people"



"Community Chest is great I wouldn't change a thing"



"She's won an award we helped her achieve something and she's more healthy doing gym with muscobs"

"I keep choosing teams because they've done it as a team and achieved together and got friends from it"

"It shows they have engaged themselves, that's all and they are enjoying school"

"I like Superman too"

"I choose this one because he'd put the effort in and its showing us what it is actually like doing the roller hookey and writing to us as well"

"It's pokeman and it's like an adventure around, I like adventures and adventuring around, it's a letter so you can see how it's explained"

"I think she's learning how to play music and she might get a job at it when she's older"

"Because we gave them money so they can do it and they have come far"

"I think he looks good in his picture and he's learning from the beginners to go on for as long as he wants. I did Karate and I liked it too"

"I thought it showed us how well he is doing at football and making friends as well"

"I like the way it shows he is pushing I think but he's in his full kit and training that we have provided for him"

"It's like fun and I've always wanted to do horse riding, it shows how much fun it is once you get given the money"

"Because everybody likes being different things and how you can have fun being different"

"He looks professional and it a well done picture of how he spent the photo. He looks like he's in a proper football match. They've got skill in them"

"This picture shows that it's important to see that even when you are different it doesn't really make a difference for having fun and enjoying yourself"

"Good to play music because you can entertain people and they will love it and it is just fun"

"It's good to learn chess because it is a strategy game and then you can think of a good strategies when you are in trouble"

"Because I like adventuring and wandering"

## Foreword

This report is loud and clear; the Community Chest is a great project funded by Oxfordshire Children's Fund. It opens doors into play and leisure activities for "award winners" giving children and young people their right to play through a "chest of dreams". Children and young people aged 5-13 manage the project and make all the decisions about funding and they have been central in writing this report too. No wonder the Community Chest Project is an award winning example of participation and citizenship! Over the 5 years of its existence it has funded over 1,700 awards to children and young people to do things they want to do and more than 200 children and young people have been members of the decision-making Panels.

Members of the Great Golden Reporters Production Team who took centre stage in the making of this report said to me:

*we help children who need money for activities — sports, music, clubs and playschemes. It is fun and exciting to be able to make decisions and write the cheques. The Community Chest is helping children do what they want — like going out to Scouts or Karate or learning to swim. We are trusting people with money, helping children with money matters and making people happy. When you first start you have 3 weeks of training and at the end of the children's panel there's a big trip — don't forget you're spending money*

In March 2008 the government grant that funds the Community Chest will come to an end. We hope this report will help us all to find ways to ensure it keeps going!



Louise Chapman  
Oxfordshire County Councillor with responsibility for Children, Young People and Families



# Welcome and Introduction



## Hello and welcome. We are the Great Golden Reporters.

We are the group who have worked together as a team and have produced this report. You will know by the report what goes on in the Community Chest project.

This report is about carrying on the Community Chest and that it is important that children and young people to have fun, like activities and stuff - After School Club, dancing, trampolining and swimming. Not just sitting down doing nothing watching telly all day and to have a good job, lots of friends and not be lonely. It's good to socialise, you can meet up and make friends with different people.

How can a bird fly when it is locked up in a cage? Meaning to say how can you have fun when your parents haven't got the money? The Community Chest takes you to happiness.

It's been exciting and fun helping doing the report and meeting Zoë B and Zoë E from the Children's Fund Team.

We hope you can read the report. We are sure you will agree and will carry on the Community Chest please.

Thanks.



# Would you like to read more about the Community Chest?

## Children's Rights

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children and young people have a Right to be with friends and join clubs (Article 15) and the Right to play and relax (Article 31). The Community Chest has provided over 1,700 awards for children and young people (C&YP) in Oxfordshire to fulfill these Rights over the last four years.

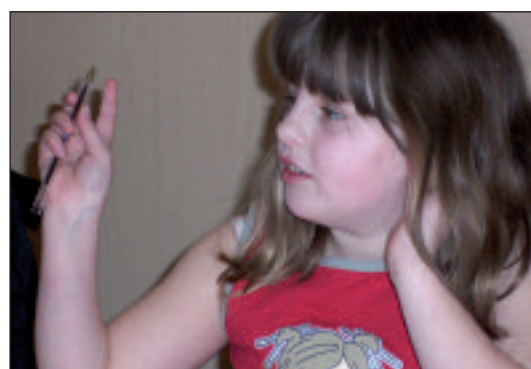
Article 12 (the Right to an opinion and for it to be taken seriously) and Article 13 (the Right to find out things and say what you think) have also been met through this project because children and young people hold the responsibility for making all the decisions about who gets an award and how much they get.



