

Registered number  
NI049041  
Charity number  
NIC 103889

**GLENULLIN CHILDCARE TRUST**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**  
**Report and Unaudited Accounts**

**for the year ended 31 December 2023**



# **GLENULLIN CHILDCARE TRUST**

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# **GLENULLIN CHILDCARE TRUST**

## **Company Information**

### **Chairperson**

Ráichéal Mhic Niocaill (appointed July 2022)

### **Secretary**

Mark Kate McLaughlin (appointed July 2022)

### **Treasurer**

Briege O'Kane (appointed October 2022)

### **Registered office**

39 Tirkeeran Road  
Garvagh  
Coleraine  
BT51 5AX

### **Legal Status**

The Glenullin Childcare Trust is, a company limited by guarantee which was formed in 2004 to provide childcare facilities in the interests of the local community. It is registered with the Inland Revenue as a charity for tax purposes.

### **Accountants**

J A S Campbell & Co.,  
49 Managher Road  
Aghadowey  
Coleraine  
BT51 4DE

### **Bankers**

Danske Bank  
Main Street  
Kilrea  
Coleraine  
BT51 5QS

### **Registered number**

NI049041

### **Charities Commission Number**

NIC 103889

## **GLENULLIN CHILDCARE TRUST**

**The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Introduction**

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023.

The board of trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year and the position at 31st December 2023, considering the increased financial burden placed upon the organisation by the new requirements of government for a further increase to the living wage and workplace pensions, alongside the increased cost of living, they consider that the charity is in a strong position to continue its activities during the coming year and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations.

### **Name, registered office and constitution of the charity**

The legal registration details are :-

<i>Date of incorporation</i>	15/12/2003
<i>Company Registration Number</i>	NI049041
<i>The Registered Office is</i>	39 Tirkeen Road Garvagh
<i>Charities Commission Number</i>	NIC 103889
<i>The telephone number is</i>	028 295 57913

### **Objectives and Activities of the Charity**

#### ***A summary of the objects of the charity as set out in its governing document.***

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our governors have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education and on fee charging.

The objects of Glenullin Childcare Trust is to provide a quality childcare service for children aged 6 weeks to 11 years.

We endeavour to promote independence, develop social skills and personal development in a structured and flexible way.

All this within a safe, warm environment where children's physical, emotional and social development is paramount.

It is the policy of Glenullin Childcare Trust to protect and foster the dignity of children by ensuring that staff treat each child as an individual, valuing their unique attributes and qualities.

Policies to ensure the children's safety and welfare are in place, distributed to all and are strictly adhered to. These policies include such matters as diverse as :

- Vetting all individuals who come into contact with the children.
- Equal Opportunities Policies.
- Additional Need Policies
- Medical Emergency Procedure.
- Social Networking, E-safety and mobile phone policies.
- Security of this Setting.
- Collection Policy.
- Social Distancing and Covid-19.

The Trust recognises the importance of working in partnership with parents/carers to promote the best interests of children and that parents play a key role in the education of their children. The group will work in partnership with and support parents in this role.



## **GLENULLIN CHILDCARE TRUST**

**The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### ***Public benefit that is provided by the charity***

The public benefit provided by the Trust starts with the childcare provided to the children, providing quality childcare from qualified child care providers and looking after their health and well being on a daily basis.

Following on from this, growing the child's potential during their time under our care and directing their personal and social development.

Providing a reliable and cost effective service to the parents, taking account of safety, educational and nutritional issues.

Providing support and guidance to the parents, not only about their children but also on tax and benefit matters, also acting as a meeting place for those parents.

Radiating out from here to the community at large, providing local facilities that keep the community together. Therefore people don't have to leave the area to get these benefits in larger towns and cities leading to the slow decline of the area.

Providing local employment and training both full time / part time, voluntary or paid.

Co-ordinating with local schools and facilities, to the benefit of all parties.

Ultimately to turn out well developed youth who will be of benefit to the whole of the community.

