



Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire

Registered charity 1186548

Working in Partnership:



Report to Witney Town Council

From: Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire

Subject: Impact of 2024 Grant Funding – Trauma Training Courses

Date: 29th October 2025

Introduction

Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire would like to express our sincere gratitude to **Witney Town Council** for their generous grant in **2024** towards **trauma training courses** for our volunteer team. This funding has had a deeply meaningful and lasting impact on the wellbeing and resilience of our members, enabling them to continue providing vital search and rescue support to the people of Oxfordshire and beyond.

Team Growth and Increased Operational Demand

Over the past 12 months, our team has **expanded by approximately one quarter**, reflecting both the growing demand for our services and the commitment of local volunteers to supporting their communities.

2024 was also **the busiest year on record** for Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire, with **emergency call-outs rising by one third** compared with our previous average. This significant increase was largely driven by the **extreme wet weather and widespread flooding** experienced across the county.

The Importance of Trauma Training

All our searches aim to bring closure and comfort to families by locating their loved ones. However, despite our best efforts, **many of the individuals we find are sadly deceased**. These experiences can have a profound emotional impact on our volunteers, who dedicate countless hours to assisting in often difficult and distressing circumstances.

The **trauma training funded by Witney Town Council** has equipped our team members with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to recognise and manage the emotional and psychological effects of their work. It has also established a strong internal support network, enabling those affected to **seek advice, talk openly, and access appropriate help when needed**.

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Lasting Impact

The benefits of this training are both **immeasurable and invaluable**. By supporting the mental health and resilience of our volunteers, the grant has ensured that our team can continue to respond effectively to emergencies while safeguarding their own wellbeing. This investment has strengthened not only individual members but also the cohesion, stability, and sustainability of our organisation.

Conclusion

We are deeply grateful to Witney Town Council for recognising the importance of this aspect of our work. Your support has had a genuine and lasting impact on the people behind the rescues—the volunteers who give their time, skills, and compassion to serve our community in its most difficult moments.

Kind regards,

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