Community chest is where children 5 — 13 TO come and discuss about other people's activities after school that have not got enough money for the activity. The Community Chest decide if they should get the money or not we have fun and we have jobs and we get to be in charge of the meetings. And we really have fun.

BY Jael

from Fantastic Crew, Children's Panel at Blackbird Leys



## Overview of the Community Chest

The Community Chest is £50k a year for 5 – 13 year olds in Oxfordshire; it's for paying fees, equipment or transport costs for any out of school play or leisure activity for C&YP who would otherwise be unable to do these things. The scheme only exists in Oxfordshire. Trained children and young people are on panels taking on jobs: Chair Person, Accountant, Reporter, Artist in Residence and Food Dude. Panels are entirely participatory with no adult influence; panel members discuss and decide on all applications.

It is a really special project bringing to life some of the Rights in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The £50k finishes in March 2008 when Oxfordshire Children's Fund (money from government to help children aged 5 – 13 years and their families) stops.



# If you'd like to know the facts and figures

## Please read here

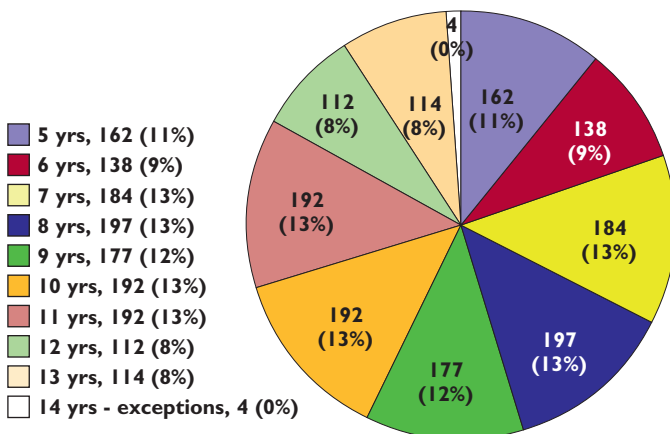
From October 2003 to June 2007 the Community Chest has made 1,727 awards. The average award is £100.

In the period covered by this report (Oct 2003 – Dec 06) just over a third (32%) of all applicants have made repeated applications – coming back once a year for second or sometimes third applications. This shows there is a continuing need amongst some of Oxfordshire's children and young people for support to access play and leisure activities. The longevity of the Community Chest provides continuing access and supports the development of children and young people. There is a year on year increase of awards made. 42% of award winners are female and 58% are male. 84% of

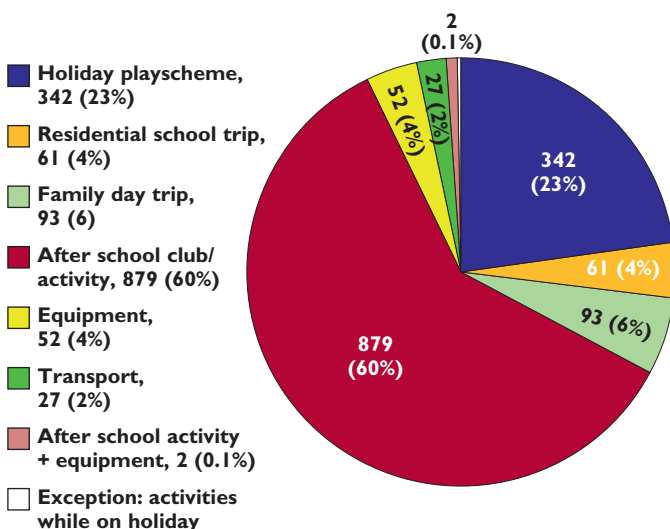
award winners give their heritage as White British and 16% another ethnic background. OCF actively targeted children and young people from minority ethnic groups, and achieved a reach of 16% compared to 13% for the whole population of Oxfordshire.

To date a total of 214 children and young people have been Community Chest panel members.

