

Glen Community Parent Youth Group

Statement of Management Committee's Responsibilities for the year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and Performance

The past twelve months witnessed an increase in the level of Services/activities organised in the Glen Community Complex. More than 55,000 User Visits were made by children, young people, families and adults using our Services for Daycare, After-schools, Youth, Education/Training, Family Support, Sporting, Healthy Living Programmes and Advocacy Services.

We enhanced our Partnership arrangements with St. Gerard's School, Lenadoon Community Forum, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust, Education Authority, Outerwest Family Support Hub, Women into Sport, Lenadoon Community Counselling Project and a wide range of Networking Bodies. Our Social Economy Daycare and After-schools Projects enabled us to employ additional staff. We had a very positive Inspection by the BHSCT Early Years Teams in July 2023. We also had several very positive Moderation Visits for our Youth Services by the E.A. Inspectorate in the past year.

The Education Authority strengthened their relationship with us and we were successful in our funding application to them. Our Inclusion Project with St. Gerard's now runs two days a week. The revenue from the Daycare and Afterschool's Project this year resulted in a greater income and also an increase in our expenditure and outputs. This enabled us to be able to cover the huge increase in Staff and Running Costs for the Group. With the increase in minimum wage and huge increase in gas, electric, cleaning and running costs, we wouldn't have been able to deliver the same level of Services in the Complex without the revenue raised by our Social Economy Project. It is also proving difficult to recruit staff with only short term contracts on offer.

We witnessed an increase in the number of requests to use our rooms and Main Hall for Meetings, Family Contact, Training, Workshops and Sporting/Health Activities and Programmes. We also hosted a number of activities and Events in the Complex as part of the Lenadoon Community Festival. We moved our

Halloween Events Indoors (due to torrential rain) and it proved really successful with over 500 enjoying the Festivities on the evening.

We organised and delivered a 7 week Summer Scheme for over 200 young people and an eight week Summer Camp for 14 young people. Over thirty children from our Daycare Project graduated in June. Our Youth Staff Co-ordinated a Winter Toy Appeal locally which resulted in hundreds of toys being donated and distributed to local families.

We worked in partnership with Lenadoon Women's Group to facilitate a Winter Families in Need Appeal which resulted in over 100 needy local families and individuals receiving food, Clothes, toiletries, fuel, etc. over the Christmas/New Year period and to supply Utility Vouchers to those in greatest need. Adult Safeguarding, Child Protection, Paediatric First Aid, Mindfulness and Suicide Prevention Training, was provided to the Staff and Volunteers in the past 12 months. Our staff over the past 6 months have played a key role in facilitating consultations for local people for the Lenadoon Peoples Plan.

The main focus of our activities, programmes and services throughout the year was targeted at disadvantaged individuals and families, many of whom were referred from a variety of Health and Social Care Professionals. We increased our Reserves to reflect the increase in staff and running costs and to ensure that we would have six months cover in the event of an emergency or loss of funding. We are also conscious of the fact that funding for the majority of our staff ends in March 2025 and with political uncertainties, Funders cannot guarantee anything beyond March 31st 2025.

We adhered to all our Charity Commission obligations and had inspections of our facilities carried out by the Health and Safety Executive and Belfast City Council.

With the current cost of living crisis, we will continue to provide a wide variety of Services to the most vulnerable individuals and families within the Neighbourhood to improve their quality of life. We are indebted to our landlords APEX Housing Association for their support and maintenance service throughout the past 12 months.

Quality Childcare Provision

Quality Childcare Provision



Glen Parent Daycare won Workforce Training Services Employer of the Year Award

Award Winning Service

Glen Day-Care is an Award Winning, High Quality Daycare. Our project provides affordable childcare for working parents, students in education and training, and referrals from health and social care professionals. At Glen Daycare we take pride in offering a warm, welcoming and caring environment where each child has the opportunity to develop and grow in their unique way.

