



# Adventure For All

## Mid Year Event - 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### **IOL Update**

Jo Barnett

Our Members have a shared vision of Outdoor Learning as a highly valued form of development, education and employment in UK society

## Golden Thread:

To ensure sustainability (financial, planetary and organisational) runs through all we do.

### Championing Outdoor Learning



#### Voice

The Institute for Outdoor Learning is the professional body for organisations and individuals who use the outdoors to make a positive difference to others.



#### Community



The Institute for Outdoor Learning welcomes individuals and organisations from across outdoor learning to connect and develop.



#### Workforce

Members have a shared vision of Outdoor Learning as a highly valued form of development, education and employment.



organis quality



- Trustees
- Quarterly meetings one of which is face-to-face.
- AGM

Charity Governance

Priorities, Coordination & Delivery

- CEO
- IOL Staff Team
- Contracted Staff

- Round Table
- Quarterly on-line meetings of leads of Community Groups

Sector Wide Representation

Institute for Outdoor Learning





# Impact Report

Governance

Institute for Outdoor Learning

# Impact Report: 23/24

## Highlights Governance


ACTIVITY	DETAIL	IMPACT	
Investment in a new membership platform: <b>Ready Membership</b>	Secure and efficient access for IOL members to integrated services including events, networking, website and account management.	The IOL is able to respond to members needs more effectively and now has the capability to manage growth in new members and markets	

MEMBERSHIP  
SNAPSHOT

**788**  
Individual members

**497**  
Organisational members

**17,250**  
Outdoor sector reach of the Institute via a 2024 corporate membership Survey

Members Webinars & Events	<b>68</b> Events scheduled with <b>1526</b> delegates in the last twelve months.	A <b>23%</b> increase in webinar bookings and non-member registrations for events	
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Our average monthly churn rate for Organisational membership is <b>0.9%</b> , the lowest ever		The Round Table meets quarterly with <b>22</b> community group representatives invited.
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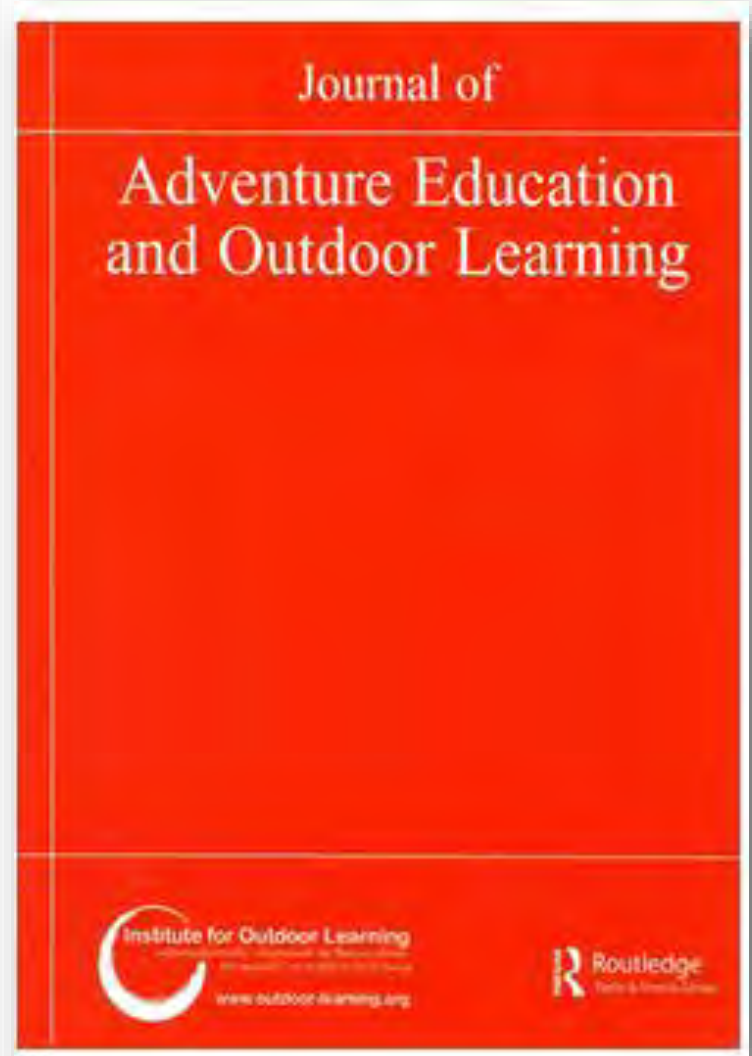
“ In 2023 our members asked us to return to a printed Horizons magazine ”

“ Each quarter we post 1,376 printed copies of Horizons in 100% compostable wrapping ”

201,000 articles downloaded in 2024, an increase of 68% from 2021



Delivery of 71,172 IOL and Outdoor Sector update newsletters to inboxes over last 12 months







## [Have your say: help make nature a regular part of every child's education Survey](#)

We are calling for the government to introduce a  
**Nature Premium**  
to guarantee regular time in nature for  
ALL children and young people,  
with additional funding and support for those who need it most.

