



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 01/09/2021 (Period start date) To: 31/08/2022 (Period end date)

Charity name: Barkway Preschool

Charity registration number: 1004083

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The charity's aims are to advance the development and education of children under statutory school age by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • offering appropriate play, education and care facilities, allowing for parental involvement and responsibility. • offering opportunities for all children whatever their race, culture, religion, means or ability. • encouraging other charitable activities through which parents may help the children.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>The charity's main activity is to run Barkway Preschool which provides high quality education and childcare for children aged between 2 and 5.</p> <p>The charity also runs a weekly mother and toddler group in the village hall, providing a structured play session for babies to 4-year-olds with their parents or carers.</p> <p>The trustees carry out various local fundraising activities to supplement income from the charity's core activities.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	In planning our activities, we have kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	n/a
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	n/a
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.</p> <p>Trustees carry out fundraising activities, with the help of preschool staff and volunteers from the local community. These activities include selling drink and food at village events and refreshments at the local cinema club.</p>
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The preschool is staffed by an experienced and well-qualified team. We operate with enhanced ratios of staff to children to focus on individual child development within the EYFS framework. Children with developmental needs are identified and supported at an early stage.</p> <p>We offer a safe, fun and stimulating environment in which children can learn through play. Children have opportunities to grow emotionally as well as physically, to develop their communication and language skills, and to increase their self-confidence and self-awareness.</p> <p>Changes to the EYFS from September 2021 allowed staff more time to get to know the children better and extend their learning. During the year the team focussed on developing children's communication and language skills using the Terrific Talkers program, also using the Wellcomm system to identify children struggling with these important skills. New strategies were also developed to support children struggling with social interaction and attention.</p> <p>Over the year we further developed our outdoor play provision with new wooden blocks and an extension to the climbing frame. Indoors we purchased a new role-play kitchen for the 'home corner'.</p> <p>The mother and toddler group reopened in April 2021 following Covid restrictions. Attendance grew quickly thereafter and remained high during this period. The weekly sessions were a valuable opportunity for parents to share experiences and for children to gain missed socialisation skills. We received a grant of £600 from Herts Family Services to help re-establish the group and cover the increasing cost of running this local service.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>Annual income from childcare increased to £82,193 against comparable income of £74,945 the previous year (excluding SEN payments). Income rose due to higher demand rather than funding rate increases. Once again however, costs increased disproportionately to income, due to inflation and the national living wage increase driving up staff costs. This resulted in a loss of £8,101 compared to a surplus of £5,444 the previous year. The Trustees therefore decided to increase fees for paying parents by 10% from September 2022.</p> <p>Nonetheless, the overall financial position of the charity remains strong. Cash balances at the year-end were £15,645, with further reserves held in one-year savings bonds.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The trustees aim to hold a minimum of £20,000 in reserves. Reserves are held to meet unforeseen expenditure, losses due to unexpected closures, to cover sudden reductions in fee income due to changing childcare requirements and to cover terminal obligations if the preschool were to close permanently.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Reserves were £40,615 at the year end, held in savings accounts with notice of one year or less.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	The charity remains well funded with ample reserves to support the preschool.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The principal source of funds is from providing childcare, paid for either by parents or local authority funded early education schemes.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	Surplus funds not required for immediate running costs are placed in interest-bearing savings accounts with notice periods of one year or less. Maturity dates are staggered through the year to enable more immediate access to funds if required.

A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>The charity's main activity is operating Barkway Preschool. The principal associated risks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of the current premises at Barkway VA First School; there are no suitable alternatives nearby for permanent occupation. • If the preschool were to lose its 'good' rating from Ofsted, it would no longer have access to the free childcare schemes, causing a significant and sudden loss of revenue. • Large increases in staff costs due to increases in the National Living Wage, not matched by increases in childcare funding and fees. • Loss of income due to fewer children attending; preschool has a limited catchment area but relies on younger children continually replacing those leaving for school. • A sudden and lengthy closure of preschool, due to damage to premises, health and safety issues, a pandemic, or other factors.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Para 1.25	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are selected from members of the association. They are appointed by members at the AGM and form a committee. The committee appoints the Officers (who oversee the operational management of the preschool) and has powers to co-opt up to 3 new trustees between general meetings.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The charity is a member of the Early Years Alliance, which provides information, advice and training to childcare providers and campaigns to influence early years policy and practice.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	The preschool operates closely with Barley and Barkway (VA) Church of England First Schools Federation. The preschool setting shares a building with Barkway First School and many children make a very successful transition to the school's nursery or reception classes, benefiting from our joint transition program.

Other		
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Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Barkway Preschool
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1004083
Charity's principal address	84 High Street Barkway Hertfordshire SG8 8EF

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person /body entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Miranda Hughes	Chair		
2	Andrew Lee	Treasurer		
3	Erin Ferguson	Secretary	Resigned 08/02/2022	
4	Rowena Pascal	Secretary	From 08/02/2022	
5	Hollie Bond			
6	Shoshana Whybrow		Resigned 21/06/2022	
7	Alice Robertson		Resigned 21/06/2022	
8	Sharon Smedley		Resigned 08/03/2022	
9	Hannah West			
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	Details of Property
Alison Gower		Lease for premises at Barkway VA First School
Jenni McPherson		
Tracey Wood		
Jackie Connolly		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Exemptions from disclosure


Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Other optional information

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Andrew Julian Lee	
Position	Treasurer	
Date	28/06/2023	

BARKWAY PRESCHOOL - Charity no: 1004083**ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END 31 AUGUST 2022**

Summary of income and expenses	Total
Income:	
Paid childcare	£ 28,702
Funded childcare	£ 53,491
Toddler group	£ 2,932
Uniform sales	£ 196
Fundraising	£ 2,458
Other income	£ 750
Interest	£ 362
Total Income	£ 88,892
Expenditure:	
Staff wages	£ 83,772
Advertising	£ -
Bank charges	£ 41
Bookkeeping	£ 1,433
Cleaning	£ -
DBS checks	£ 74
Fundraising expenses	£ 1,040
Insurance	£ 666
Snacks	£ 408
Print/Post/Stationery	£ -
Subscriptions	£ 555
Recruitment	£ -
Rent & Service Charge - school	£ 3,379
Rent - village hall	£ 1,092
Supplies & Equipment	£ 2,861
Telephone	£ 139
Toddler Group expenses	£ 298
Training	£ 644
Uniforms	£ 297
Miscellaneous	£ 292
Total Expenses	£ 96,992
Loss for the year	-£ 8,101

Movement on cash:

Cash balances brought forward	£ 15,915
Loss for the year	-£ 8,101
Reduction in term deposits	£ 7,831
Cash balances carried forward	£ 15,645

Statement of assets held:

Cash at bank and on hand	£ 15,645
Term deposits of less than one year	£ 40,615
Total Assets	£ 56,260



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Barkway Preschool

On accounts for the year
ended

31/08/2022

Charity no
(if any)

1004083

Set out on pages

3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2022.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

26/06/2023

Name:

Jeremy Smith

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Qualified ACA (No longer a member of the ICAEW)

Address:

The Mount, 7 Irnham Road

Corby Glen, LINCOLNSHIRE

NG33 4NB

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A

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