



Milestones Childcare Ltd

(Registered charity number 1132071)

(Company limited by guarantee. Registered Number 06850078)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2024

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Milestones Childcare Ltd

Legal and administrative information

Trustees

P Askew
K Hamlin
C Clayton

Registered Charity number
1132071

Company Ltd by Guarantee number
06850078

Principal address
20 Verdant Way
Sheffield
S5 6LE

Independent examiner
Craig Williamson
The Ghyll
Threapland
Aspatria
CA7 2EL

Bank
Unity Trust Bank
Nine Brindleyplace
Birmingham
B1 2HB

Milestones Childcare Ltd

Trustee report

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities.

Structure, governance and management

The Charitable Company is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 17 March 2009 and was entered on the Register of Charities effective 12 October 2009.

The company has no share capital. The guarantee of each member is limited to £1.

Milestones is managed by a voluntary Board of Directors and day to day running of the charity is undertaken by the appointed Early Years Childcare Manager who manages a team of paid staff.

New Trustees are recruited by invitation and or application. They are representative of the community, (either geographical or of interest). A full induction must be undertaken by all new trustees and a skills analysis completed.

The Trustees meet at regular intervals during the year and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity.

The trustees who served during the year are listed on page 2 on the report.

Objective and Activities

To enhance the development and education of children under statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups.

Public benefit statement

The trustees of Milestones give due consideration to the Charity Commission public benefit guidance, when carrying out activities to meet its aims.

Our beneficiaries are pre-school children and their families. The activities this year continued to meet the aim to enhance the development and education of children of or below statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups.

Milestones Childcare Ltd

Trustee report

Achievements and performance

Milestones has continued to build from the last few years following the challenges of the Covid Pandemic. It has been a difficult time financially and there have been some staffing changes and difficult decisions to be made.

The staff are working extremely hard to manage the financial pressures we are experiencing by looking for free ways to improve the setting for the benefit of the children.

This year we have upgraded some of the nursery equipment fixtures and fittings

- Outdoor taps
- Garden recourses
- Painting and decorating the foyer

We have also tried to work hard on taking our children out on trips, some families don't have the funds to be able to take their children out so we try to make this an essential part of our vision

- New recourses for outings
- Bonfire party
- Christmas party
- Trips to the farm and museums and Bridlington this year
- Supporting parents with hospital visits etc

The nursery has also been able to set up food donations for those parents that are struggling. This has been done by the kind donations of fare share and Asda. This has meant that families who are struggling have felt able to approach the staff for support.

The nursery has also improved their IT and Facebook page and information and ideas for parents are shared on this forum. This has proven to be popular with parents and has led to an increase in interest locally with parents looking for a setting for their children to start attending. Parents support groups for sleep/diet/routines has been introduced and this is proving to be beneficial for those new parents who may need some extra support.

Over the last few weeks, we have been successful in operating a sensory playgroup, this is a free session for toddlers in the local area and run by volunteer, this is proving to be a valid resource. Training continues to be at the top of the agenda and recent first aid training for all staff has taken place.

We encourage apprenticeships and students on health and social care courses.

We continue to work with local professionals to build on relationships formed for better outcomes for the children in our care.

Milestones continues to operate in difficult financial times, but we have a happy and productive workforce whose focus is on improving the learning outcomes and working alongside the EYFS for the sake of the children in their care. Milestones is a happy place to be, and this is evident when you spend time with the children who are clearly benefiting from the professionalism of the staff who work there.

Our recent Ofsted rating was GOOD

Reserves policy:

The charity has a policy of maintaining sufficient free reserves, which are not committed or invested in fixed assets, to meet:

- unexpected costs such as redundancy, breakdown of essential equipment, staff cover re illness, maternity leave, etc and
- unavoidable running costs for a period of at least 6 months in the event of grant income being withdrawn.

