

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1135039
COMPANY REGISTRATION: 07163366

BENNETT COURT COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP LIMITED

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024



Chartered Management Accountants and Business Advisors

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BENNETT COURT COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP LIMITED

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BENNETT COURT COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP LIMITED

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name

Bennett Court Community Playgroup Limited

Charity registration number - 1135039 Company registration number - 07163366.

Registered Office and operational address:

Bennett Court Community Playgroup Limited
Bennett Court Community Centre
Axminster Road
London - N7 6BN

Trustees/Directors

Management committee members are Directors of the Company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and Trustees for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011. The following served as Directors during the year.

Helena F McKeown
Jane Lewis
Cameron McKeown
Joyce Castles-Gibson

Secretary

Jane Lewis

Playgroup Manager

Caroline Connaughton

Independent Examiner

Zahid Tabbassum ACMA, CGMA
Accountell Limited
44A Marlands Road, Clayhall Essex, IG5 0JL

Bankers

National Westminster Bank
490 Holloway Road
London, N7 6JB

BENNETT COURT COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP LIMITED

Trustees' Annual Report

Bennett Court Community Playgroup Limited (The Playgroup) is managed voluntarily by parents and community members.

The Playgroup is situated within Bennett Court Social Club, on the Bennett Court Estate, Axminster Road, Holloway, in the London Borough of Islington.

The playgroup opens on weekdays from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. during term time only. It employs five staff members, including a visiting music teacher. The staff have relevant early years qualifications. The playgroup provides funded early years education for children aged 2-5.

The Playgroup provides subsidised and affordable childcare in a safe and stimulating learning environment to children from diverse backgrounds. Most children attending the Playgroup live locally, and most parents are either in low-paid employment or not in employment. The Playgroup operates from Monday to Friday during term times only, from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm.

All staff are engaged in continuous professional training, providing child-centred learning support, and working within the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and standards.

The Playgroup supports children learning English as an additional language and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

The Playgroup had its OFSTED inspection on 23 September 2022. The Ofsted inspector awarded the Playgroup a 'GOOD' outcome with "OUTSTANDING" in the Behaviour and Attitudes of our children. Of course, the biggest appreciation goes to the staff team who worked hard throughout the year to provide a wonderful experience for all the children.

The OFSTED Inspector quoted in the Inspection Report, "***Children's behaviour is excellent. The staff consider children's well-being to be essential to their progress. Children show excellent empathy for others as they practise sign language to communicate during some activities. They show great consideration and kindness to their friends as they play together with good purpose. For example, children offer their musical instruments to those that do not have any. They then wait patiently for their turn to select scarves.***"

Achievements

The table below shows the Playgroup's occupancy during each term.

Total Children and Terms	Including SEN	3-4 Years	2 Years
Spring 23 – Total 14	2	14	0
Summer 23 – Total 17	1	14	3
Autumn 23 – Total 13	1	7	6
Spring 24 – Total 18	0	9	9

The above table shows that the total number of children during the Spring Term of 2023 was 14, which increased to 17 during the Summer Term. Our contacts with local families and network with other groups and community organisations support us with recruiting children locally. The filled places dip slightly during the autumn term as some children leave to go to school. The places increase in the spring term as new children 2 years plus join the Playgroup.

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Coronation of King Charles - On 4th May 2023, a party was arranged to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles. A tea party was shared with the children and our neighbours on the estate. This was also a good community cohesion event, as the residents on the estate were able to learn more about the Playgroup activities.

Father's Day breakfast - This was an opportunity for all the children's dads to come together. It allowed the family to get to know other people and look at how parents and carers could support the Playgroup. The event also allowed the family to see how the Playgroup can improve its services in early years education.

Leaver's Party - On 20th July 2023, a leaver's party was held for those leaving the Playgroup and moving to primary school in September 2023. The playgroup's visiting Music and Sensory teacher provided an enjoyable session for all children. Parents and carers who attended also joined the event and took part in it.

