



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **01/09/2022** To **31/08/2023**

Charity name: **Merry-go-round under 5's**

Charity registration number: **1010031**

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To advance the education of children below compulsory school age by; (a) providing a safe and satisfying group play in which parents have the right to take part. (b) encouraging other charitable activities through which parents may help the children (c) furthering the aim of the pre-school playgroups association
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>Merry-Go-Round Under Fives provides exciting preschool education and opportunities for children under five from Baldock and the surrounding area.</p> <p>We are situated in the extensive grounds of Hartsfield School. As well as two purpose-built classrooms, we're lucky enough to have two enclosed outdoor play areas with a wide range of outdoor learning facilities and toys.</p> <p>~ We are an independent, non-profit making charity.</p> <p>~ We are Ofsted registered.</p> <p>~ We have a high ratio of staff to children- we can focus on children's individual needs and development.</p> <p>~ We believe that care and education are equally important.</p> <p>~ We provide children with routines and activities to ensure they feel safe, valued and gain experience from socialising with other children</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance	Para 1.18	The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit		
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
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>Ian Haydon stepped down as chair after the end of the financial year although he remained on the committee.</p> <p>Ian's main focus over the last few years was to negotiate a new lease rental figure with NHDC.</p> <p>Given the current climate Ian worked hard to negotiate a reduced rate and whilst it did cost several thousand pounds in legal fees to fight NHDC's original assessment, we have agreed a figure of £700 per annum which we consider fair.</p> <p>Once the lease was resolved, the main focus was to improve the mobile. We installed new cladding over the Christmas 2022 holidays which has made such a difference to the external look of Merry Go Round and really enhanced the setting, giving it a more modern visual look.</p> <p>Whilst child numbers did increase during the second half of the year, with extra places taken up once children settled in, especially</p>

		<p>in nursery, it was a particularly bad year for numbers. It is worth noting that nationwide, many settings are closing due to low attendance numbers.</p> <p>Hopefully, the UK government will follow through its intention to provide more funded nursery placements in the next year or so.</p> <p>Donations / Grants We were incredibly grateful to the 'Baldstock' music festival, who donated £3,000 to Merry Go Round, to fund a new shed.</p> <p>We also receive donations of £200 from BEF and £219 from the Jumble Sale Trail</p>
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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	Fundraising activities (Christmas, Easter and Baldock Fair) were down compared to 2022 as lack of volunteers meant we were unable to have a stall at the Hartsfield Christmas Fair. Revenue amounted to c£600.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	n/a
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>Merry-go-round made a loss of £40k, principally for three reasons. On the positive side following the successful conclusion of the lease with Herts CC we were able to invest in improving the portacabin – and over £23k was spent on new cladding and glazing that had been put off until the ten year lease was finalised.</p> <p>However, as expected child numbers were down significantly on 2022 – some 20% - which resulted in a shortfall of c£20k income.</p> <p>Finally whilst the new lease gives us security of tenure for the next ten years at a reasonable rate, we spent a considerable amount on legal fees contesting NHDC's unreasonable opening position.</p> <p>Despite this our reserves stood at a healthy £80k at the end of the year and we continue to keep a close eye on costs.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>Reserves are set aside to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operating shortfalls, and 2. investing in the setting
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£80k provision for any operating shortfall and investing in the setting. A substantial lease provision is no longer required in the short term.
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	

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 funding is from Herts DC. This year it amounted to 86% of our income, up on previous years.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	n/a
		Falling child numbers. These have fluctuated

A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	widely in the past, and fell considerably this year. We remain protected in the short term by our large reserves and expect numbers to increase slightly in 2024.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	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	Election

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	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Merry-Go-Round Under 5's
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1010031
Charity's principal address	The Mobile, Hartsfield School Ground, Clothall Road, Baldock, SG7 6PN

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mr Ian Haydon	Chair		
2	Mr Gary Carey	Treasurer		
3	Mrs Sheila Ely			
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
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14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

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

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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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)	Gary Carey	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	
Date	16 th April 2025	



Merry-Go-Round Under 5's

1010031

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/09/2022


To

31/08/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Funding	80,058	-	-	80,058	103,853
Fees	12,641	-	-	12,641	27,357
Other Income	4,741	-	-	4,741	2,463
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	97,439	-	-	97,439	133,673
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table B1).					
Bank Interest	389	-	-	389	12
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	389	-	-	388.79	12.00
Total receipts	97,828	-	-	97,828	133,685
A3 Payments					
Wages	93,356	-	-	93,356	96,596
Building and premises	6,901	-	-	6,901	4,387
Utilities	7,005	-	-	7,005	6,348
Supplies	1,207	-	-	1,207	1,789
Food & Activities	2,105	-	-	2,105	2,165
Training & Advertising	627	-	-	627	1,674
Insurance	547	-	-	547	535
Miscellaneous	1,763	-	-	1,763	7,166
Capital	24,848	-	-	24,848	-
Sub total	138,360	-	-	138,360	120,660
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	138,360	-	-	138,360	120,660
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 40,532	-	-	- 40,532	13,025
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	119,899	-	-	119,899	106,874
Cash funds this year end	79,367	-	-	79,367	119,899

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Treasurers Account	16,787	-	-
	Business Instant Account	62,439	-	-
	30 day Account	141	-	-
	Total cash funds	79,367	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Gary Carey	16-Apr-25	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Merry-Go-Round Under 5's

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1010031

Set out on pages

1-2

(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 31/08/2023.

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 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:

2nd May 2025

Name:

PETER ILIAN

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

ACIB

Address:

6 Rutland Green, Hilton

Huntingdon

Cambs, PE28 9NT

Section B

Disclosure

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.