This commitment is now estimated to be approximately £171,000, which will be approximately 6 month's expenditure at £146,000, repair and maintenance £3,000 and potential redundancy at £22,000. Our unrestricted reserves currently stand at £68,390

Milestones Childcare Ltd

Trustee report

Trustees responsibilities for the financial statements

Company and charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which show the state of affairs of the charity and of net income or expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- ☐ select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- ☐ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- ☐ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.
- ☐ state whether applicable accounting standards of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable the Trustees to prepare financial statements. The Trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 11/07/24 and is signed on their behalf by:

K Hamlin
Trustee



Milestones Childcare Ltd

Independent Examiner's report on the Accounts of Milestones Childcare Ltd for the year ended 31 March 2024

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 7 to .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- ☐ examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- ☐ to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- ☐ to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Craig Williamson
White Rose Accounting for Charities
The Ghyll
Threapland
Aspatria
CA7 2EL

Date: 17/12/24

Milestones Childcare Ltd

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

		2024	2023
	Notes	£	£
Current assets			
Balance at bank and cash in hand		66,924	48,858
Prepayments	4	1,966	1,743
Total current assets		68,890	50,601
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	(500)	(475)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		68,390	50,126
Total assets less current liabilities		68,390	50,126
Net assets		68,390	50,126
Represented by			
Unrestricted general fund		68,390	50,126
		68,390	50,126

For the period ending 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Director's responsibilities;

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476,

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 11/07/24 and is signed on their behalf by:

K Hamlin
Trustee



Milestones Childcare Ltd

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Total 2023	Total 2022
Income from	1	£	£
Grants	2	287,459	233,928
Fees		31,181	29,458
Sundry income & donations		1,047	2,754
Total income		<u>319,687</u>	<u>266,140</u>
Expenditure on			
Staff	3	216,606	192,992
Training		1,680	2,116
Travel		27	53
Premises		19,043	27,198
Utilities		9,819	8,997
Refurbishment, repairs and maintenance		6,775	1,828
Equipment, books and software		10,111	3,032
Cleaning and hygiene		16,028	15,822
Childrens refreshments		2,061	2,666
Consumables		5,517	5,895
Activities		1,142	40
Membership and subscription		1,228	2,151
Stationary, printing and postage		2,970	4,304
Telephone		2,530	2,030
Insurance		3,147	3,130
Independent examination		500	475
Bank charges		645	588
Other Expenses		1,595	1,349
Total expenditure		<u>301,424</u>	<u>274,666</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing)resources		<u>18,263</u>	<u>(8,526)</u>
Fund balances brought forward	7	50,126	58,651
Fund balances carried forward	6	<u>68,390</u>	<u>50,126</u>

Milestones Childcare Ltd

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies:-

(a) Basis of preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 (effective from January 2015 and updated with effect from January 2016) - (the Charities SORP (FRS102)), as modified for smaller charities.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined under FRS102.

(b) Accounting for income

Donations and sundry income are accounted for on receipts basis. Grant income and fee income are accounted for on an accruals basis, insofar as it is prudent to do so.

(c) Accounting for purchases with an expected life of more than one year

It has been considered prudent to write off the costs of such items in the year of purchase

2 Grants

Grants received during the year were:-

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Sheffield City Council - FEF	222,167	183,345
Sheffield City Council - Positive Balance	7,828	-
Sheffield City Council -Disability Access	-	6,115
Sheffield City Council -EYPP	8,184	7,681
Sheffield City Council -Extended Hours	12,633	6,911
Sheffield City Council -Deprivation Component	13,477	12,027
Sheffield City Council -Investment Funding	-	6,312
Sheffield City Council -EHCP	10,483	10,297
Sheffield City Council -EYIP	12,187	-
Apprenticeship Scheme	500	1,240
	287,459	233,928

3 Staff numbers and costs:-

	£	£
Wages and salaries	198,185	177,751
Employers National Insurance	14,550	12,412
Pension	3,871	2,829
	216,606	192,992

The average number of employees during the year was 13, all of whom were engaged in activities in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

No employees received emoluments in excess of £50,000 per year

Trustees are not remunerated. No trustees received reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.

**Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

4 Prepayments:-

These are services and expenses that have been paid for in advance but not used during the accounting period. They are in respect of:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Insurance	1,966	1,743
	<u>1,966</u>	<u>1,743</u>

5 Creditors and accruals

These are expenses owed by the group but not paid during the accounting period. They are in respect of:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent examination	500	475
	<u>500</u>	<u>475</u>