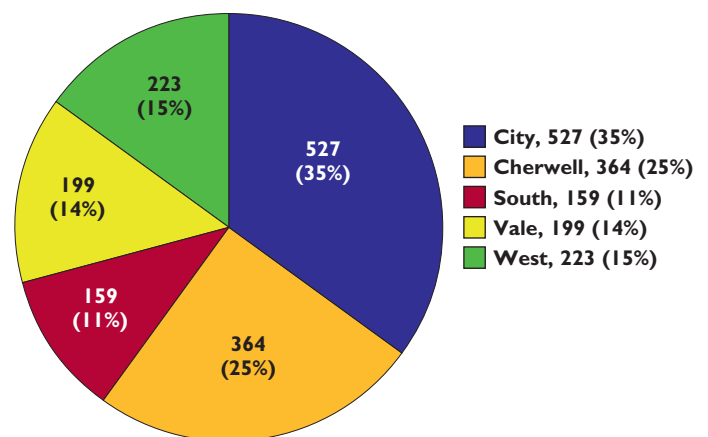
### Award winner ages



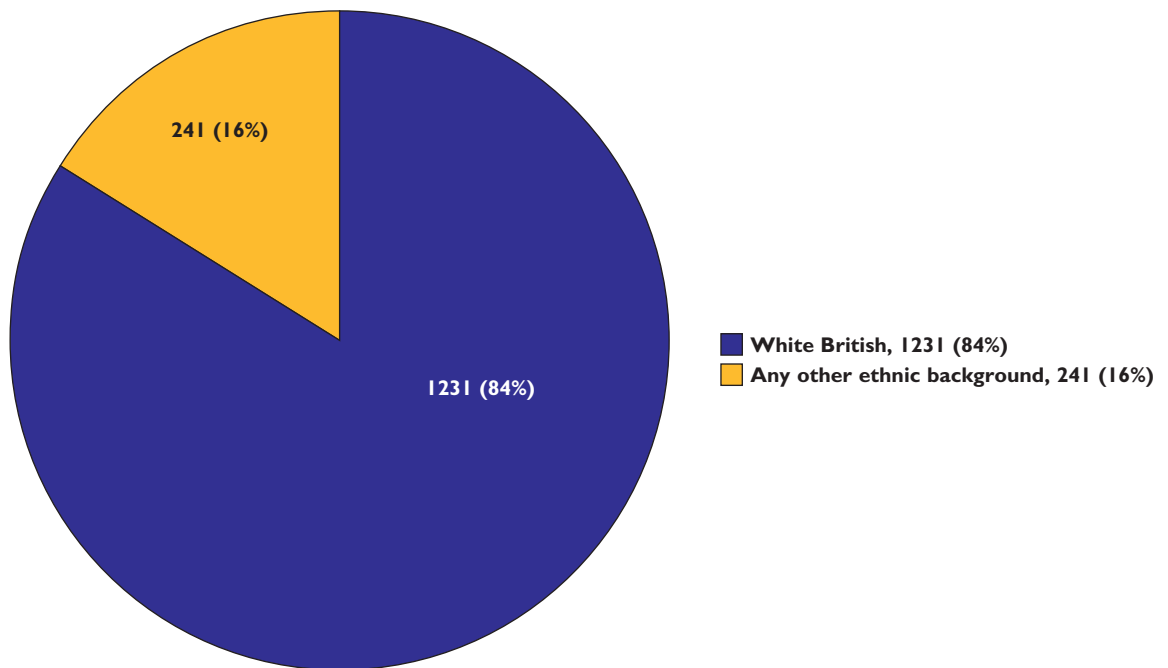
### Activity types



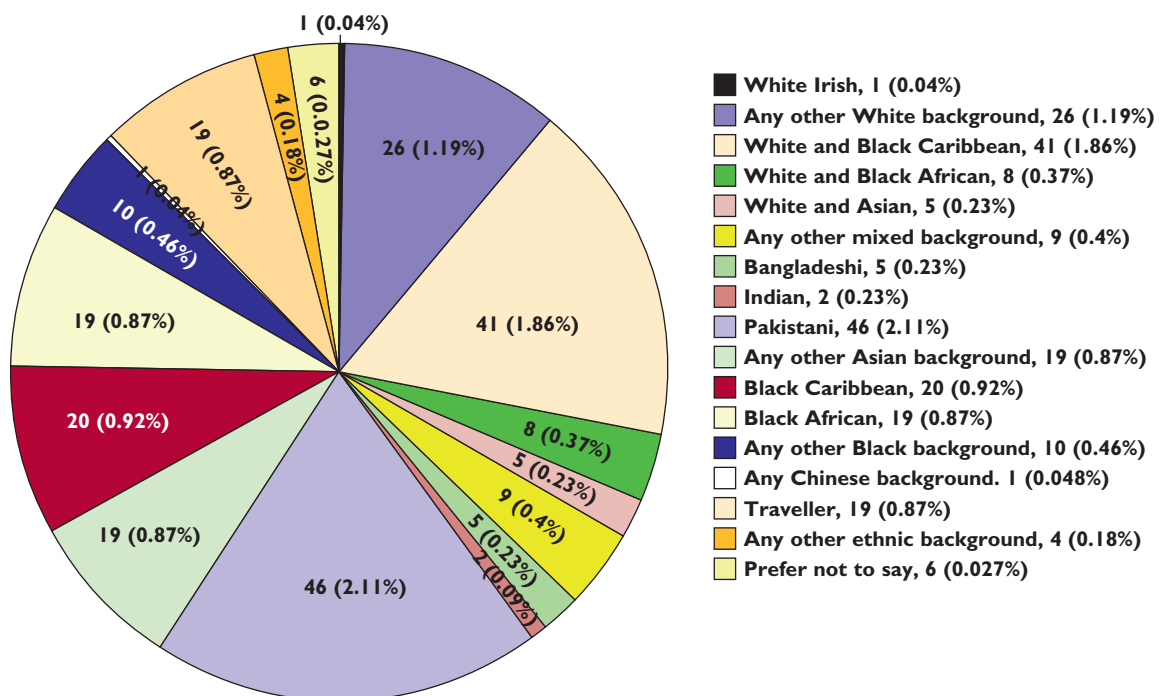
### Area distribution of funding and award winners