We urgently need a Nature Premium to help our children  
**Grow Up Greener.**



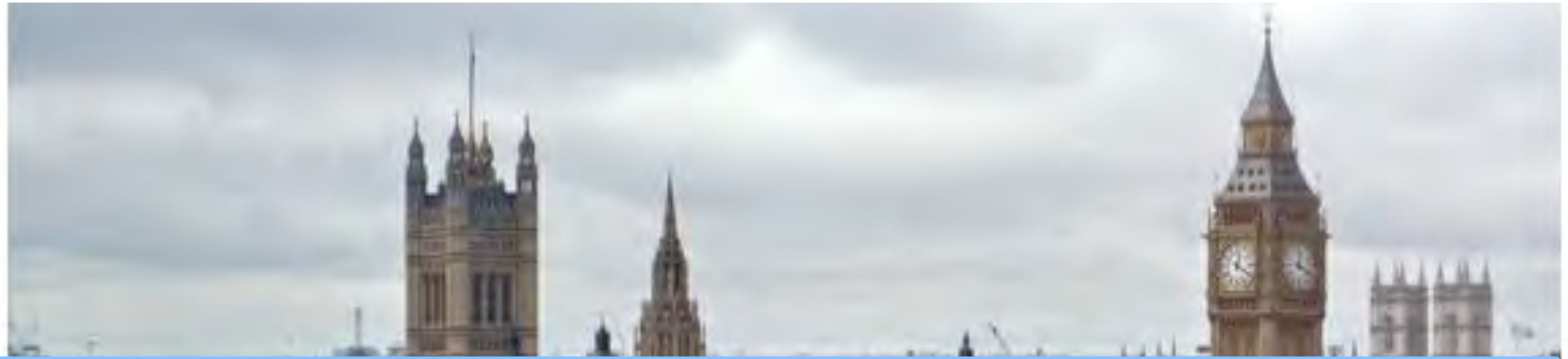
### **Access to Nature Green Paper**

#### **IOI invited to attend the working party Education, Empowerment and Skills session**

This green paper is a key stepping stone towards building a more strategic approach for Access to Nature and to deliver the Government's Manifesto commitment to 'improving responsible access to nature'.

To enable this, the Defra Secretary of State **has re-affirmed the government's ambition that everyone should live within 15 minutes' walk of a green or blue space** and has agreed four themes for the green paper:

**Healthy People. Local and Connected Places. Safe and Welcoming Places.  
Education, Empowerment and Skills.**



# New All Party Parliamentary Group for Outdoor Learning

**A new APPG for Outdoor Learning was launched on the 6th May.**

Not only that but it has also proved to be the catalyst for a number of other conversations inside the walls of the UK Parliament involving the words "Outdoor Learning". Very exciting! More about those in the weeks to come. In the meantime, you might want to have a look at this approved statement regarding the APPG for Outdoor Learning.

**APPG for Education 'Has the Love of Learning been lost?'**

**Call for Evidence and attendance at Round Table at Westminster on 21<sup>st</sup> May and report out 15<sup>th</sup> July.**

A big thank you has to go to Andy Robinson who a quick turnaround to respond to this call for evidence from the All Party Parliamentary Group for Education, and to Dr Dave Harvey for supporting with the formal submission and to Dr Dave Harvey and Dan Playford for attending the Round Table.

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## Community

‘A community of practice is a group of individuals who share a common interest or profession, collaborating to share knowledge, improve skills, and achieve common goals.’

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### Adventure for All



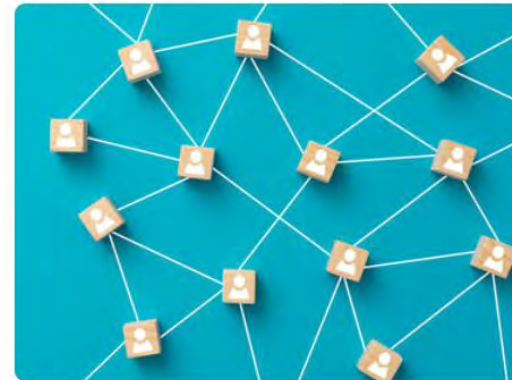
#### About Us

Find out more about the IOL Adventure for All group



#### Member's Area

Here you will find key information, resources and discussions



#### Events & Networking

Book here for courses, conferences and events listed through the IOL

Adventure for All" with IOL. The main aim of this field. The main aim and best practice is

to meet the personal needs as well as the needs of the Specialist Group's members for representation or lobbying

## Adventure for All

## Institute for Outdoor Learning





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Home > News, Events & Projects > IOL Events > IOL Adventure for All Conference 2025 - SAVE THE DATE!

IOL AFA Conference

## IOL Adventure for All Conference 2025 - SAVE THE DATE!

Tickets will be available later. More information soon. Watch this space.

28 – 30 November 2025 + Add to calendar

Old Hutton, Kendal, Cumbria

Bendrigg Trust

## My Community Groups

Join the IOL Geographical Area and Sector Specialist Groups that are important to you.

