



Oxford Parent-Infant Project Newsletter

October 2024

Welcome from Helen Callaghan and Dr Karen Bateson, Joint CEO

Dear Friends,

After 27 years with OXPIP, having started the clinical work at The Leys with our founder Sue Gerhardt, this will be my last newsletter as I am retiring. I want to thank you all, the wonderful staff at OXPIP, the Trustees, the amazing families that we have worked with over the years and those who fund our work, the private philanthropists and the Trusts and National Lottery. I am particularly grateful to Rob Kenny, our Chair of Trustees and Dr Jo Chapman who has been Deputy Clinical Director throughout this time. It has been a privilege to be CEO and Clinical Director; we have achieved so much and we are recognised as one of the leading training providers of Parent-Infant Therapy not only nationally but worldwide.

I leave OXPIP excited and hopeful for its future under the leadership of Dr Karen Bateson, who will now be stepping up as Sole CEO, and our new Head of Clinical Services, whom we are currently recruiting - please see details on p3. This work will continue to flourish; it is literally life-saving for clients.

Thank you all,
Helen Callaghan

On behalf of all the staff, I want to express our deepest thanks to Helen for her 27 years' service for OXPIP. She leaves an incredible legacy and has left the organisation in rosy health. There are some exciting plans in development so I'll look forward to updating you all about those in the New Year!

Best wishes,
Dr Karen Bateson



"After a traumatic birth with our first child, I was very anxious during my second pregnancy, but OXPIP helped me look forward to this next little person, enjoy him once he arrived, and give him the nurturance he needs. I grew up being controlled and judged, and my husband grew up rather neglected, and neither of us experienced parents who were concerned about our feelings, so our therapist has helped us to think through how to do things differently with our children...and helped my husband and me to understand each other better and communicate more effectively. Our toddler is very sad to say goodbye to our therapist. She hasn't learnt to say many people's names yet, but hers is one of them, as she is so lovely and kind to her, and she enjoys the sessions!"
- OXPIP Client

In this newsletter:

- Happy Retirement, Helen!
- Could you be our new Head of Clinical Services?
- Read our Annual Report
- Last chance to apply for our Advanced Parent-Infant Practitioner Training

Happy Retirement, Helen!

We had a wonderful celebration to wish Helen Callaghan a happy retirement and celebrate the lasting impact she has made during her time at OXPIP. The event was attended by current and previous staff members, freelancers and trustees, as well as Sue Gerhardt our Patron. Speeches were given that acknowledged Helen's personal warmth, charisma, outstanding work ethic and containment that she has brought to the team over the years. Helen gave a speech herself sharing the history of OXPIP and thanking all those who she has worked with along the way, including all the families. We enjoyed a delicious feast and impressive cake. All the best Helen - you will be sorely missed!



The original four: Anne Burns, Helen Callaghan, Sue Gerhardt & Joanna Tucker



The team now (most of)!



Helen has worked tirelessly with OXPIP since inception to improve the lives of babies and families in Oxfordshire. Helen has asked that instead of retirement gifts, **we honour her legacy by donating to OXPIP - if you wish to, please do so via the link below.** Any money donated to this appeal will ensure that the work of OXPIP continues to be available to all families in Oxfordshire. Thank you for your donation!

[Donate now >>](#)

We're recruiting!

Could you be our Head of Clinical Services?

**Work
with us!**

An exciting opportunity has arisen to become **Head of Clinical Services** to lead our highly-regarded therapy, consultation and supervision activities.

Our ideal candidate is an experienced parent-infant psychotherapist or practitioner psychologist who is passionate about supporting relationships between babies and their carers, and who can lead our well-established team of parent-infant psychotherapists delivering high-quality clinical work.

This post has specific responsibility for the recruitment, management and leadership of clinical staff, the quality of clinical delivery and development of parent-infant clinical services, informed by psychodynamic/psychoanalytic parent-infant therapy. There may also be opportunity to be involved in our highly-regarded national training delivery.

Please visit our website via the link below to download the job description and application form.

Closing Date: 9am Monday 4th November

Interviews: 8th November, am

Salary: £62, 251 pro-rata (22.5 hours)