## Ethnicity of award winners – White British



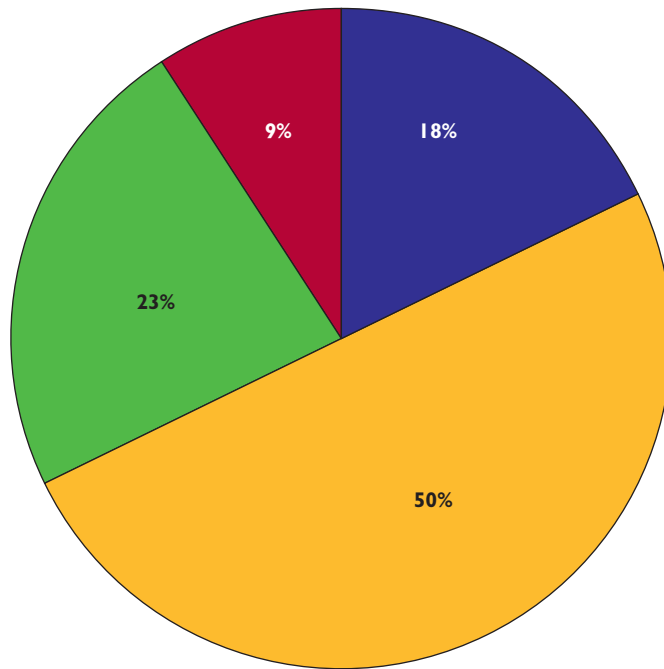
## Ethnicity of award winners – all other backgrounds



Community Chest Panel has been very important to me. It has been great for me I hope the next 10 children will enjoy it as much as I have