Type to search



13 groups available

Active filters:

Specialist x

### Group Type

☐ Geographical Area

☒ Specialist

Join group

### Adventure for All

Members (46) Discussions (3)

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Accrediting CPD, training or educational courses designed for Outdoor Learning professionals.

A quality mark for resources that can support effective outdoor learning.



## Bushcraft Competency Awards

[Bushcraft \(outdoor-learning.org\)](http://bushcraft.outdoor-learning.org)

\*(L2 / SCQF L5) Skills

\*(L3 / SCQF L7) Award (5 units) Certificate (8 units)

Diploma (16 units)



[National Outdoor Learning Award \(outdoor-learning.org\)](http://nationaloutdoorlearningaward.org)

The National Outdoor Learning Award scheme (NOLA) recognises and captures the personal development outcomes of participants during a residential or regular outdoor learning experience.

**FREE!**

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# Standards

**Early Years  
Professional pack  
age launched  
Autumn 24**



## RPIOL

Registered Practitioners of the Institute for Outdoor Learning plan, prepare and lead safe and engaging outdoor learning sessions to achieve intended outcomes.

[IOL Awards and Accreditation  
\(outdoor-learning.org\)](https://outdoor-learning.org)

**Review planned to  
link with L5  
Outdoor Learning  
Specialist  
Apprenticeship**



## APIOL

Accredited Practitioners of the Institute for Outdoor Learning (APIOL) have a passion for outdoor learning and have experience planning, leading and evaluating programmes for individuals and groups. The APIOL Award recognises the holistic skills and knowledge of professionals who deliver outdoor learning programmes.

