

Uplands Pre-School

Report from Treasurer 2023 to be read in conjunction with accounts

The group has had a successful year financially. The Treasurer is keeping a close eye on the finances especially with regards to running with fewer children in September (so we can increase their sessions in January) and because of the current financial situation affecting the country. The accounts have been audited by Sharon Peacock and all books are up to date and correct.

The group is operating offering 15 hours free childcare for 3-4 year old and 30 hours free childcare for eligible working parents (group is paid at an hourly rate of £4.60 for 3 and 4 year olds and £5.74 for 2 year olds) and have been receiving funding for some 2 years olds depending on the situation of the family. The group is also receiving additional funding for child using the disadvantage formula for some postcode areas. A few of our children are also entitled to Early Years Pupil Premium which is used to directly support the individual child. Meetings have been held between key persons and parents to decide how to spend the money using children's interests and areas identified on trackers as needing support. Disadvantage formula has been spent wisely on resources to enhance the woods and providing more small world play or to enhance staff ratios for children needing additional support. All funding has been completed successfully.

From January those who wanted to extend childcare hours due to reaching their funding period or claiming 30 hours were able to increase their sessions. Group is registered for 40 children so decided as a group, using the back room without payment as centre not being used by other groups, to take more children and split the group. The group have decided that from September 2023 we will not have as many children so it will not be necessary to split the group.

Fees for those children who are not yet entitled to government funding are £15, being increased to £17 from September 2023, a session, lunch club is currently £5 increasing to £6 in September and breakfasts are currently £3 increasing to £4 in September. In addition parents of funded children are charged 50p per session to cover the costs of consumables (invoice issued) rising to £1 per session from September. This charge is to cover the costs of craft materials, fruit, nappies etc. Some parents have chosen not to pay and prefer to bring in their own craft materials. Most settings have brought these charges in and they are now mentioned at the bottom of the Funding Forms. Most parents have been prompt in paying fees but appropriate letters have been sent if they got behind with payments. Our invoices show clearly funded and non-funded hours and these go out each term with two payment dates and details so that payments can be paid directly into the Pre-School's bank account. Book Bags and T-Shirts are being paid for, Book Bags £6, T-Shirts £6 and Fleece £15, and these may rise in September due to increased costs from Screenprint. Breakfast and Lunch Clubs continue to be very successful.

Children starting last September required extra sessions from January and April luckily we were able to keep sessions back. We are now full to maximum to get as much money behind us for September so that we can keep sessions free to follow the same pattern next year. This will be dependent on the impact of the cost of living on bills etc.

We have been able to increase numbers all day Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as we split the children between two buildings. This is the only way of keeping both buildings going; if numbers drop one building would have to go. Unfortunately due to increase costs the Pre-School have decided to give up using the Children's Centre.

The Community Centre has had to put our hourly rent rate up due to fuel bill and the cost of living rising, increasing from £9.50 per hour to £12.50. We are not paying what other hall members are but the situation will be monitored depending on the utility bills coming in. If the Management Committee for the hall struggle with finances long term it would mean closure.

Staff sick pay has been changed. Staff will only be paid for 3 sick days per full term.

Minimum pay has been increased from £9.50 per hour to £10.42 per hour this has resulted in a real strain on the Pre-School finances. Paying for 14 weeks holiday may not be possible moving forward. Staff are only entitled to 5.6 weeks by law.

Payments have been made in respect of annual fees to the Pre-School Learning Alliance and Ofsted, and the insurance premium has been paid to Sterling, cover having been increased to reflect additional hours operating for breakfast and lunch clubs. PAT testing has been completed and invoice paid.

Sponsored walk took place in June and over £1,000 was raised to purchase additional resources for the outside areas.

One of the Dads (JS) has supported the group by paying for the Christmas and Easter party and another Dad (AB) has done a lot of free work to enhance the woods.

Sheet1

UPLANDS PRE-SCHOOL

ACCOUNTS 1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023

Balance b/f

18210.24

INCOME

Income/Fees

9794.65

Funding

186733.10

T Shirts/Fleece

369.50

Party Funds

1041.00

197938.25

216148.49

EXPENDITURE

Staff Wages

154390.32

Screens/Resources

750.40

Meals/parties etc

1329.35

Toys/Books etc

128.65

Hall Hire

12126.00

Renewals/Membership

340.85

Insurance

469.22

Postage

14.70

Stationery

2976.06

Bank Charges

60.40

Electric

2405.30

Maintenance/Equipment

713.79

Phone Rental

487.15

Audit

80.00

Nest Pension

6670.92

Pat Testing

76.44

Courses

150.00

Water

518.03

Suffolk CC Maintenance

2575.68

186263.26

Balance c/fwd

29885.23

Bank Statement as at 31 March 2023

29900.23

Less unrepresented cash

15.00

29885.23



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Uplands Pre-School

On accounts for the year
ended

31.03.2023

Charity no
(if any)

1046072

Pages 1 - 2

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

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection to my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

I have completed this Independent Examination and have no concerns in respect to any material matters in connection with the Directions of the Charity Commission. I have identified no matters that require drawing your attention.

Signed:

Date:

20.02.2024

Name:

Mr A H Sandford

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

N/A

Address:

63 Ship Road

Pakefield

NR33 7DP

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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