



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 06/04/2024 Period start date TO 05/04/2025 Period end date

Charity name: Candles – North Essex Down Syndrome Support Group

Charity registration number: 1198215

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To Provide the relief of the needs of children with down syndrome and their families living in Colchester and the surrounding areas, by provision of facilities, services and opportunities that will maximise their participation in society, and any other charitable purposes connected with Down Syndrome.
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	Swimming, Tennis, Soft Play, Dance, Cooking, Multi-sports, Sensory Activities, Biking, Football.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Yes, all trustees have had regard to the guidance.

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	Achievements include seeing the children gaining more and more confidence year on year. Making really great friendships with other children just like them and also their siblings too. Giving them equal opportunities to thrive in like every typical child and join in out of school activities where the whole family is included and make it really special. Parents have been given respite and support whenever they need it, and they can enjoy seeing their children having fun where it is suitable and safe for them. Parents relationships continue to flourish and there really are 'family' friendships forming, where they would otherwise feel alone. We are so excited that our Name is around the Colchester area more now so we get hospital referrals and health visitors calling us with information on new parents who need support, etc. So this is a really amazing achievement where we can make a difference to people's lives.

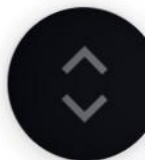
Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	There has been nothing that has been against our objectives only that sometimes where we cannot find the right services for our children due to availability at the time, or weather, so there can be a delay in getting some activities we want booked in.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	Our fundraising this year has been better than the last, as we are finding it increasingly difficult each year to get funding as we do not provide any services to gain income due to the nature of our charity. We are a small charity that organise activities for the children and families, we do not set out to make money from anything we do.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	See Accounts below
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	We have reserves from donations received for which we are organising sessions. We like to ensure we always have enough in reserves for the next year so we can plan our yearly activities. We continuously use our reserves for upcoming events, we do not pay any employees – all the funds go to the activities and expenses to pay for those activities.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£5000
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	N/A



Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		CIO
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	CIO Document
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO- Foundation
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	All Trustees agree on any changes that are made or arise

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	Affiliated with the Down Syndrome Association and insurances are held with them
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Candles Down Syndrome Support Group
Other name the charity uses	Candles
Registered charity number	1198215
Charity's principal address	38 Rowhedge Road, Colchester, Essex, CO28EL

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	Charlotte Larcom			Yes
2	Bethany Bedingfield			Yes
3	Kerrie Chadwick			Yes
4	Helen Mendel Gonzales			
5	Clare Ranson			
6	Teresa Coscoran			
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	None
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	None

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

None


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)	Charlotte Larcom	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairperson	

Date	03/02/2026
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Candles Down Syndrome Support Group

Financial Accounts 06/04/2023 – 05/04/2024

Candles - Annual Accounts April 2024 - April 2025

Income

Donations from Council/Government	1,200.00	
Community grants	7,790.00	
Donations from Local Businesses - Donations	1,225.00	
Family bookings - Donations	3,335.50	
Donations for 2024 - Trading	9,369.00	
Bank Interest	10.68	
		22,930.18

Expenses

Admin - Hall Hire	- 561.65	
Admin - Expenses	- 5,408.66	
Admin - Session payments	- 11,611.35	
		- 17,581.66

Total Loss (Cash in Bank)

5,348.52