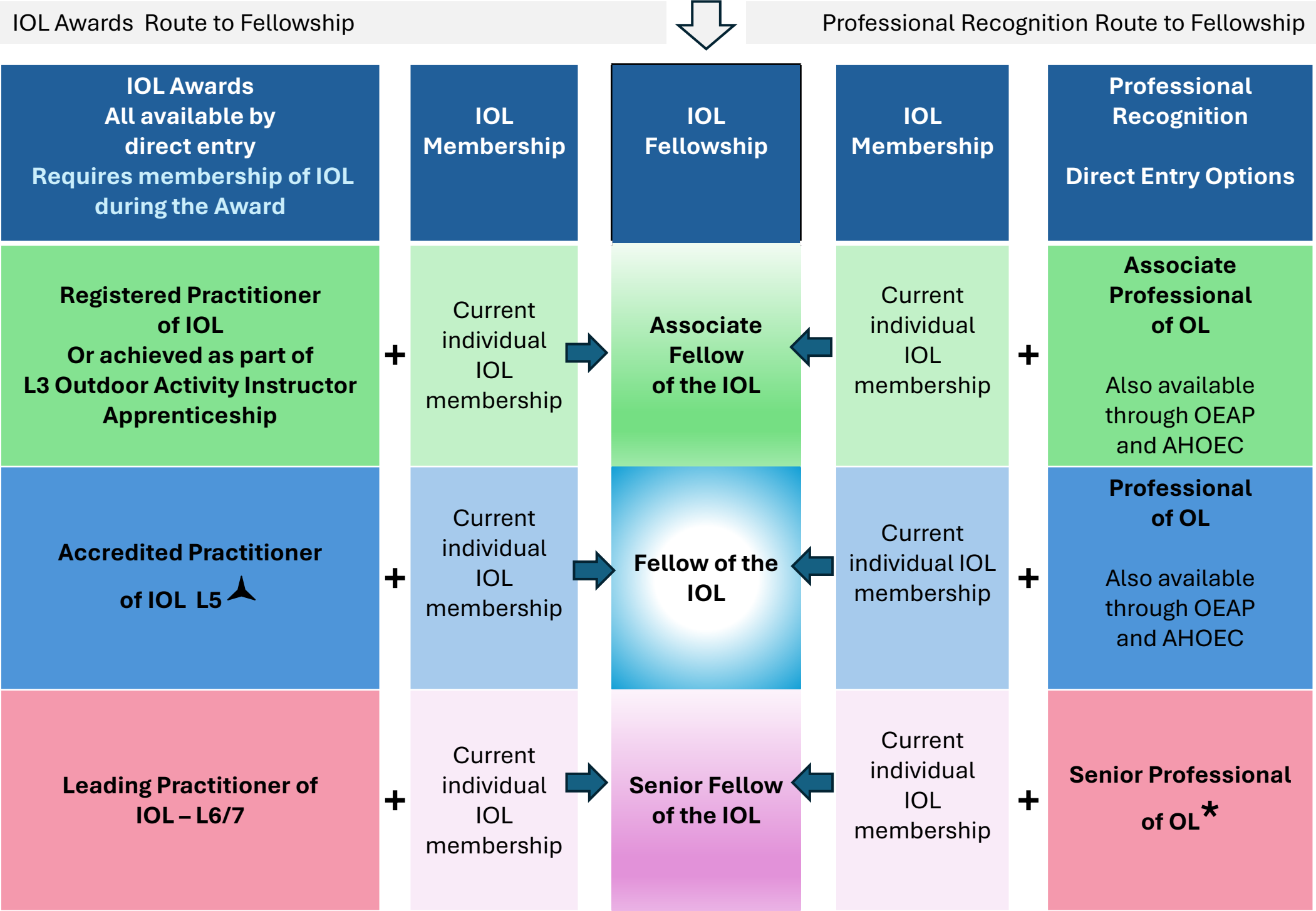
**Direct entry  
now available**



## LPIOL

Leading Practitioners of the Institute for Outdoor Learning (LPIOL) are champions of outdoor learning and have a depth of experience and evidence of influencing the wider sector beyond their workplace or specialist interest area.

