

## **Ballygowan Community Pre-School & Playgroup**

### **Trustees' Report**

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 May 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with The Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

#### **Trustees**

Karen Stewart (appointed 22 June 2021)

Suzanne Murdock (appointed 22 June 2021, resigned 6 September 2022)

Sara Louise Bowman (appointed 22 June 2021, resigned 6 September 2022)

Rebecca Ellison (appointed 6 September 2022, resigned 8 November 2022)

Sharon Spence (appointed 6 September 2022)

Tasha Acheson (appointed 6 September 2022)

Courtney Mills (appointed 31 January 2023)

#### **Structure, governance and management**

##### ***Recruitment and appointment of trustees***

The management Committee who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

The management committee are appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

The management committee have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

#### **Objectives and activities**

##### ***Public benefit***

The charity was established to promote play based learning environments for all children under statutory school age, of Ballygowan and its surrounding environs without distinction of age, gender, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and health and wellbeing.

The main aims of the setting are:

- The preparation of each individual child for primary education.
- Enabling children to become more competent in the skills of expression, communication, problem solving, early mathematics, creativity, knowledge of the world around us, experimentation and exploration and physical development.
- Enabling children to relate to other children and adults.

These aims are met by including amongst others the following activities:

- A play based learning environment.
- Interviews between staff and parents/carers where a two way sharing of information takes place, along with the staff observations and progress reports used to inform parents/carers.

## **Ballygowan Community Pre-School & Playgroup**

### **Trustees' Report (continued)**

- Parental questionnaires used to gain the opinion of parents/carers.
- Wellbeing and resilience of the child through Personal, Social and Emotional development and encouraging Healthy Eating and Physical exercise through our Food and Drink Policy and Play Policy.
- Annual Inspection by Social Services Trust and regular Inspections by Education and Training Inspectorate (Education Authority formerly Dept of Education).

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

#### **Achievements and performance**

- Parents / carers and staff availed of training, to gain a wider knowledge of the development and social needs and behaviours of children so that they can tailor their care and educational programme to the needs of individual children. This knowledge is then implemented into practice with an ongoing evaluation process.
- Parents/carers and other interested parties, represented on the management committee.
- Community involvement and interest.
- The provision of a safe, caring, welcoming and understanding environment within which the children obtain their first experience of education.

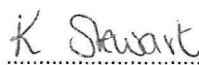
#### **Financial review**

The Management Committee are satisfied with the financial results of the year ended 31 May 2023

#### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have established a policy which is reviewed annually, whereby the unrestricted funds held by the charity should be a target of twelve months of average expenditure. The average expenditure in the next 12 months is expected to be £55,000 and unrestricted funds are currently sufficient to cover this cost.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 17 January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

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Karen Stewart  
Chairman and Trustee