We are ambassadors for children and respect their opinions, value their decisions and actively listen to their voices. We provide a high standard of care and facilities for children aged 0-5 years. Every day at Glen Daycare is fun-filled and stimulating with age-appropriate resources and activities in every room. Staff strive to ensure that children are provided with a fun and secure space to learn and develop as they reach their full potential. Our well-trained team understand that each individual child's needs are different, with high staff-to-child ratios and every attempt made to achieve, low staff turnover, therefore offering continuity of care.

Activities – A key Component

In Glen Daycare activities are structured and well planned as these are important for the overall development of children. This year has been a busy year in the daycare following a staff planning day the staff came up with a range of ideas and ways to enhance the children's play experience.

Chinese New Year

The Year of the Dragon 2024

In the daycare we celebrated the Chinese New Year, this offered a valuable opportunity for our children to explore different cultures, traditions and values. By engaging in activities related to Chinese New Year, children not only learn about the significance of this festival but also develop respect for cultural diversity. The children made dragon puppets out of small brown paper bags. They used their imaginations to add eyes, horns, teeth, etc. with a variety of materials. We provided the children with chopsticks, variety of sizes of cotton balls or coloured pompoms and several empty Chinese food cartons. We let the children practice using the chopsticks to pick up cotton balls and pompoms, sorting them into the containers by size, color, etc. Lots of fun had by all.

St Patrick's Day celebrations at Glen Daycare.

Glen Parent Daycare had lots of activities going on for all our children over a weekend period. The children enjoyed fun-filled days of traditions celebrating Irish heritage and culture. The staff planned and prepared activities that were sure to put a smile on the children's faces. The children enjoyed making creative crafts and engaged in fun activities such as making a range of shamrocks, leprechauns and being creative with the green paint. They made St Patrick's Day rice krispie shamrocks as well as enjoying pasta with pesto and many more activities.

Our preschool children loved Irish dancing with their friends, Maria Fox stated that "giving children freedom to use their physical skills, balance, access their own risk and use their imagination as well as have fun was priceless". A big thank you to Joanne Malone

Summer Activities

During the summer of 2024 as always, we maximised the use of our outdoor area and planned a range of outdoor activities for the children to avail off. We had a visit from the Sensory bus and all our children thoroughly enjoyed it. We made visits to Collin Glen Forest Park, Half Moon Lake and our local parks. The children also enjoyed a wide range of in-house activities during the summer months, we brought in outside facilitators to deliver a range of physical activities such as Jump, Jingle, and Jive and popping plates. We had a visit from Kidz mobile farm which was great fun. We finished off the summer celebrations with a Teddy Bear's Picnic. Our children loved the Teddy Bear Picnic. We encouraged the children to talk to their bears, just chatting and offering food. The importance of using manners was taught. Along with sharing food and taking turns, the children were reminded to say "please" and "thank you" and we reinforced those newly learned skills to their bear friends. Lots of fun had by all. Our children joined in on the fun at Lenadoon Festival Committee's Family Fun Day on Monday 5th August.

Annual Inspection

Our annual inspection took place on 5th & 8th July 2024 carried out by BHSCT it was very positive; the inspecting social worker was very impressed with the quality of care and the staff child interactions. The daycare had no recommendations. The inspecting social worker stated "The daycare provides a high quality service and it is evident in my observations, I am very impressed with the staff-child interactions, the planning and structure is also excellent".

Funding

In September 2024 the Daycare was fortunate to secure funding for €3000 from Belfast Childcare Partnership for painting and decorating the daycare.

Glen Parent Pumpkin Patch

This year we had our very own pumpkin patch in our courtyard. The children really enjoyed it. We hope to expand this next year after its success. The pumpkin patch provided valuable educational opportunities for our children.



who played the tin whistle and Peter Cassidy who played the guitar for coming into the daycare on Friday 15th March to add our St Patrick's day celebrations the atmosphere was electric for boys and girls and the staff thoroughly enjoyed the music session.