# Fellowship, Awards and Professional Recognition



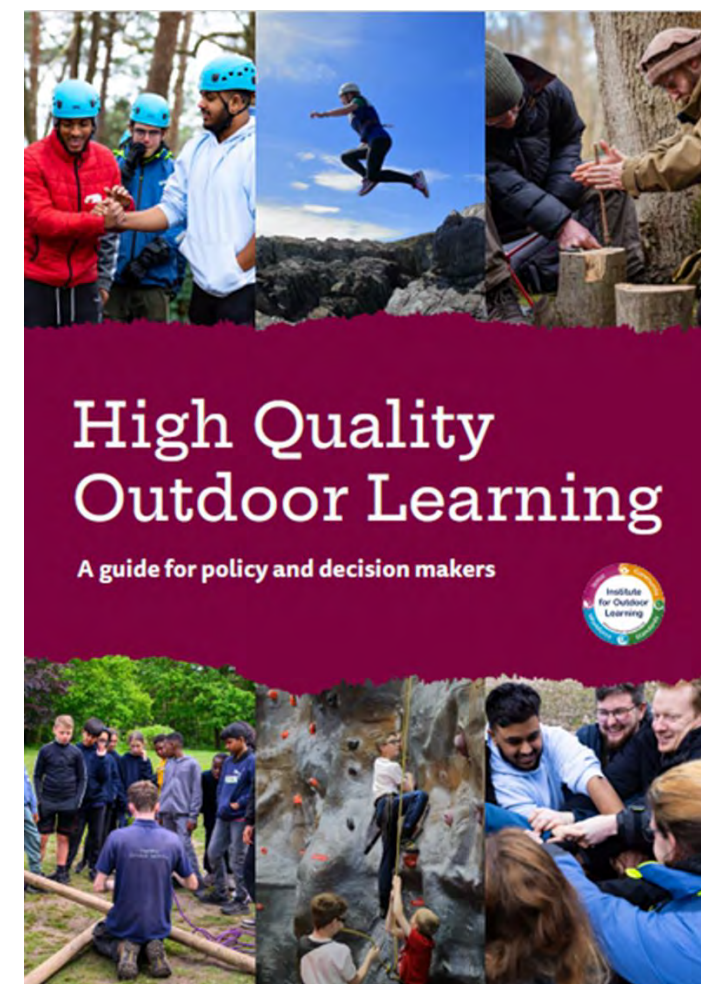
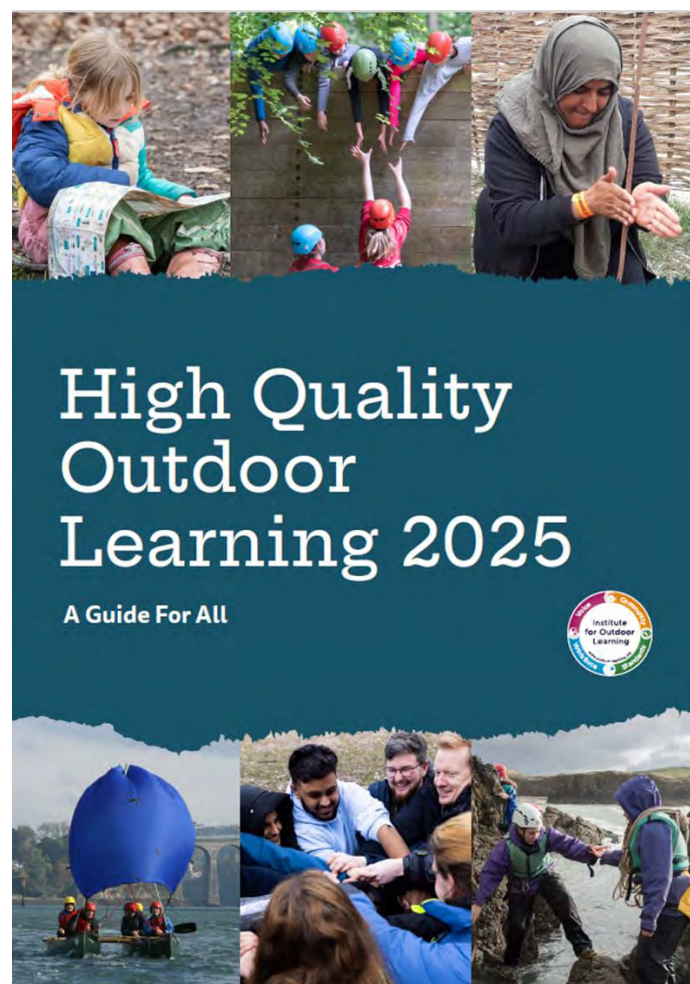
**Key actions 22025**

Map L5 Outdoor Learning Specialist to APIOL.  
Identify route to being achieved with the L5 apprenticeship

\* Development of the direct entry to Senior Professional which is the equivalent or above the LPIOL standard.



