

We do not have the facility to edit pdfs, so I have reproduced the form in outline using Word and completed below.

| Details of Organisation |  |   |
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| 1.                      | Name of Organisation and any company charity number          | The Oaks Childcare Clubs Community Interest Company<br>Known as "The Oaks" or "The Oaks CIC" or "The Oaks Group"<br><b>Company registered in England and Wales 09816358</b>   |
| 2.                      | Purpose of organisation                                      | The Oaks is a Community Interest Company providing high-quality, affordable childcare in village locations, on/near school premises. We offer fun, safe, child-led play and, in our younger age groups, we offer Early Years learning, preparing young children for school entry. We operate wraparound (breakfast and after school) clubs, holiday clubs and a preschool and serve over 300 families in 5 villages – Mortimer, Burghfield, Silchester, Aldermaston and Pamber End. You can read more about us on <a href="#">our website</a> and <a href="#">facebook</a> pages.   |
| 3.                      | Contact Name<br>Position in Organisation                     |   |
| 4.                      | Address  | The Oaks Office<br>2a Bramley House<br>Butlers Land Farm<br>Mortimer<br>RG7 2AG   |
| 5.                      | Telephone Number<br>Email                                    |   |
| 6.                      | Bank account name, sort code and account number              | Account Name: Oaks Childcare Clubs CIC  |
| Details of Project      |  |   |
| 7.                      | Name of Project  | Oaks Community Fund   |
| 8.                      | Brief Overview – what are you looking to provide (100 words) | <b>The Oaks Community Fund offers free or low-cost childcare for disadvantaged or low- income families, refugees, looked after/previously looked after children and other children in need.</b> The fund was launched in 2022 as a response to the struggles faced by keyworkers, carers, staff, schools, children, local and refugee families. As the cost of living crisis hits families, on top of the after effects of the pandemic, we know that we have some of the tools to support the social development and inclusion of children at this key time in their lives.<br><br>The fund was seeded with funding from National Grid ESO (Electricity System Operator) and launched in summer 2022 with spaces at our holiday club in Mortimer available |

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|     |   | from August, and term-time wraparound care available from September across several schools.  |
| 9.  | Please describe in full your business case including: set up costs, revenue costs | <p>There are no set up costs for the Oaks Community Fund. The Oaks office team administer the fund at no additional cost and offer a free or discounted fee rate to ensure that the fund supports as many families as possible for as long as possible.</p> <p>Eligibility for funds is assessed by school head teachers who provide regular referrals where they feel this would be beneficial for the family. We have good three-way communication between us, the school, and the family to ensure children are well supported and cared for through their time with us. Headteachers, not The Oaks, recommend children/families based on financial eligibility criteria so that there is independent governance of this fund.</p>  |
| 10. | Any supplementary evidence you feel is appropriate (max 500 words)                | <p>The Oaks was started 20 years ago in Mortimer. We have evolved from one club run by volunteer parents to a Community Interest Company running a preschool and 9 clubs in 5 villages with over 400 children being looked after by a friendly, professional, and caring team of around 40 staff. We have worked hard to maintain the character and secure the future of the clubs as a community asset offering flexible employment to many local people, as well as vital affordable childcare options for families and fun for the children. We use local services and suppliers wherever possible, including running a breakfast club from the Stratfield Mortimer Community Centre, also a CIC, and the preschool runs from the Burghfield St Mary's Parish Centre. All the wraparound and holiday clubs rent premises from local schools, providing essential and reliable income. Schools benefit from having a reliable wraparound care provision as this is highly valued by parents looking to be part of our community.</p> <p>We are aware how much children benefit socially and developmentally from child-led play opportunities at an early age. See, for example, this findings of this report funded by the Nuffield Foundation: "<a href="#">The value of after school clubs for disadvantaged children</a>".</p> <p>The Oaks Community Fund is a new initiative which was launched in 2022 in response to the pandemic. The pandemic was financially very challenging for us as an</p> |