Francesca, aged 8

## Additional needs among award winners

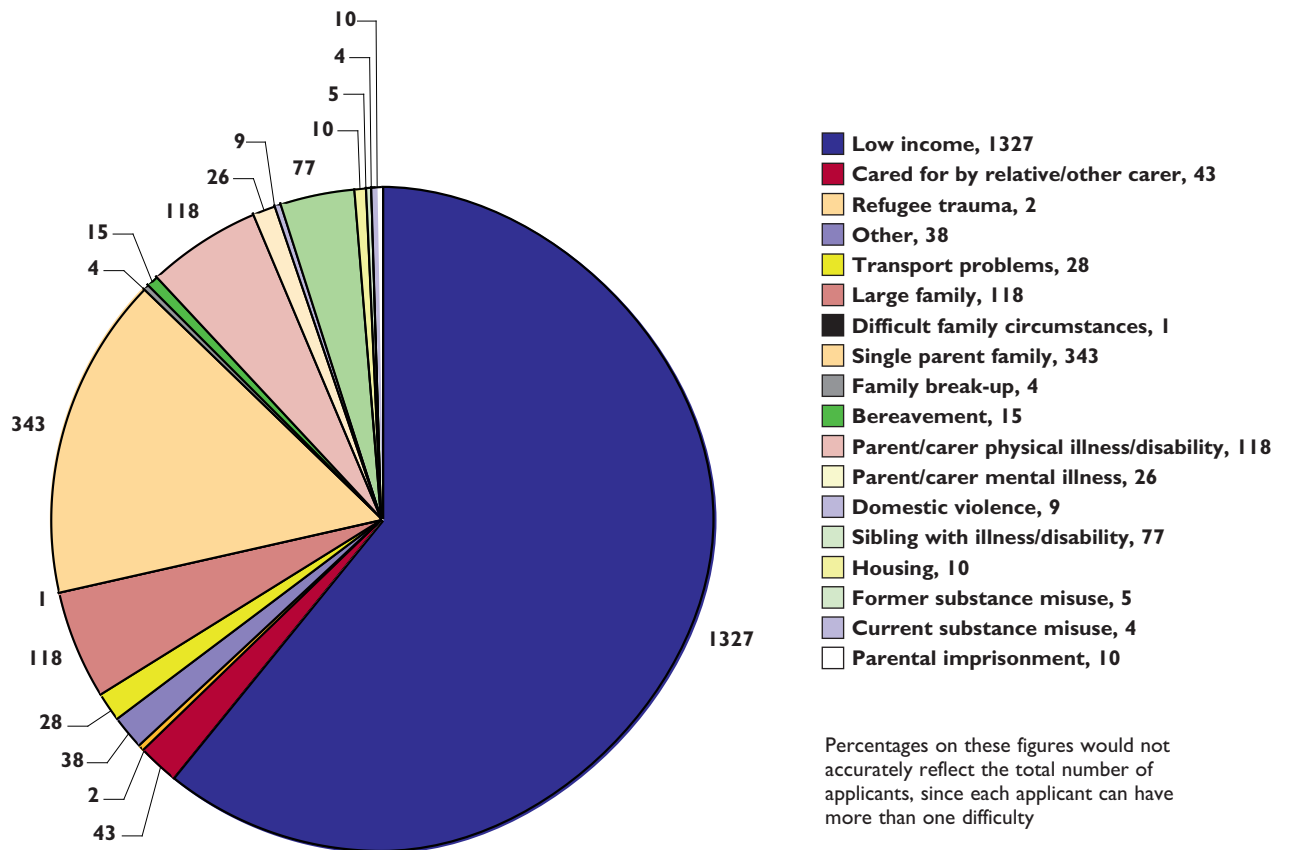


### Needs:

29% of a total 1,472 award winners said they had additional needs. This chart shows the proportions of that 29% with different combinations of

- Disability (18%)
- Extra help in school (50%)
- Disability + extra help in school (23%)
- Emotional/behavioural (9%)

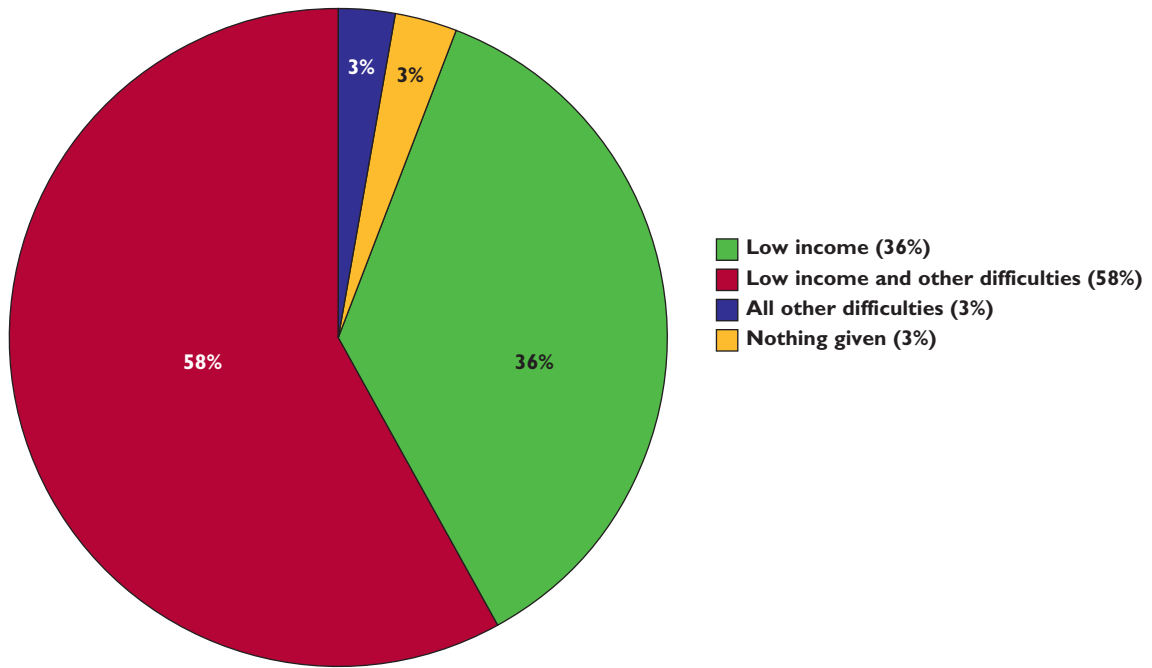
## Frequency of difficulties from 1,472 award winners