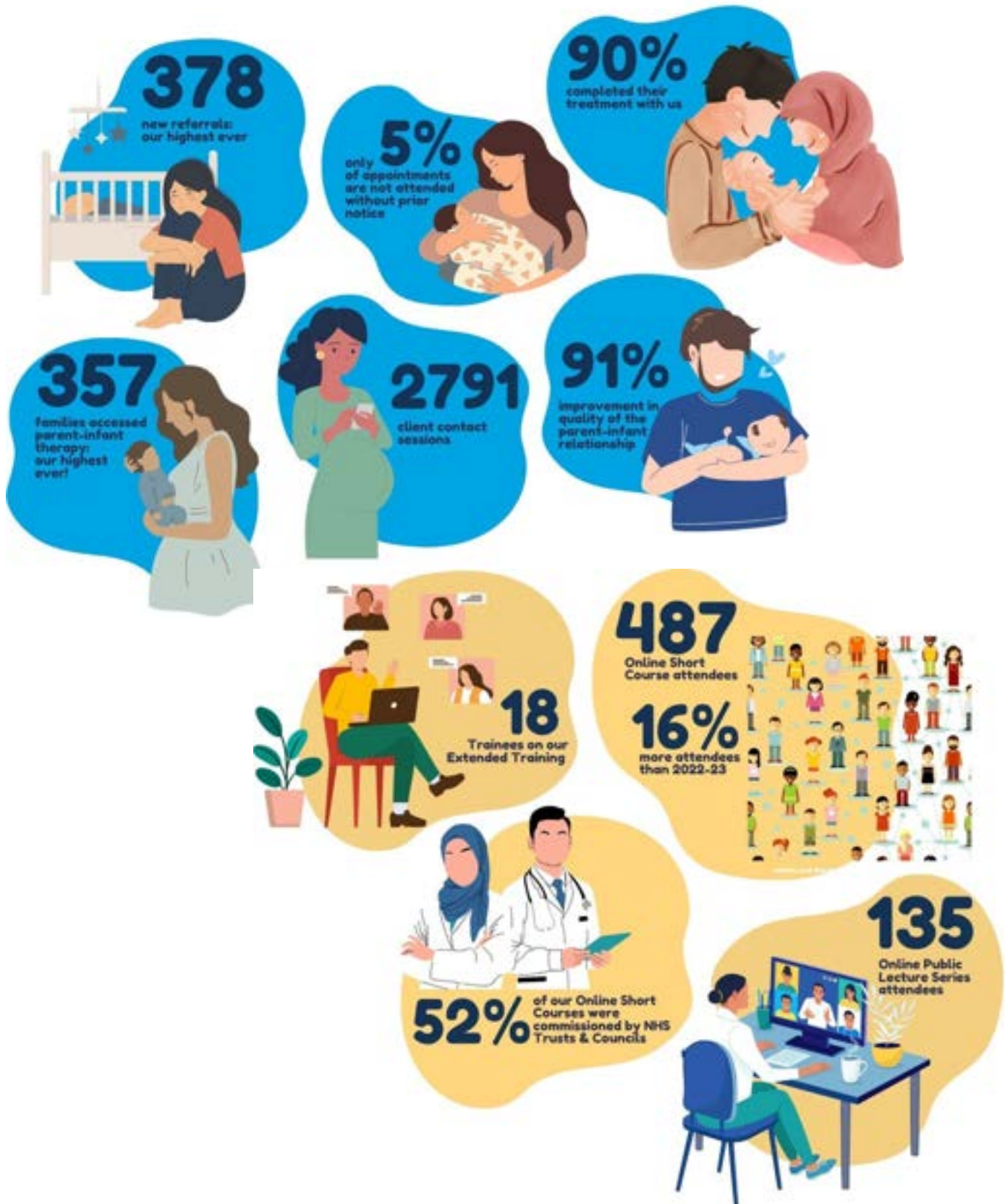
Please share this information around your networks.

[Find out more >>](#)

Annual Report 2023 - 2024

Our latest Annual Report has now been published!

Below is a snapshot of some of infographics included in the report:



[Read now >>](#)

Oxford Parent-Infant Project and New Chamber Opera present: Salieri's 'The School for Jealousy' (1778)



We are pleased to announce that once again OXPIP is inviting guests to attend a performance by the New Chamber Opera on **Tuesday 8th July 2025**, in the Warden's Garden, New College, Oxford.

New Chamber Opera presents: Antonio Salieri's 'The School of Jealousy' (1778)

La scuola de' gelosi is an operatic dramma giocoso by Antonio Salieri. The plot involves love intrigues, attempted seductions and provocations to jealousy between members of the three different social strata: the aristocracy, the bourgeoisie and the working class. The role of the Lieutenant is a close parallel to that of Don Alfonso in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*.

Tickets cost £50, including a pre-performance glass of wine - *please note price increase!*
50% of the cost of the tickets booked through OXPIP go directly to OXPIP.

18.00: Drinks in the Cloisters

18.30: Opera Act I

19.45: Picnic Interval in the Cloisters (approximately 75 minutes)

21.00: Opera Acts II and III

22.00: Curtain

As always, this will be a **delightful evening** as well as a significant fundraiser for OXPIP and we are extremely grateful to NCO for continuing to support us through this annual event.

Some of our guests this year felt it was the 'best opera ever' so we are looking forward to next year!

[Book now >>](#)

Clinical Work Update

After the summer break referrals are now flooding in. We are still aiming to see people **antenatally** particularly where there has been past trauma of fear of birth as soon as possible. Our **waiting list is currently 4-6 weeks**, and we continue to offer consultation to referrers about cases. With the investment in training from one of our kind donors, we have been able to **grow the OXPIP team**. We are also pleased to now have a permanent OXPIP room, in **Britannia House in Banbury** as part of the Banbury Project.