Support to local Food Bank - During the Autumn term, we encourage families to donate food items to our local food banks. This ties in with our annual exploration of 'farm to plate'. 'It is equally important that our children recognise the importance of helping each other and being part of a community.

Getting to Know event - On 11th October 2023, a "Getting to Know You 'Breakfast'" session was held. This is an opportunity for our new and existing families to meet, chat, and link up for support and friendships. A good event for parents and carers to get to know each other and see how they can support the Playgroup activities. It also allows new parents and carers to ask questions and learn more about the Playgroup. Their views, comments and suggestions from the events are considered to improve our services.

Black British Heroes - During the month of October 2023, we explored our Black British Heroes. It was important to introduce local heroes. A different person was introduced each week, and their lives and achievements were explored. Further staff training called 'Beyond Black History' was arranged to further our knowledge and how important it was to celebrate and recognise not only for the month of October but throughout the year.

Diwali Celebration - On 10th November 2023, we celebrated Diwali. This celebration day allowed people of other faiths and non-faiths to learn more about Hindu culture and why Hindus celebrate Diwali. We were lucky enough for some parents to come in and share traditional stories and music and support the children in creating their own 'Diwali lights.'

Christmas Party - On 21st December 2023, before the Christmas break, a Christmas party was held for all children and their families. This was a good social event, and parents enjoyed traditional Christmas food. The event also allowed the Playgroup to thank families for continuing support throughout the year.

World Book Day - On 7th March 2024, the "World Book Day" event where children could dress up in their favourite characters. They enjoyed talking to each other about their choice of dress and telling others what they read about their favourite characters and their future desires when they grow up. It is a great opportunity for children to celebrate literature and focus on reading for pleasure, supporting children's autonomy in book choice and getting them into a habit of reading that brings a wide range of benefits for their learning and development.

BENNETT COURT COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP LIMITED

Each child was given a free book as a gift to take home to celebrate World Book Day; this gives children opportunities to access books they may not have had and encourage them to read more books to increase their reading and literacy education.

Mother's Day/St Patrick's Day celebrations (breakfast morning) - On 13th March 2024, the Playgroup provided a breakfast with some traditional Irish food to celebrate our mothers within our group. All visitors received some daffodils as a thank you for all they did. Families all brought food to share with other people. This was a good cultural event to share with people from other cultures, faiths, and non-faiths.

Other activities - as usual, our normal activities of weekly visits to the local library, local parks for walks and children's ecology studies, and visiting sports centres and places of interest and learning continued throughout the year.

The Ofsted Inspector in her Report of 22 September 2023, quotes – ***"Those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) enthusiastically explore the well-resourced outdoor areas. Children learn about the natural world and can develop their physical skills in a playground by being able to run, climb and balance..."***

Weekly Music and Sensory Session - Our visiting Music teacher, Susie Gray, holds weekly sessions for our children. The children really enjoy these sessions of music and sensory play.

Knowing the Community - We totally immerse our playgroup in our local community life. Children recognise and chat with people who help the community in their daily lives, such as the estate caretakers, grocers, fruit and vegetable stalls, police and fire officers, and neighbours. We really feel that this sense of community enhances the children's lives.

Staff Training Support - The Playgroup continued, liaised, and worked closely with other agencies to access more specified training due to our cohort. The Playgroup shows appreciation and gratitude to SCT at Northern Health for supporting our training needs and development.

Staff Training and Development

The Playgroup has a dedicated team focusing on training opportunities for supporting children with Autism. All training support enhances our practice. We ensure that all staff members are always updated with new legislation so that they can confidently provide a safe and caring learning environment for all our children.

