

# Little Orchids

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2024

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The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

#### Reference and administrative details

<b>Registered charity name</b>	Little Orchids
<b>Charity registration number</b>	100096-0
<b>Company registration number</b>	NI 071926
<b>Principal office and registered office</b>	Woodlea House Gransha Park L`Derry BT47 6TF N Ireland

#### The trustees

Dervla Feeney	(Appointed 21 March 2024)
Emma McDaid	(Appointed 21 March 2024)
Paula McConway	(Resigned 21 March 2024)
Gregory Sloane	
Deborah Sheehan	(Resigned 21 March 2024)
Sarah McGill	(Resigned 21 March 2024)
Anne Marie Kavanagh	(Resigned 21 March 2024)

<b>Independent examiner</b>	Keith McElhinney 42A Clooney Terrace Waterside Londonderry BT47 6AP
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#### Structure, governance and management

The Charity is managed by an Executive Committee which consists of all the appointed trustees, and the selection of any new Trustees is dealt with by that Committee.

# **Little Orchids**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)***

**Year ended 31 March 2024**

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#### **Objectives and activities**

We provide therapeutic intervention and support for children 2-4 years with special needs and those who may require additional support. We cater for children who have a wide variety of specific needs. All staff are highly experienced and committed to ongoing training to provide the best outcomes for children and their families. We are located at Gransha Park, L'Derry and have no specific catchment area. Referrals are usually made by professionals involved with the child. Parents can also self refer. We We run 2 sessions per day and have a high adult child ratio. Observations are used to assess each child's individual needs, strengths, interests and abilities and to plan experiences that will encourage further learning. Throughout the daily routine we promote each child's social skills, communication skills, self help skills, play skills and independence. We liaise closely with Health and Education Professionals involved with each child to share information to achieve common goals for the benefit of the child.

# Little Orchids

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

#### Year ended 31 March 2024

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##### Achievements and performance

In the Year 2023/24 we ran morning and afternoon sessions from September 2023 until June 2024 and we operated a 3 week summer scheme in July. All the children were offered 2 days due to the high numbers of referrals. 31 children finished with us in June. All children who attended were in their pre preschool year Some reasons for referrals were:- " Early Developmental impairment" Speech and Language delay

- " Nonverbal
- " Genetic Conditions
- " Pulmonary hypertension
- " Cardiac condition
- " Chronic lung disease
- " Behavioural challenges
- " No danger awareness
- " High pain threshold
- " Sleep issues
- " Hyperactivity
- " Poor communication and social skills
- " Concerns about possible ASD and ADHD
- " Poor play skills
- " Feeding difficulties
- " Dystonia
- " Sensory processing difficulties
- " Repetitive behaviours
- " Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis
- " Brain Haemorrhage and stroke
- " Suspected Foetal Alcohol syndrome
- " Attention and concentration difficulties and difficult to engage
- " Very self-directed
- " Poor inconsistent response to name
- " Inconsistent eye contact
- " Delayed self-help skills
- " Doesn't understand simple commands
- " Finds transitions very difficult when leaving place or activity
- " Non mobile
- " Visual impairment
- " Toileting issues
- " Smearing

We have used different ways to monitor and measure the impact of our service these include observation records, behaviour monitoring forms, task analysis, and critical communication list. We continue to have 3 monthly reviews to meet with parents to discuss each child's progress and monitoring forms are completed. We use information from parents gathered before the child begins as a baseline. Other information gathered is from planning, evaluation, action plans and feedback from other professionals. We We review all our work annually by seeking the views of Parents via a questionnaire. Feedback from June 2024 was extremely positive with all Parents strongly agreeing with all questions including that their child is gaining confidence and independence as a result of his/her experience at Little Orchids. Comments from Parents included:- "I am so glad I sent my son to Little Orchids he has developed and progressed so much. I am delighted with his level of care and support" "Grateful for the support my child has received and the progress he has made" "Best decision I made for my child" "I feel immensely relieved and grateful. Little Orchids has exceeded my expectations in every" "Great that my child had somewhere safe to go"

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# Little Orchids

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### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

#### Year ended 31 March 2024

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"Love it and recommend to other special needs parents"

"Confident that this was the right placement for my child"

"My child has loved Little Orchids, he will miss coming along and seeing staff""I feel that the service was even better than what I could have expected""Second to none, all very productive and encouraging"

"Amazing keyworker support alongside support of manager was brilliant""Amazing child development support"

"I feel very grateful of every support we got"

"I've been offered great support throughout the year"

"The support we have received has been outstanding. We always feel well informed about my child's progress" "I am more than pleased with the support"

"Great Support network, my son has loved coming along, advice was always welcomed from staff""The support and guidance provided have been invaluable"

#### Achievements this year

" Over the past year we secured funding from the Public Health Agency for a 7th year to run a Making Mums and Dads lives better Project. This project ran for 1.25 hours per week for 4 weeks in December/January. The feedback was extremely positive. We have also secured funding to run the project again. " We secured funding from the Pathway fund to contribute towards the Playroom staff salaries from April 2023 until March 2024. " We secured one to one funding from HSCB Fair Play Regional Small Grants Scheme to support those children referred with very high complex needs who required one to one support. " We secured funding from National Lottery Awards for all towards our running costs and this has also been secured for the incoming year. " We secured a grant from Enkalon to bring in Jo Jingles for Rhythm and Rhyme sessions. " We secured grants from The Hedley Foundation and Ulster Garden Villages to contribute towards the cost of Salaries for the afternoon session. " We were featured on BBC Newsline, The Mark Patterson show and Colum Eastwood mentioned us in the House of Commons to raise awareness regarding possible cuts to Government funding. " Jay Doherty made a promotional video to highlight the work we do." Many Parents and friends of the Centre held fundraisers.

" We held a Charity night which was well supported by Parents and the local community. Concerns

" We are dependent on fundraising to contribute to the Staff salaries and running costs." The high number of children who are referred to the Centre and we are unable to offer places to all children. " Difficulty in recruiting childcare staff.

How we will overcome this

" We will continue to encourage parents to support any fundraising events." We will continue to make applications for funding.

" We continue to source funding to allow additional one to one support staff which means we can continue to offer 8 additional places in the incoming year. " We will advertise all vacant posts online, including social media.

#### Financial review

The Charity had a surplus for the year to 31 March 2024 of £4,464 (2023: deficit £19,889), and at 31 March 2024 had net assets of £113,973 (2023: £109,509)

#### Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

# **Little Orchids**

**Company Limited by Guarantee**

**Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)***

**Year ended 31 March 2024**

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The trustees' annual report was approved on 21 November 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Dervla Feeney  
Trustee