# High Quality Outdoor Learning



Buy a printed copy of High Quality Outdoor Learning Now!

Finally you have the opportunity to hold High Quality Outdoor Learning in your hand! Buy a printed copy now.

[Shop](#)

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# HIGH QUALITY OUTDOOR LEARNING 2025



## Author

Dr Dave Harvey led the HQOL 2025 project. He runs his own consultancy, training and research business - [daveharveyoutdoorlearning.co.uk/](http://daveharveyoutdoorlearning.co.uk/)

## Background

High Quality Outdoor Learning (HQOL) was first published by the English Outdoor Council in 2015, updating the earlier High Quality Outdoor Education (HQOE) from 2005. HQOL expanded on the traditional emphasis on outdoor pursuits, adopting a broader, more inclusive approach aligned with contemporary thinking (1). The guide referenced supporting documents and academic research, focusing on outcomes to provide a benchmarking framework for practitioners and organisations.

The 2015 version retained the original ten outcomes from HQOE, derived from practice rather than academic research. Later studies confirmed these outcomes could be achieved through various outdoor learning (OL) approaches, demonstrating their ongoing relevance. Since publication, HQOL 2015 has been widely adopted within the sector, including translations into Welsh and Chinese.

With growing awareness of outdoor learning's benefits and a robust evidence base, this revision ensures relevance and connection to current practices and agendas.

## Scope and development

Building on HQOL (2015), HQOL 2025 expands its scope significantly by integrating a quality model that encompasses structures, practice and outcomes. Whereas the original document focused on children and young people, HQOL 2025 recognises outdoor learning as a lifelong endeavour, also including recreational contexts. The updated guide reflects the growing role of outdoor learning in the health and care sectors, accommodating adult participation as well as young people's.

HQOL 2025 is aimed at practitioners, providers, decision-makers, and non-specialists. As well as the full guide, IOL have also published a separate guide for policy and decision makers. IOL members will also be able to access each individual section as separate documents.

HQOL 2025 brings together research, standards and practitioner experience from the UK and further afield. Successive drafts underwent extensive review by the IOL's Trustees and the LPIOL community of practice, their contributions helping to shape content and ensure its relevance and currency.

## Content

The guide consists of two main parts. The first part sets out the societal context for outdoor learning and the potential benefits, supported by extensive research references. This section is also available as a separate document aimed specifically at policy and decision-makers. The second part focuses on the structures, practice and outcomes associated with high quality outdoor learning (2).

- **Structures:** These encompass physical and organisational features critical to effective practice and achieving outcomes.
- **Practice:** This covers programme delivery and activities that practitioners can influence. Core elements include safety management, inclusion, relationships, environmental awareness and sustainability, intended outcomes and continuity of learning.
- **Outcomes:** These are the results of outdoor learning experiences. They may be defined by participants, providers, funders, or emerge naturally from the process. Outcomes might reflect specific group characteristics, such as teamwork, or align with organisational frameworks.

The guide is not a prescriptive manual. Providers and practitioners can use the descriptions of high-quality practice and reflective questions as a basis for self-evaluation and improvement. It also informs external observers, helping articulate good practices that may otherwise be implicit. The guide combines global research and practice with a UK perspective and while it outlines common good practices, the diversity of outdoor learning settings and approaches means that quality must be interpreted in context.

## Conclusion

HQOL 2025 is more than an update, it offers a holistic perspective on high-quality outdoor learning, blending good practice with research. By addressing structures, practice and outcomes, the guide highlights how outdoor learning contributes to societal challenges faced by all age groups.

If you are interested in a hard copy of High Quality Outdoor Learning 2025 please email us at [institute@outdoor-learning.org](mailto:institute@outdoor-learning.org)