All staff completed or attended the following training:

Training Course Details	Name of staff attended	Date Attended
Prevent awareness renewal	HMc, JB, IP and CC	30 October 2023
Supporting children with Autism	HMc, JB, IP and CC	25 January 2024
Beyond Black History	HMc, JB, IP and CC	19 February 2024
Health and well-being for under five	JB	7 December 2023
SEN Training	CC	15 May 2023
Transition training	CC	6 June 2023
Termly attendance to DSL, SENCO and PVI forums	CC	Ongoing

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All training supports the staff teams' knowledge and confidence within their appointed roles and enhances their CPD. The Playgroup will always focus on training staff to help improve the delivery and teaching to children with Autism and those diagnosed with ASD.

Future Plan

We are currently supporting a new government initiative that enables working parents with children aged two to access 15 free hours starting April 2024. Many families have taken up the places this summer term.

The Playgroup will continue to work to have a positive impact on children's lives, particularly in accessing support in areas of need such as Speech and language, family support, parents' workshops and working closely with Whittington Trust to access help and support with children's social, emotional, and physical needs throughout the year.

The Playgroup will continue building strong networking and strengthening relationships and connections that will hugely benefit and support families with various needs.

We are still committed.

- To continue to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our local children to thrive and grow.
- To continue to foster close and supportive relationships with our families so that the first steps for their children entering into early education is a positive experience.
- To continue to provide a warm and caring first step for children entering early education for the first time.
- As a community playgroup, the importance of providing opportunities and experiences for those who may not be able to access them is embedded in our ethos. We will continue to strive to provide these opportunities.
- All staff will have opportunities to access vital yearly training for continuous professional development.
- To continue to work closely and strengthen the working relationships with vital agencies who support our community/families.

Risk Management

The Playgroup has adopted a robust risk assessment and regularly updates it. No incidents were reported to OFSTED or the local authority during the reporting year.

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Playgroup is exposed, particularly those related to its operations and finances. The Trustees confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks. The Trustees also ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. Most of the critical policies were reviewed and updated.

Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The Playgroup's total Unrestricted Funds as of 31 March 2024 are £37,243 and the Restricted Fund balance is nil.

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The Playgroup's income increased by £23,394 compared to the previous year. This represents an increase of more than 26%.

The total expenditures for the period were £88,566, of which £76,845 are the staffing and employer's NIC cost. The total expenditures, compared to the previous year, were decreased by £24,141 that represents a 21% decrease in expenses. The major decrease is in the staff costs.

The Playgroup also needs reserves to meet the working capital. It needs to have sufficient funds in general reserves for the organisation to continue with activities for up to 6 months if the charity loses its funding from the local council or there is a significant drop in the charity's income.

The present level of general reserve available to the Playgroup is slightly below the amount required to continue activities for up to 6 months if income drops significantly. The Playgroup managed to increase the general reserves compared to previous year.

The Playgroup is working towards having full occupancy. There are families on the waiting list for September 2024, which would support generating additional income. The Playgroup is confident it will have sufficient reserve to meet its ongoing activities for 6 months within the next two years.

Many Early Years settings were severely impacted due to the Covid virus, which has impacted them post covid, but the commitment and support of our staff team will support our Playgroup to sustain our services. As Trustees, we are appreciative of the support of our staff team.

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

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees



Joyce Castles-Gibson
Trustee

Date: 08 July 2024

BENNETT COURT COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP LIMITED

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BENNETT COURT COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP LIMITED

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages ten to fourteen.

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 required.

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 the 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 statements 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 130 of the 2011 Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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



Zahid Tabbassum ACMA, CGMA
Accountell Limited
Chartered Management Accountants
44A Marlands Road
Clayhall, Greater London
IG5 0JL

08 July 2024

BENNETT COURT COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP LIMITED

STATEMENTS OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. For preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

Observe the method and principles in the Charities SORP;

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charity Act, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the trust deed. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and were signed on its behalf by:



Joyce Castles-Gibson
Trustee/Director

08 July 2024

BENNETT COURT COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP LIMITED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	3	97,035	8,572	105,607	80,454
Activities for generating funds	3	6,877	-	6,877	8,636
Total incoming resources		103,912	8,572	112,484	89,090
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds					
Support costs	4	7,362	450	7,812	14,937
Staff costs		68,723	8,122	76,845	93,962
Governance costs		3,909	-	3,909	3,808
Total resources expended		79,994	8,572	88,566	112,707
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		23,918	-	23,918	(23,617)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Transfers between funds	6	-	-	-	-
Total funds brought forward		13,325	-	13,325	36,942
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		37,243	-	37,243	13,325

The notes form part of these financial statements

BENNETT COURT COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

		2024		2023
	Note	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors		-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>38,875</u>		<u>15,197</u>
		38,875		15,197
 LIABILITIES				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	<u>1,632</u>		<u>1,872</u>
 NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>37,243</u>	<u>13,325</u>
 TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>37,243</u>	<u>13,325</u>
 NET ASSETS			<u><u>37,243</u></u>	<u><u>13,325</u></u>
 FUNDS	6			
Unrestricted funds				
General funds			37,243	13,325
Restricted funds			<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 TOTAL FUNDS			<u><u>37,243</u></u>	<u><u>13,325</u></u>

For the year ending 31/03/2024 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 08/07/2024 and signed on their behalf by



Joyce Castles-Gibson
Trustee/Director

BENNETT COURT COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2019) and applicable UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from income taxes on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024.

BENNETT COURT COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
3. INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income				
LBI Grant Aid Payment	5,980	-	5,980	4,388
LBI NEG	67,250	-	67,250	44,846
LBI 2 Year Old NEG	13,824	-	13,824	17,141
SEN	-	8,572	8,572	13,163
PEL and EYPP	5,980	-	5,980	-
LBI Others	4,001	-	4,001	916
Others	-	-	-	-
	97,035	8,572	105,607	80,454
Activities for generating funds				
Fee Income	6,877	-	6,877	8,636
Other Income from Fundraising	-	-	-	-
Interest Income	-	-	-	-
	6,877	-	6,877	8,636
Total incoming resources	103,912	8,572	112,484	89,090
4. RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Support costs				
Agency staff	-	450	450	7,876
Canteen & refreshment	496	-	496	1,166
Cleaning	197	-	197	160
Events & outgoing	-	-	-	54
Insurance	1,326	-	1,326	-
Learning materials & nursery resources	1,288	-	1,288	1,199
Office & Kitchen Equipment	-	-	-	-
Postage, printing, stationery & supplies	1,385	-	1,385	1,436
PPE & Clothing	464	-	464	678
Professional fee	850	-	850	1,025
Software subscription	-	-	-	65
Subscription	259	-	259	204
Sundry expenses	-	-	-	-
Telephone & broadband	1,097	-	1,097	965
Bank charges	-	-	-	109
	7,362	450	7,812	14,937
Staff costs				
Salaries and wages	66,707	7,918	74,625	90,599
Employer NI contribution	655	63	718	1,342
Employer pension contribution	1,213	141	1,354	1,560
Staff training	148	-	148	461
	68,723	8,122	76,845	93,962
<i>Average number of staff employed</i>			4	4
Governance costs				
Independent examiner fee	660	-	660	600
Book-keeping & payroll	3,249	-	3,249	3,208
	3,909	-	3,909	3,808
Total resources expended	79,994	8,572	88,566	112,707

BENNETT COURT COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	660	600
Taxation and social security	972	1,272
Net wages payable	-	-
NEST pension payable	-	-
	1,632	1,872

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At the start of the year	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	At the end of the year
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund	13,325	103,912	(79,994)	-	37,243
Total unrestricted funds	13,325	103,912	(79,994)	-	37,243
Restricted funds:					
LBI Training	-	-	-	-	-
SEN	-	8,572	(8,572)	-	-
LBI Early Years	-	-	-	-	-
Total unrestricted funds	-	8,572	(8,572)	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	13,325	112,484	(88,566)	-	37,243