

Foundations for Families & their Communities Trustees' Annual Report Sept 2022 – Aug 2023

Charity number 1169508

A CIO supporting the families and
communities of the Foundations for Children
Nursery Schools Federation

Contents

Section 1:	
Introduction.....	1
Section 2: Review of activities and achievements.....	3
Section 3:	
Finances.....	4
Section 4: Policies &	

Procedures.....	5	Section 5:
Trustees		
Interests.....	5	
Section 6: Future		
Plans.....	5	
Section 7: Our Statutory Duty as a		
Charity	5	

Section 1: Introduction

The Foundation for Families & their Communities CIO supports the communities and families of the 4 Nursery Schools that make up the Foundations for Children Nursery Schools (FFCNS) Federation in Northampton and Wellingborough.

The charity raises funds to support the schools and other partnerships projects, including family groups for the local communities, training for Early Years professionals across Northamptonshire and action research to support the wider Early Years community.

The organisation was originally registered as a Charity on 6th October 2016 as Parklands Playgroup.

In March 2022, the Governing Board of Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation (FCNSF), together with the leadership team of Parklands Nursery School, notified the Playgroup staff that they proposed to expand the existing nursery provision to provide full time and part time places for 2- year-old children. A consultation was also held with families. It was explained that this change would enable the school to become more sustainable, as local authority-maintained nursery schools continue to face increasing constraints on funding; this would also address some of the challenges the Playgroup have faced with limited numbers.

The Playgroup Trustees and Committee members decided that the best option for the children and families would be for the Playgroup to cease offering its provision for 2-3-year olds from the end of 5 August 2022. Children of this age range could attend the nursery school, thus attending the same premises, staff would be transferred across to the nursery school under TUPE, and so in essence, there would be no fundamental

difference in the service provided to parents and children because of the closure.

The additional work possible due to funds received by the CIO would continue. This work includes groups operated at Parklands Nursery School and the Camrose Centre for families with young children such as Stay & Play, Time for Us and Baby Massage. The Charity aims to expand this work, to incorporate some of the other communities covered by the FFCNS and to fund projects to provide training for Early Years professionals across Northamptonshire and action research to support the wider Early Years community.

A number of resolutions were passed at a meeting of the Trustees and Committee in May 2022, to reflect the new focus of the Charity. The resolutions included agreement to:-

- Alter the purpose of the CIO to have a wider, more community-based focus
- Change the name of the charity from Parklands Playgroup to Foundations for Families and Their Communities and register this with the Charity Commission
- Amend the Constitution of the Charity to incorporate these changes and include the other strands of the Charity work

Due to role and staffing changes the list of trustees was also updated; the trustees are now as follows:

- Lyndsey Barnett, Executive Headteacher of Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation
- Lauren Jacques (CIO Secretary), Senior Family Worker, Parklands Nursery School
- Paula Stafford (CIO Chair), Community Engagement Lead for Foundations for Children Nursery School Federation
- Claire Eustace (CIO Treasurer), Bursar of Parklands Nursery School

The trustees will serve the charity until they choose to resign or the charity closes. Members are appointed for a term of two years by a resolution passed at a properly constituted meeting of charity trustees. Members are eligible for re-election. In electing trustees, the charity gives due regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO. All trustees complete DBS checks in line with statutory requirements. Trustees and members meet termly – a minimum of 3 times a year. The CIO currently has no direct employees.

Section 2: Review of activities and achievements

During the year covered by this report – September 2022 to August 2023, the CIO went through many changes due to the closure of the Playgroup.

However the majority of the transactions recorded in this period reflect that there was still income and expenditure linked to the running of the Playgroup during this year; but that there were also new sources of income and expenditure, related to the CIO's new purpose.

A new training group called Northamptonshire Early Years Partnership was established in 2023, to run Early Years CPD sessions for professionals across Northamptonshire, funded by both West and North Northants Councils. The CIO manages these resources and pays the costs incurred by these training sessions.

Section 3: Finances

As at 31/08/23 the CIO held a balance of £15,033.72; the income across the previous year totalled £12,590.68 (including a surplus on account of £2,373.99). As described above, the majority of these transactions were still related to the running of the Playgroup and the CIO is continuing the process of separating the Playgroup funding from the rest of the CIO funds.

A payment of £6,000 was also made in this period by West Northants Council (listed as a 'grant' below) for the Northamptonshire Early Years Partnership to deliver training to Early Years professionals. All the finances for this project are being managed through the CIO.



Foundations for Families & their Communities						
Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31/08/23						
Income				Expenses		
Fees	£957.50			Rent		
NCC Headcount Funding	£5,235.72			Wages / PAYE	£10,854.64	
Grants	£6,000.00			Pension	£608.23	
Miscellaneous	£2,771.45			Training		
Surplus	-£2,373.99			Equipment		
				Marketing		
				Insurance	£28.87	
				Projects	£846.94	
				Miscellaneous	£252.00	
				Deficit		
Total	£12,590.68				£12,590.68	

Section 4: Policies & Procedures

Policies and procedures are in place to support all aspects of safeguarding, child protection and health & safety, during the work of the CIO. Policies are reviewed and updated regularly.

Data Protection Officer : Lyndsey Barnett, Executive Headteacher, Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation, Parklands Nursery School, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton NN3 6DE; llambert@ffcnschools.com; 01604 64211

Section 5: Future Plans

Going forward the CIO will be focusing on raising funds to support our communities. A priority list will be drawn up of projects across the Federation and appropriate funding streams will be identified.

Section 6: Trustees Interests

Foundations for Families & their Communities : Charity Business Interests Updated May 2024						
Trustee Name	CIO Position	Start Date	End Date	Business Interests related to CIO (Including role in Federation)	Personal Interests related to CIO	Positions held in other charitable organisations
Claire Eustace	Treasurer	09/01/2024		Bursar, Parklands Nursery School	None	None
Paula Stafford	Chair	09/01/2024		Community Engagement Lead. FFCNS Federation / Co-opted Governor FFCNS Federation	None	Trustee of Camrose Community Toy Library / Trustee of Home-Start Wellingborough
Lauren Jacques	Secretary	08/03/2013		Family Support Worker, Parklands Nursery School	None	None
Lyndsey Lambert	Trustee	17/06/2020		Executive Head Teacher, FFCNS Federation	None	None

Section 7: Our Statutory Duty as a Charity

As trustees, we are confident that we have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

With the change in the CIO's purpose the trustees and committee would like to thank Parklands Nursery School who have hosted the Playgroup since its incorporation; the Playgroup staff for their hard work and commitment, and the parents who put their trust in the Playgroup for the care and education of their children.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustee's Annual Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:-

PDStafford Trustee & Chair

Date: 27/06/25

Contact details:- Foundations for Families & their Communities,
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