## References

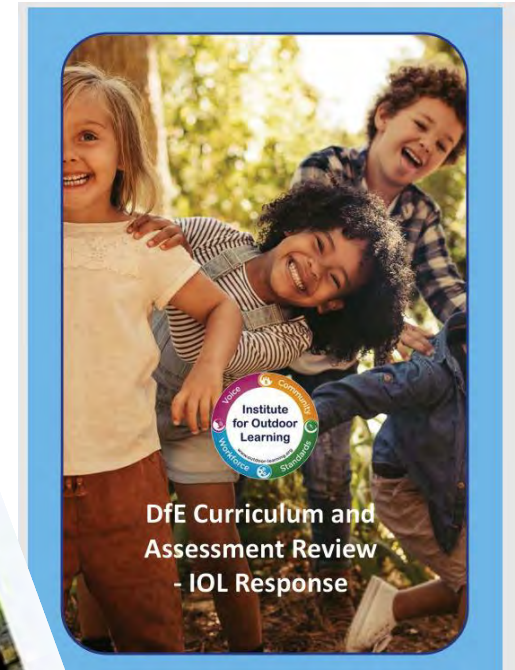
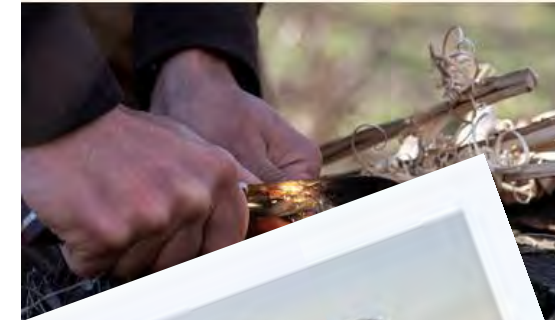
1. EOC (2015) High Quality Outdoor Learning. English Outdoor Council.
2. Harvey, D (2024) Assessing quality in outdoor learning. Horseshoe 824



# Updates on news events and projects.



Keeping people safe  
Outdoors  
Evidencing the practice of  
in the outdoors



DfE Curriculum and  
Assessment Review  
- IOL Response



16 Apr 2025

## Westminster Engagement - Call To Action

Launching an APPG for Outdoor Learning - The  
APPG meeting will be held at 13.00 on 6th May



## Apprenticeships

Welcome to our NEW resource for new and  
current apprentices in outdoor learning. This is  
currently being developed by the IOL Trustees,  
UK Training Providers and End Point  
Assessment Organisations.

## News, Events & Projects





# International GOLD Conference 2025



## IOL International Conference 2025

ONLINE

#GOLD2025



At this conference we are seeking answers to the fundamental question of:

### 'WHAT IS OUTDOOR LEARNING FOR?'

- This is an **online event** for **international partnership working** and **cultural exchange**.
- Our **international Guest Speakers** will inspire whilst also being relevant to practitioners in outdoor learning.
- Workshops will be **interactive** and encourage dialogue.
- This event is **designed for anyone interested in outdoor learning**, whether employed, self-employed, a volunteer or enthusiast and regardless of the stage of their journey.

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# Trustee Recruitment 2025

The Institute is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee governed by a voluntary Board of Trustees elected by the membership.

The Trustees fulfil the organisation governance and inform the strategic direction for IOL, as well as providing advice and supervision for the Chief Executive Officer and team.

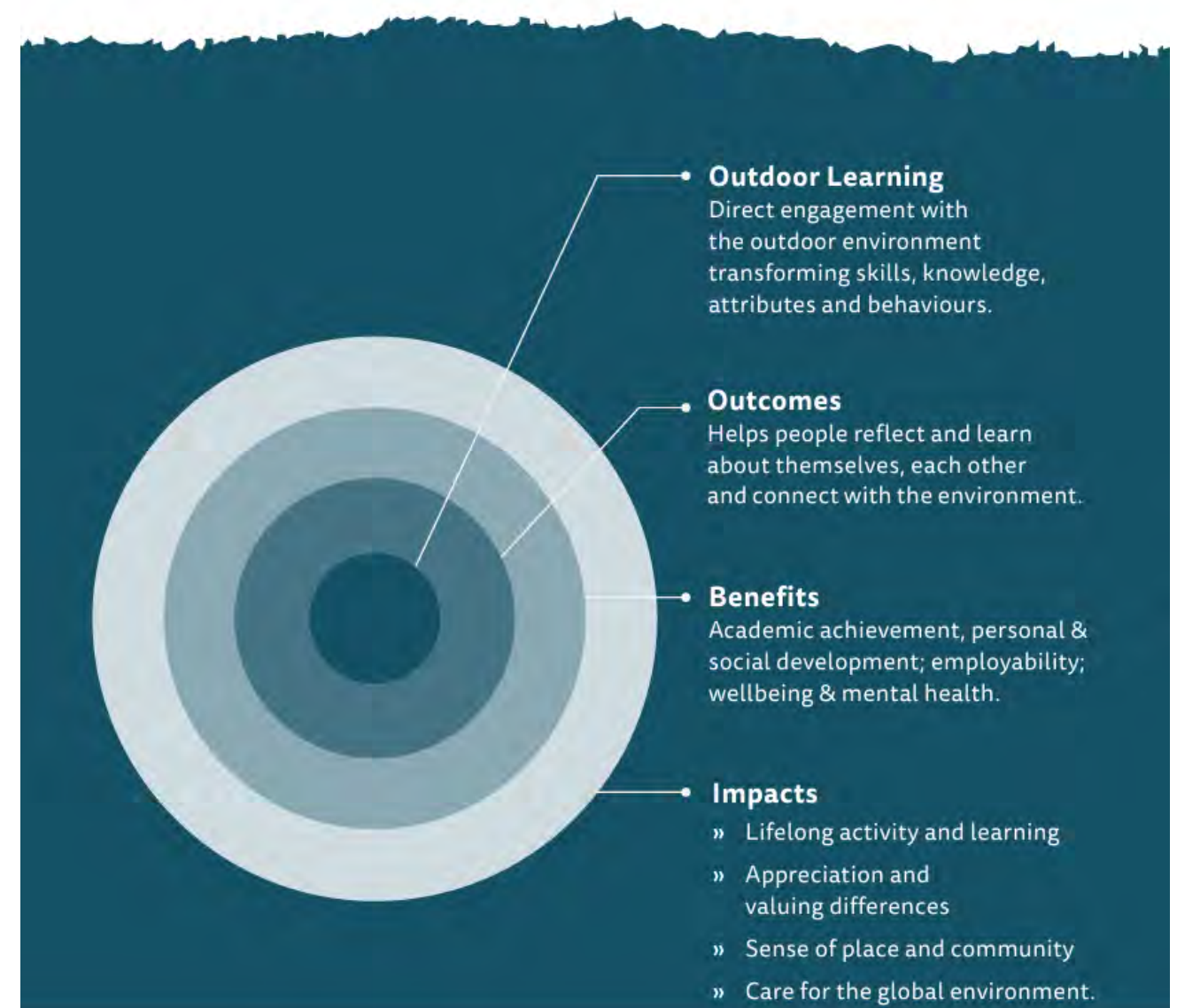
- Recruiting for 2 x New Trustees
- Vacancies will be advertised on the IOL Website
- Transparent process with application and interview
- Finance and Marketing knowledge
- Summer 2025 for formal start in November 2025.