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|     |  | <p>organisation, and we are aware had a great impact on many of our families, particularly those who were disadvantaged or on low-incomes, who we had always supported in some ways. It gave us the chance though to solidify this ‘community support’ offering that we had always made, with the implementation of some structure and criteria so that we could promote this to the five schools we serve, where we know there was a need. While we launched the fund in response to the pandemic, and to express our community ethos, we were able to respond quickly also to the effects of the Ukrainian war, offering care to incoming children and employment/training for working-age staff members.</p>  |
| 11. | <p>Please describe the community benefit and levels of support for your proposal with evidence</p> | <p>As a CIC, we were founded to offer community benefit. We founded the CIC in 2015 in response to the then-committee members wishing to leave - the voluntary nature of key roles had become too onerous, and compliance legislation also too demanding of professional expertise to be handled on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>As a successful and well-run childcare provider with a good reputation, we were extremely attractive to many private providers of childcare who were keen to ‘take us over’ but also expressed their own personal ambitions to profit from The Oaks – in one case to retire to Australia!</p> <p>During this process, we came to feel very strongly that The Oaks was a community asset and the benefit should be shared locally and to discuss what that meant in term of governance and personal commitment.</p> <p>After many conversations and research, we relaunched The Oaks as a Community Interest Company, run by a Board of Directors, to protect the non-profit status and our commitment to serving and supporting the local community.</p> <p>Reliable, affordable wraparound/ holiday care is a huge support for families who need to work, or need respite from the demands of family life. Children return home stimulated, having enjoyed a range of physical and creative activities as well as having a chance to socialise outside of the school timetable and with children of different ages.</p> |

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|                      |   | <p>We know from children returning to us as young adults that their positive experiences of our clubs have lasting importance in their young lives. We know from parent surveys and feedback that we are a lifeline to allow working and family life to co-exist, to allow parents to attend interviews or training that would support them in their working life, and to care for other family members.</p> <p>As well as providing childcare and employment, we offer volunteering opportunities for local people including Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Year 10 Work Experience and opportunities for those on the adoption/fostering pathway. We are long-enough established in the village now to have had children who have been cared for by us during their primary school life, done their Duke of Edinburgh volunteering experience with us, and are now with us as staff!</p> <p>We have excellent Ofsted feedback and in the recent (2022) parent survey, satisfaction scores were extremely high with all parents giving us a satisfaction score of <b>8, 9 or 10</b> out of 10 and an average of <b>9.4</b>.</p> |
| 12.                  | What is the anticipated start date?   | The fund is already operational and receiving referrals and funding local children to attend our wraparound care and holiday clubs. We have a flier and application form describing the fund and how to apply which will be attached alongside this application   |
| <b>Grant Request</b> |   |   |
| 13.                  | What is the total cost of the project   | No cost to run  |
| 14.                  | How much are you applying for?  | £1,500  |
| 15.                  | If the grant is for revenue costs, please give details of how this will be funded in the future   | Now that the fund is launched, we will continue to seek opportunities to add to it, such as this one. We also surveyed our parents in 2022 and based on the results, plan to offer a top-up in monthly invoices, so that small amounts from willing families may be allocated to the Oaks Community Fund.   |
| 16.                  | Please give details of the funds available from the organisation's own resources for this project | The Oaks office team administer the fund at no additional cost and offer a free or discounted fee rate (as recommended by the referring headteacher) to ensure that the fund supports as many families as possible for as long as possible.   |
| 17.                  | Please give details of funding available from other sources for this                              | No other funding currently applied for, but we will approach The Good Exchange as part of our fundraising initiatives.  |

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|                    | <p>project including match funding where the payment of any successful Community Grant needs to be made via a funding platform i.e. The Good Exchange</p>   |  |
| 18.                | <p>Please supply the additional information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The financial balance of your organisation (copy of bank statement)</li> </ul> <p>As our bank balance is sensitive and confidential information, we will be able to send this if you confirm are considering to accept our application, and can clarify how this information will be handled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A copy of the accounts for the last financial year, or if a newly formed organisation, then a copy of the budget and business plan</li> <br/> <li>• Current constitution or rules as appropriate</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>Declaration</b> |   |  |
|                    | <p>I confirm that I am making this application on behalf of the organisation names. I undertake on behalf of the organisation that any financial assistance offered will only be used for the purpose for which it has been granted, unless otherwise agreed and I agree to the Conditions of Funding.</p> <p>I understand that any false declaration or information may disqualify any further application.</p>  |  |
|                    | Name of authorised personnel:   |  |
|                    | Signed:   |  |
|                    | Date:   | 14 February 2023                         |
|                    | For and on behalf of (state organisation)   | The Oaks Club Community Interest Company |