

LITTLE ACORNS PLAYGROUP

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

The directors (who are also the trustees at the charitable company) present their report and financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the SORP (FRS 102) and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 as applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime. The disclosure requirements of section 1A of FRS 102 have been applied other than when additional disclosure is required to show a true and fair view.

The directors discovered evidence, on 19 September 2025, that fraudulent activity had occurred during both the 2024 and 2025 financial years. This matter was reported immediately to the relevant authorities and the investigation is ongoing. At 30 September 2024 the net loss to the company was £5,084.

Principal Activities

The company's objectives are to enhance the development of and advance the education of children under statutory school age among the inhabitants of Castleroe and surrounding rural areas, by the provision of appropriate accommodation, learning experiences and play facilities. The company offers opportunities to all children without distinction of sex, race, culture, religion, means or ability. Parents are encouraged to become involved in the activities of the playgroup either through role models in their profession or by joining the committee to assist with running the playgroup and with fundraising activities.

Children benefit from a host of resources within a well organised, stimulating and attractive learning environment. The broad range of interesting activities and experiences provides good opportunities to learn in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. Little Acorns have an open-door policy and parents are always welcome. Parents are kept well informed about what is happening in the playgroup through letters, displays and posters. Parents have regular feedback about their child's progress both verbally and through school reports.

Future Plans

Little Acorns Playgroup will continue to develop and enhance the learning experiences for our preschool, supporting individual learning to the age and development of each child through a well-balanced and planned curriculum.

The staff continue to develop and update their training through online and in-person training.

We continue to have strong links with the local primary school and visit each month to help children with transitioning into P1.

Maintenance

Our mobile classroom has been cladded using plastic to ensure the building is waterproof and will last for some time. Our outdoor slide has been replaced to ensure that safety of the children is maintained.

Organisation Structure

The executive committee consists of the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer who are appointed at the AGM.

These executive officers may in addition appoint 6 or more other individuals to serve and non-executive committee members. Both executive and non-executive members are trustees of the charity and are also directors of the company for the purpose of company law. The trustees administer the charity and meet regularly to discuss the on-going work and commitment of the group. The committee members are from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

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DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)

Results

Total incoming resources for the year were £52,485 (2023 - £42,271) of which 75% (2023 – 87%) was generated from Education Authority funding. Total resources expended were £56,589 (2023 - £55,175) of which approximately 78% (2023 – 81%) was expended on wages. At 30 September 2024 the total funds of the charity amounted to £2,659.

Reserves Policy

The Committee, after advice, consider it prudent to hold monies of £2,500 in reserve in the event of unforeseen circumstances leading to financial difficulties which might put the future of its employment capacity, users' well-being and general charity work in jeopardy.

Risk Management

The committee are aware of the major risks to which the organisation is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Internal control risks are minimised through the procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the organisation. Procedures are also in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers and clients.

Statement of Directors Responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with SORP (FRS 102) Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company for that period.

In preparing those financial statements the directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and relevant charity legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)

Taxation

The company is a charity (HMRC Charity Number XR22757) and is recognised as such by HMRC for taxation purposes. As a result, there is no liability to taxation of any of its income.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 (FRS 102) and in accordance with the Charity SORP 2015

By order of the board


Director

Date: 1 February 2026