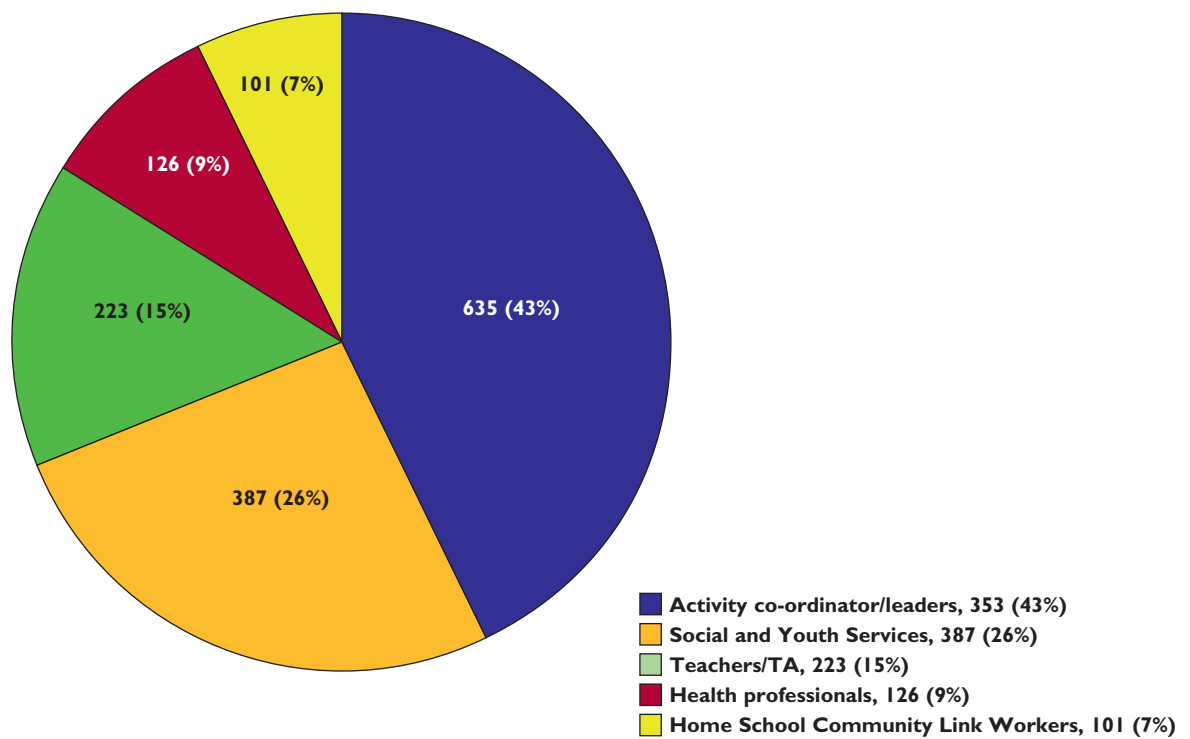
Percentages on these figures would not accurately reflect the total number of applicants, since each applicant can have more than one difficulty



## Proportion of award winners on low income



## Sponsor status



childrens

Panel

is

GREAT

!!!





# Impact Questionnaire on Children's Panels - summary of findings

The Impact Questionnaire (published February 2007) highlights how C&YP thrive on the responsibility and status conferred as a result of making significant decisions as members of the Panels or other Oxfordshire Children's Fund (OCF) Participation Projects. Panels and Projects enable C&YP to enjoy feeling a sense of importance, achievement and recognition as a valued and respected person making a positive contribution to their community.

C&YP have developed practical, social and emotional skills and new and transferable knowledge. This learning is sometimes reflected in changing attitudes. The survey suggests that involving C&YP in decision making develops their motivation and skills in a range of areas in their lives. It also develops a sense of self-efficacy, which appears to act as a strong reinforcer of positive preventative factors and emotional resilience. Parents and carers comments confirm these findings.