"My OXPIP Therapist and I have spent time in a safe space discussing my thoughts, feelings and emotions whilst also considering those of my husband and two children. We have discussed my past and present in depth and I have learnt so much. Me and my youngest daughter have had quality time to bond after a very difficult start, and we have learnt how to live with my own childhood trauma. My therapist has helped us to repair our relationship and I feel we are stronger than I could have ever hoped for. It has felt safe, warm and kind every step of the way, and I am so so very appreciative for the support I have received and as a result how my whole family has been looked after. Most helpful has been my therapist's knowledge base and experience, and the "voice" of reason that she has helped me to develop to get me through my next chapter. Thank you, so very much!" - OXPIP Client

Fundraising Update



We are delighted to have been awarded £70k for the next 3 years from the **Henry Smith Charity** to support our work across the county. We were one of the final grantees in the **Henry Smith Improving Lives and Strengthening Communities** grant programme, which had been inundated with applications following their announcement that it would close in July this year. Their money will fund a range of OXPIP work with families and makes a huge contribution to our sustainable income. We were also delighted to receive £15k from the **Well Together Programme**, funded by Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West ICB, to fund our therapist at the Carousel Centre in Abingdon. The Well Together grant recognises community and voluntary organisations who support good health and development in various local communities.

However, there is always more to do and to that end, we will be participating in the **Big Give Christmas Challenge** during the week of 3-8 December. During that week, we are aiming to raise £2000 in online donations, which will then – brilliantly – be matched by the Big Give's donors, effectively **doubling every online donation** to us during that week. Please see the next page for more details.

After a break of nearly 7 years, we are bringing back the **OXPIP Quiz Night on Friday 28th March 2025**. The evening promises to be very special, hosted at Keble College in their events rooms with expansive views across their quad and gardens. Guests will be able to bring their own picnic suppers and drinks. Do look out for tickets in the New Year.

Your donation, double the impact

The Oxford Parent-Infant Project's Christmas Campaign 2024



We need you to be part of our online match funding campaign!

When: 3rd - 10th December

Where: Online

What: We need your donations to match a starting pot, meaning we could raise an impressive amount of money!

Why: All monies raised by OXPIP will go towards the work of our '*Help parents and babies at a critical moment*' campaign, enabling us to improve parent-infant relationships across Oxfordshire, through specialist parent-infant therapeutic support.

How: More details to follow but please save the date.

Thank you!



Apply now for our Advanced Parent-Infant Practitioner Training

Our Advanced Parent-Infant Practitioner Training is for experienced practitioners who are currently working with parents and babies from conception to 2 years, and are looking to enhance their understanding of parent-infant relationships. It is suitable for a range of professionals, including social workers, midwives, health visitors and mental health practitioners.

The training will provide an overview of parent-infant relationships and infant development drawing on psychoanalytic theory, attachment and neuroscience, and theories of intersubjectivity. The training will include attendance at all our short courses, a range of teaching seminars, and group supervision. There will be opportunities to present cases for discussion and for trainees to develop their own reflective practice.

Cost: £3,950 plus application and interview fees
Application deadline: 1st November 2024 at 5pm
Interviews: 22nd November 2024
Course Begins: March 2025

[Find out more and apply now >>](#)

Parent-Infant Relationship Training Survey 2024



If you are a practitioner working directly with families, please complete our Parent-Infant Relationship Training survey, to help us understand future training needs.

We are offering everyone who does so to receive **50% off our interactive webinar** (details below). Once you have submitted your responses, you will receive your discount code.

Thank you for your input!

[Complete the survey >>](#)

Online Interactive Webinar



**OXPIP ONLINE INTERACTIVE WEBINAR:
KATIE BAILEY, SENIOR PARENT-INFANT THERAPIST**

'Building Relationships in the Antenatal Period - a collaborative model of care for the vulnerable, expectant parent and unborn baby, to promote the parent-infant relationship'

Tuesday 3rd December 2024, 12-2.30pm, via Zoom

[Find out more >>](#)

We'd like to hear from you!

We are keen to know what you, our supporters, **are interested to read about** in our Newsletters, and especially **what you have enjoyed reading.**

If you have **any suggestions for new topics** you would like to see us include, please email info@oxpip.org.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you!



About Us

The **Oxford Parent-Infant Project (OXPIP)** works with **families from conception to two years** with **issues that may impact on their relationship** with their baby. We offer **intensive therapeutic support** to parents and infants in and around Oxfordshire. This **parent-infant psychotherapy**, a form of early intervention, considers the emotional health of the infant as well as that of the parent.

We work with parents and infants together to **boost parental confidence** and help the parents **understand the needs of the baby**. We also offer **training and consultancy to professionals** on attachment theory and infant mental health, and work with others locally and nationally to **promote the importance of very early intervention within policy and practice**. Our Parent-Infant Therapy is offered **free of charge**, so we **welcome any donations to help us continue our work**.



Oxford Parent-Infant Project
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