Pathway Funding

Glen Parent Daycare were fortunate once again to secure the Pathway Funding in April 2024 for funding for 2 staff members for another year. The funding enables the staff to work to improve the development of children who are at risk of not reaching their full potential within the school system. Referrals to the Project come from a range of groups including, The Outer West Belfast Family Support Hub, Lenadoon Women's Group, Lenadoon Counselling Project, Women's Aid and others.

Glen Daycare open a Sensory Room!

On Friday 31st May Glen Daycare officially opened our first ever sensory room in Glen Community Complex. The daycare staff identified that there was a great need for the room to help meet children's individual needs and after months of planning and fundraising we opened our much-needed sensory room. The sensory room supports our children to use their senses to their full potential. The children can freely explore, watch moving lights and bubbles, which develops hand-eye coordination. The effects enhance children's colour and shape recognition. The soft play area increases their sense of safety and confidence, and they learn about cause and effect when exploring textures. Our sensory room is calm and soothing, and our children absolutely love it, it has helped reduce sensory overload for some of our children who become overwhelmed by the sights and sounds. A great benefit of sensory rooms is that they can be used by individuals or in a small group, using a sensory room with others can help to promote socialisation skills in a safe, calm and stress-free environment. The sensory room has had a profound effect on our children's learning and development.

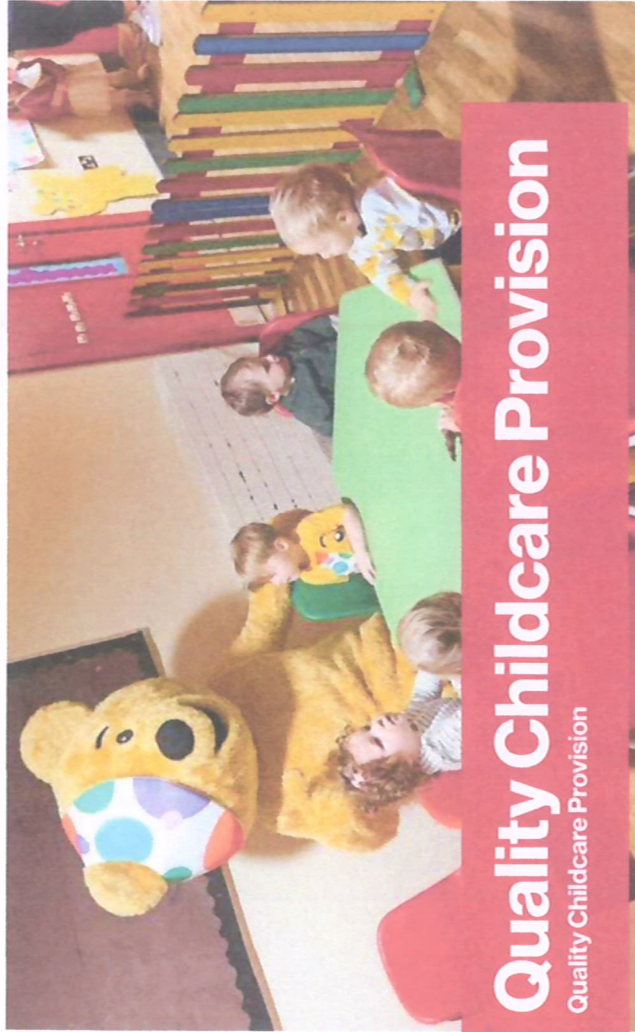
Preschool Graduation!

The children from our preschool room had a brilliant day graduating on 18th June. 46 children in total graduated, they were all so excited to graduate, this was the end of a chapter in their young lives and the start of a new adventure to nursery and primary school. The children were dressed in our beautiful red gowns and hats which provoked tears from parents, carers, family members and staff. The children sang their hearts out to all their nursery rhymes encouraging everyone to join in. The atmosphere was spectacular and emotional. Maria Fox stated, "our beautiful precious children are as dear to us as they are to their parents we wish them all the best and burst with pride knowing that we have made a positive impact on their future learning". Congratulations to all our children. They dressed up in their favourite Super Hero costumes. The staff helped make costumes and painted the children's faces, a fun day had by all.