The impact questionnaire was posted to all 149 children and young people who worked on the Community Chest Project then moved on to be Young Xperts on other Participation Projects with OCF during Sept 2003 to Sept 2006. Parents and carers were asked for the impact of the child's participation in decision-making. 91 (43 boys and 48 girls) and 72 parents and carers responded to this survey – a response rate of 60%.

The findings are summarised below under 6 key headings:

**Getting involved and joining in:** 67% of C&YP said being involved with the OCF had made a big difference to them in terms of wanting to help others.

**Speaking up and speaking out:** 74% of C&YP felt an increase in their ability to speak out if they thought something was wrong; 69% of parents and carers said that working with the OCF had made an improvement in their child's mental and emotional health.

**School:** 65% of C&YP said being involved in decision making has made a big difference in their ability to concentrate and learn more in school.

**Friends and friendship:** 67% of C&YP said it made a big difference to their confidence in speaking to other children and making friends.

**Empowered and aware:** 74% of C&YP said working on the Children's Panels has made them think their views can change things.

## Knowledge and understanding

The five top things C&YP thought they had learnt from working with the OCF were:

1. How to make decisions with a group (top)
2. I know I have a right to an opinion
3. How to run a meeting and work as part of a team
4. How to make good decisions for myself
5. Now I understand the value of money more.





## What has being on a Community Chest Children’s Panel meant for you?

We, the Great Golden Reporters Production Team for the Community Chest Report, selected these quotes from dozens of comments from children and young people who have been on a Community Chest Panel.

Red = quotes from community panel members

Green = what we think.

### “I learnt to speak up in front of others”



“This was our top quote, it shows first they were shy and now they are communicating and they got more fun and to socialise and people can go mental if they don’t socialise”

### “Being able to make a difference to other people’s lives”

### “Getting involved and now I can trust myself to run a meeting and train adults, I am involved in a lot of things, the adults were supportive and now I can hold a meeting, so you don’t know how thankful I am”



“These quote show us feelings and how they improved, they have changed and they are doing other stuff”





## Parents and carers say what being on a panel has meant for their child

And these are some quotes we liked from parents and carers.

**“Her self confidence has grown and she feel that she can be more opinionated within group discussions at school and it has helped her blossom into a beautiful flower”**

**“It made her feel that children can make a difference which is not something she had felt before. She rose to the challenge and expects to be heard which has been good to help her conquer crippling shyness”**

**“My son goes out more with a bit more confidence, mentally he thinks things through more and talks, he’s not afraid to put his opinion forward now, the Community Chest gave him more confidence to try other things, he sticks at things for longer and will try harder it has made a difference at home and school”**



*“We thought these quotes were very good and were well written out and explained how the kids are doing and how the panel has helped”.*





## Lifestyle changes before and after Panel

Here we are thinking about how being on a Community Chest Panel has helped us enjoy and achieve.

**“Before the Children’s Panel I would be playing on the play station, watch telly, go out, do nothing now working out things, doing my homework, learning to understand, spending more time playing”**

**“I do similar activities except now I am a mentor at school”**

**“Before I did children’s panel I hang out with friends causing trouble, now making friends, helping other people, ice skating, going to school”**



*“I found reading about the before and after interesting. Sometimes they are not busy doing things and the Children’s Panel make them active and doing a better life and more knowledgeable”*

Turn the page to read about  
Community Chest Award Winners



**Award Winner**



I have just got my yellow belt.  
I passed my grading with a distinction.  
Everyone is so proud of me and I am very happy.  
  
Thankyou very much for the money.

**Parent/Carer Comment**

I am so very grateful for the help you have given. Charlie loves every minute of karate & he has been very quick to learn. If he continues to progress at this rate he should get his black belt in 3 years. He is so very happy it's a joy to watch. Thank you. Thank you\*

**Sponsor Comment**

The best thing about Charlie; he's good, he's trying, he's sweating, he's giving his 100%. His attendance has been fantastic he's made full use of the funding. Charlie is a sporty boy and he shouldn't been allowed not into Karate because he can't afford it.

His Mum has gone out of her way to get him to training and he's used every penny. He genuinely wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Community Chest money.

He's made good progression, he's now ready for his next grade – his brown belt, if Community Chest keeps going he could be going to nationals next year.

I found it hard myself as a youngster; I wish Community Chest had been there when I was little.

*Phil Patrick, Karate Teacher*



Award Winner



"Community Chest helped me go to playscheme. I was so excited I didn't want to miss anything, I wanted to come early before anything started. The colouring was boring but I really enjoyed playing with the sand. I feel the Children's Panel are doing a brilliant job."