*“Thanks to our members, volunteers and IOL team for their support and contribution to developing the work of the IOL in championing outdoor learning.”*

Brian Kitson, Chair of Trustees



# The benefits of outdoor learning





# IOL Staff Team 2025



**Jo Barnett**

CEO



**Richard Retallick**

Business & Operations Manager



**Fiona Exon-Speight**

Media & Events



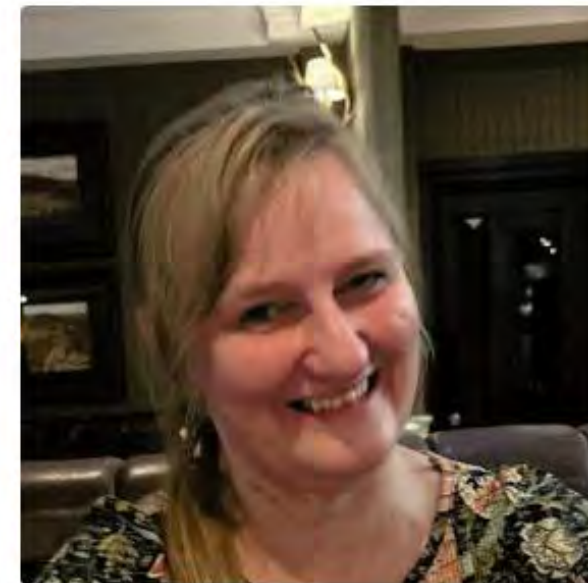
**Steve Ulliyart**

IT



**Dave Brooks**

Membership



**Louise Keir**

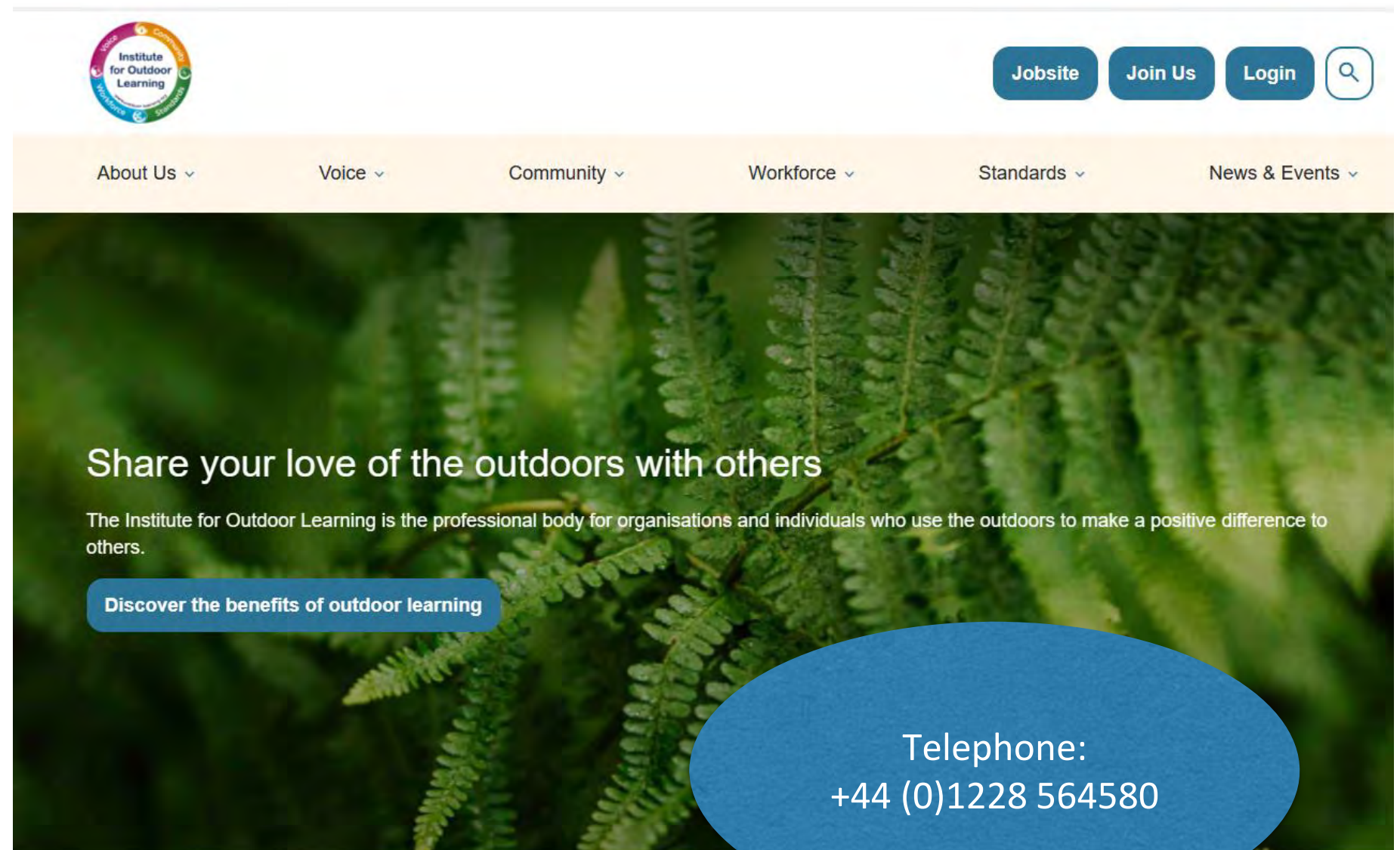
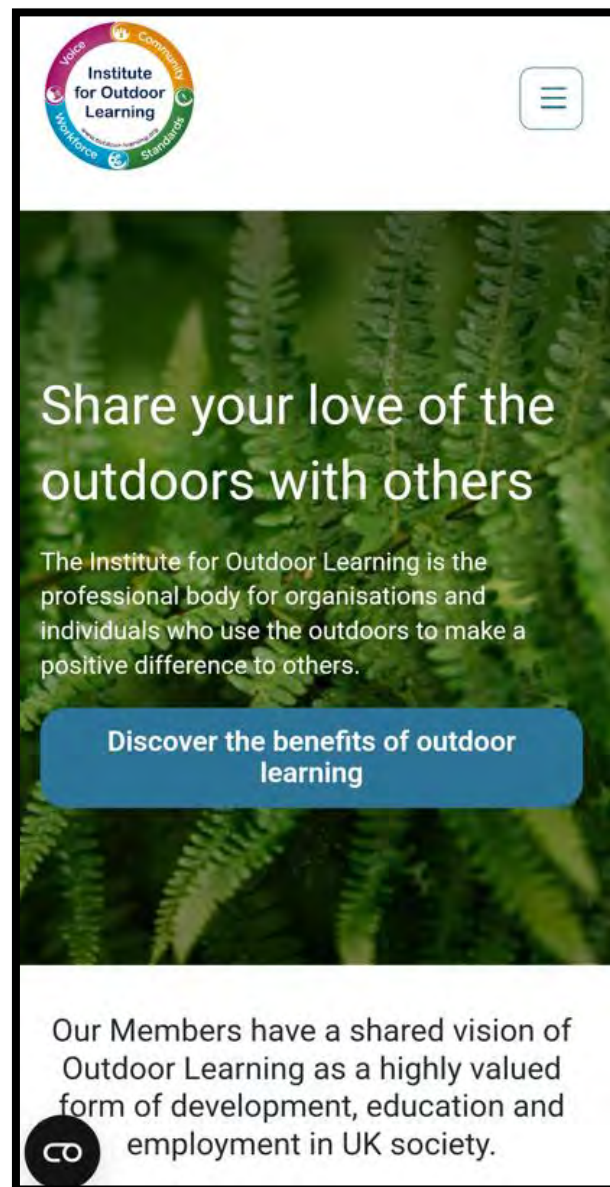
Finance

**Institute for Outdoor Learning**



# Championing Outdoor Learning

# Contact Us



Website: [Institute for Outdoor Learning - Home \(outdoor-learning.org\)](https://outdoor-learning.org)

Email: [institute@outdoor-learning.org](mailto:institute@outdoor-learning.org)

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