Preschool Graduation!

We now have waiting lists for all age Groups in the Glen Daycare and are exploring opportunities to expand Glen Daycare to cope with the demand for places.

For further information about the services provided by Glen Daycare Project, please call Donna T 028 90618549



Quality Childcare Provision

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Visit from Pudsey — Children in Need

Children in Need Fundraiser, was a blast from cake sales to crazy hair & pyjama day Glen Parent Daycare had a week of fun! We would like to thank everyone who donated and for all your support a special thanks to our wonderful team and amazing children. We raised £216 all for children in need.

Staff Training.

- 3rd of January eager and able to learn
- 10th of January fire safety training
- 18th of January observation training
- 30th of January early years webinar
- 20th of February health & Safety training
- 5th of March introduction to strategic business planning
- 12th of March introduction to managing conflicting teams
- 5th of March measles awareness session
- 16th of April making good funding applications
- 23rd of April supporting your staff
- 30th of April introduction to employment
- 7th of May reserves session
- 7th of May Recruitment and selection of early years staff
- 11th of June community and voluntary early years staff
- 11th of June 4 staff started CCLD Level 3
- 12th of June supporting executive function in preschool children
- 12th of June report writing
- 13th of June 3 staff completed CCLD Level 3 work force
- 21st of June Child protection Training (Keeping children safe)
- 20th August Subsidy Scheme Training
- 11th September Building Community Connections Workshop
- 26th September 2nd Building Community Connections Workshop
- 30th September Invest in Play



Glen Parent Youth Group



Some of the young people who took part in the Summer Scheme Activities

After Schools

Throughout the year the Group has delivered an intensive afterschool programme both in house and utilising outdoor resources. The afterschools Programmes offers the children and young people a safe supervised environment and is designed as a supplement to in class learning. In addition to providing adult supervision to the children after school, the afterschool's programme offers educational benefits. The afterschool's programme offered the children and young people a wide range of programmes that included:

- Educational support (numeracy and literacy Programmes)
- Educational Visits
- Seasonal workshops
- Community safety programmes
- Mindfulness/yoga workshops
- Drama workshops
- Healthy living programmes
- Environmental programmes
- Arts & Crafts programmes
- Road safety and bike safe programmes



Evening Youth Provision

The evening youth provision over the year has provided a range of opportunities for the young people who attended and availed of the programmes and activities. The evening youth provision focused on enabling and empowering the young people to reach their full potential as caring and responsible citizens. It offered the children and young people different activities to help and encourage them to grow, have ongoing relationships with other young people and adults and give hope and opportunity for their future.

Below is a list of some of the programmes that we delivered to the young people throughout the year:

- Mindfulness training
- Futsal training
- Sexual education workshops(Common Youth)
- Invisible trafficking
- The Art Cart
- Halloween fair
- Youth Achievement Awards
- Youth Football academy
- Substance abuse Awareness Programme including vaping
- Ready Steady Cook
- Let's get active Programmes
- Young Men's Group
- Young Women's Group
- Mind your girlfriends' group in partnership with Community Restorative Justice.
- Promoting resilience



Summer Scheme/Camp

The Youth Group delivered an 8 week summer scheme and summer camp programme throughout the months of July and August. We had over 250 young people signed up as members. This included daily trips away and in house activities. This is our 4th year running our summer camp this has been the most successful year yet to date and we keep growing and getting bigger, better and stronger. We accomplished our goal of providing all our young people with the best summer they can possibly have. We made it our aim to pack it full of lots of different trips especially to places the young people have not been before.



Schools work

The Inclusion Project in partnership with St Gerard's resource centre continued to run throughout the year. The Inclusion Project is there to encourage participation from the young people who don't attend any youth club and give them the opportunity to experience actually attending a youth club and taking part in specific programmes structured and designed in partnership with the young people. The overall idea of this Project is to educate and showcase to the young people attending the benefits that attending a youth club can have and hopefully encourage the young people taking part to sign up as member's and in the long term volunteer as youth leaders.