Parent/Carer Comment

Being a single-parent, I was delighted when I heard that Humza was a CC Award-winner. I could not have afforded a play-scheme of a similar quality myself and I hope that similar such schemes continue to be funded, as it they help parents such as myself, and children such as Humza.

Humza benefited greatly from the scheme, he enjoyed it deeply and still talks of it today.

Sponsor Comment

Humza and his Mum, they live by themselves. The playscheme is an opportunity for him to come out and play with other children. I'm remembering he loves outdoor activity, where he lives there isn't a big garden.

Zainab is very outgoing girl she needed something to get out of the house. She's from a large family so she enjoyed coming to the playscheme and trying out all the activities indoor and outdoors – she loved making and doing things like jewellery. To meet children from backgrounds different from there's and different from those she sees at school and to mix and play with them, that was good.

Without the playscheme the parents would have been...well it would have been crowded and more arguments. At playscheme it gave them their time to plan and think about what next to do.

Playscheme makes the difference for not just for the children but the rest of the family.

Prem Kalia



**Award Winner**



This is me up on the Moar with my friends that were in my group, we were having lots of fun and that day we worked 3-6 miles up on the moor.

It helped for an activity week at Tenworthy, Devon with my school.

it was ALL FAB.

**Parent/Carer Comment**

As a single mum with 3 children it is impossible to afford any type of holidays with them, so when this opportunity came for Natasha it seemed impossible too. But thanks to all of you she did go, had a fantastic time and has had a most memorable experience.

**Sponsor Comment**

“Just a big thank you. Natasha was a ‘Star’ all week and as all the class attended it was great for Natasha to have Community Chest support. It has improved friendships because of having to be in a team. Natasha did not want to do the high activities like rock climbing. She did these because her friends encouraged her.”



This is me on the ropes course on the first day already I was having fun and it was just on the first few hours at Tenworthy.



## Award Winner



The Community Chest helped me to go on bike rides with my brothers and making sure I don't fall off. Olivia's mum says "Olivia cannot tell us herself, but her reaction says it all. Olivia was very happy, smiling and laughing on her bike rides."

## Parent/Carer Comment

A big thank you for buying a back rest and stabilizers for Olivia. She now can join in riding her bike with her brothers. She has been trying to pedal and she now feels safe that she isn't going to fall off.  
Thank you.

## Sponsor Comment

"Olivia is able to join in riding her bike with her brothers and is made to feel like everyone else."



## Award Winner



happy good 4 my MUM ~~the~~ because  
abit cos I dot no u x Septed Me  
Just wanna say thanks to them lol  
I feel happy 😊  
I feel happy abing football and I wanna  
get gone doing it

## Parent/Carer Comment

I feel as a single mum, it has helped  
to help my son, to follow his dreams.

## Sponsor Comment

"I am writing to you on behalf of Florence Park U13s Football Team for supporting Obee. This money will help him and his mother greatly by allowing Obee the freedom to play football for my team without worrying about how he is to meet the costs associated with the sport."



Thank you for reading our report and hope you will listen and make the Community Chest carry on. Can you read our poem? Hope you will appreciate it - thanks again.

Community chest is the BEST!!!  
Options and decision for people,  
More children having fun,  
More happenings for us all,  
Unusual things make us who we are.  
Noones sad because of us,  
I have fun on the pannel,  
time passes but we have fun,  
years by year childrens dreams come true.

Community chest is the best for us all,  
Having fun gets you friends,  
Everyones got feelings so DON'T say bad,  
Successful children have changed these ~~time~~ <sup>m</sup>  
~~THE~~ TREASURE THIS FOR EVER.

By Tanva + Hafsa + Tanzela



## Great Golden Reporters - a final word

I hope you can read the report and I am sure you will agree and will you carry on the Community Chest Please. Thanks. xxx



The Face of Happiness.

Humaad  
Tamoor

Tanzela  
Jamil  
Syrah

Asyraf

Sophie  
Tanya

Adam  
H. Min





*“some being hand written shows we have put effort in. It shows that we’ve done it and it’s our work and an adult hasn’t done it for us and shows how we feel about it”*

Children and young people can worry about spelling and this can stop them expressing themselves. We think children and young people’s work is complete as it is. We have decided to leave children and young people’s work uncorrected.

Zoe Elford  
Participation  
Project Manager  
Oxfordshire Children’s  
Fund  
Harlow Centre  
Raymund Road  
Oxford OX3 0SW  
(01865) 256681  
zoe.elford@  
oxfordshire.gov.uk





Community

West

can't

STOP

!!!

We

Protest!!!

