

# Worcester Play Council

## Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

## **Worcester Play Council**

### **Report of the trustees for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

##### **Governing Document**

The Charity is governed by a constitution adopted on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1989 and amended on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2002. Charitable status was first registered on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1990.

##### **Recruitment and Appointment of the Committee of Management**

The Management Committee is elected annually for a period of one year but may be re-elected. The Committee can have up to 12 ordinary members. The City Council representatives are appointed annually by the City Council. The Chairperson is only allowed to remain in office for 3 years but can be re-elected.

##### **Related Parties**

The Charity is guided by both local and national policy in so far as it follows the Charity's objectives. Worcester City Council has a high degree of influence on the Charity in ensuring that policies, as defined the Charity's objectives, are properly pursued.

##### **Objectives**

The object of the Charity is to provide facilities for recreation or leisure time occupations for persons under the age of 16 years who are resident in the City of Worcester. Such facilities being that which the beneficiaries have need by reason of their youth, social or economic circumstances and which will improve the conditions of life of the beneficiaries by promoting their physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

##### **Chairs Report**

This year proved to be an interesting one, providing challenges and raising questions for the Board and supporters of Worcester Play Council. At the beginning of the year the City Councillor representative negotiated a £15,000 grant from the City Council, which enabled us to work with Perdiswell Young People's Leisure Club to provide administrative and play organisation services. With this support we were able to look ahead and plan a programme of play and to continue to raise funds for these activities. Programmes of play sessions were organised for Easter and half term holidays. The sessions held in the areas of highest need were poorly attended, in comparison with other areas of the city and this was of concern to the board members. It was discussed, but the board felt that we had made similar efforts in all areas to advertise these events. It was felt that we should continue to offer free play sessions in all areas, but that we would try to use different venues within these areas. In the summer we held our usual programme of play sessions around the city and for the first time provided food, through the Holiday Activity and Food scheme. The National Play Day was celebrated by a free event at Perdiswell, where it was estimated that up to 3,000 people may have attended. In addition, the Summer Fun Squad sessions were attended by 400 children, with food being provided.

During the year a survey of younger children's views and wishes concerning play was conducted by Board Member Nikki Stobbs, to whom we are most grateful. This

conclusively indicated that children want more adventurous physical play. This has remained a topic high on the agenda of discussions in our meetings.

In addition to a need for more adventurous child-led play, the board also started to consider the play and leisure needs of older children. As the year ended these issues were being actively considered by the board and will remain on its agenda in the future.

## **Public Benefit**

In planning our activities for the year, the trustees kept in mind the Charities Commission guidance on public benefit. The focus on our activities remains supporting play facilities, the expansion of resources, and the provision of support and information to facilitate quality play across the City. This is with the intention of providing children and young people with a playful way of improving their physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

## **Financial Review**

The Charity continues to be dependent upon grants and donations with no guaranteed income stream and this has been identified as a major risk area for the Charities continued existence.

## **Core Reserves Policy**

The Management committee aim to accumulate sufficient restricted reserves to cover normal operating expenses for six months should funding cease. It is, however, anticipated that this reserve will be depleted on occasions such that shorter period of expenses would be covered.

Use of core reserves: -

1. To support funds, grants until expected monies are actually cleared.
2. To cover unexpected costs on a one-off basis.
3. To cover years of low funding, with expectations of replacing in the future financial years.

All decisions regarding the use of the core fund will be made by the finance committee with a minimum attendance of 3 people and a majority decision.

## **Trustees' responsibilities in evaluation to the financial statements.**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

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

- *select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently*
- *observe the methods and principles of 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 to operation.*

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 them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts Reports Regulations 2008) and the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking responsible steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees on: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023



Heater Giannasi – Chairperson

Elected Trustees:

Chair: Heather Giannasi  
Vice Chair: Christine Cawthorne  
Secretary: Paul Edwards  
Treasure: Phil Weston OBE

Officers: Sarah Walton  
Michelle Buckland

## **Worcester Play Council**

Statement of Financial Activities  
For the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Incoming resources from generated funds

### Grants and Donations

Worcester City Council	15,000
Eveson Trust	4,000
Worcester City Council Small Grants	2,000
Worcester City Council Covid Recovery	4,912
Worcester County Council Divisional Grants	1,000
Platform Housing	1,000
Groundworks (Tesco Community Grant)	1,000

**Total** 28,912

### Cost of Generating Funds

Play Development Support	11,000
Fun Squads	8,190
Play Day	3,933
Insurance	993
Materials	735
Food	600
Transport	511
Equipment	322
Admin	260

**Total** 26,544

## **Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2023**

2021/22

£

11,531

### **Assets**

#### **CURRENT ASSETS**

#### **Bank Accounts**

**Unity Trust Bank**

2022/23

£

13,899