

## Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery

### Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2018

The trustees present their Annual Report for Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery (also called Stepping Stones Playgroup).

Stepping Stones operates a pre-school nursery in North Belfast: it operates from St Gerard's Community Centre, 722 Antrim Road, Belfast. It caters annually for 24 local children of pre-primary school age. The Nursery' stated benefits are:

*the advancement of education: enhanced positive early learning experiences for children in the "area of benefit", which develops both their learning and social skills; improvement in healthy living in the area through ongoing health and hygiene initiatives in the Playgroup; empowerment of parents to participate in the Playgroup which provides them with experience that they can use in other areas of community development.*

The public element of the benefits have been stated as:

*provided to the children (from the" area of benefit") attending the Playgroup, and their families. As the Playgroup serves different children/families over time, the wider local community benefits from having a local pre-school educational resource available to them. As parents are empowered through their participation in the Playgroups' management committee, the local community benefits from those parents using these skills/experiences in other fields/organisations.*

The Trustees are confident that the stated/intended public benefit has continued during the year ended 31 August 2018: all 24 places were filled, with the Management Committee overseeing the Nursery through periodic management meetings. During the year the Nursery generated a modest surplus of £60 (previous year £1,378), contributing towards its ongoing financial stability: these accounts, prepared using the accruals basis, have been filed with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. In addition to income from Government funding for pre-school places the Management Committee undertook a number of fundraising activities during the year, the proceeds of which were used to buy new equipment for the Nursery.

The Trustees during the year were as follows:

Catherine Beatty (Chairperson)  
Kelly Hurson (Secretary)  
Peter McClean (Treasurer)  
Ursula Quinn  
Edwina Weiniger  
Eamonn Witson

Staff are encouraged to continue their development with appropriate training, supported by the Nursery.

The period after the year ended 31 August 2018 saw the Nursery achieve full local attendance once again.



Peter McClean, Treasurer, 27 June 2018