A lot of these goals are qualitative and longterm, and thus hard to measure. As a basic indicator though in 2022 we had 84 children from 100 families and in 2023 we had 84 children from 74 families.

Others more quantitative like numbers of hours childcare provided, and numbers of local staff employed are detailed below:

	2023	2022	2021
Total hours childcare provided	59406	56793	* N/A
No of staff members living within catchment area	6	5	3
No of students in the year	1	0	0
Hours provided in Baby Room (6weeks - 2years)	13080	11640	* N/A
Hours provided in Toddler Room (2years)	14645	13580	* N/A
Hours provided in Middle Room (3years)	6440	7368	* N/A
Hours provided in Pre School Room	12661	11305	* N/A
Hours provided in After School Room	12580	12900	* N/A

\* N/A Information not available due to lack of staff due to Maternity leaver.

### ***The charity's aims including the changes or differences it seeks to make through its activities .***

The Trust aims to promote the independence and personal development of the children within our care whilst also developing their social skills.

The charity contributes towards preparing our charges for the opportunities, responsibilities and experience of later life.

### ***An explanation of the charity's main objectives for the year.***

The Trusts objectives during the year were as follows:

To increase childcare places, whilst still providing a high level of service.

To develop our links with local schools.

To provide ever improving training for our staff and so provide an even better service to the local community.

To increase the amount of fundraising activities in the community, and increase the funds generated by these new and existing activities.

## **GLENULLIN CHILDCARE TRUST**

### **The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023**

#### ***An explanation of the charity's strategies for achieving its stated objectives.***

During this climate of reduced government funding, the Trust needs to stand on its own two feet, to continue to achieve the charity's objectives the following strategies have been identified:

Short term, the answer has been to rely on the support of volunteers in the community, re-arranging time to share the workload and reduce administration time.

Ongoing fundraising remains essential as the reduction in government funding continues. Senior staff with assistance from the voluntary committee need to continue to work to increase this throughout the year.

Structured payment schemes are in place with discounts for payment by direct debit, attempting to reduce the administration burden of having to pursue parents and guardians for outstanding accounts.

Schemes remain in place to encourage families to source all their childcare from the Trust, not only benefiting from our quality childcare, but also receiving a discount for their second and subsequent children of 5%.

Due to an increase in expenditure linked with the increased national living wage and cost of living crisis a further increase in fees needs to be considered. It is essential finances are continued to be reviewed on a regular basis by the committee and remain a standing item on the agenda of General meetings.

#### ***Details of significant activities (including its main programmes, projects, or services provided) that contribute to the achievement of the stated objectives.***

The Trust's main service is the provision of childcare to the townlands of Glenullin, Aghadowey, Ballerin and hinterlands of Garvagh, Swatragh and Kilrea.

The Trust complies with all employment legislation, pays adequate salaries to staff, and provides opportunities for ongoing training in order to acknowledge the responsible and skilled nature of the work with children and to protect the rights of employees.

We ensure that each staff member will be trained to a minimum of NVQ level 3, and are registered under the Childminding and Day Care Registration Children (NI) Order 1995 with all that that entails. Each child is allocated a named carer.

Supervision will be in the ratios as follows:

1:3 for 0-2 year olds, (no less than 2 staff at any time)

1:5 for 2-3 year olds. (no less than 2 staff at any time)

1:8 for 3-4 year olds. (no less than 2 staff at any time)

1:10 for 4-11 year olds. (no less than 2 staff at any time)

Summer time theme activities, including external trips are also provided.

These are also supervised in the ratio 1:5, (no less than 2 staff at any time)

#### ***The contribution of volunteers***

Whilst not a significant element of the care staff, it is acknowledged that without the large number of unpaid hours contributed willingly by Trustees in administrative roles the charity could just not operate.

Also the support of parents and the community in fund raising makes a large contribution to the success of the Trust.

The Glenullin Childcare Trust wishes to thank all volunteers and supporters for their invaluable efforts, and trust that we can rely upon them in the future.



## **GLENULLIN CHILDCARE TRUST**

**The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Achievements and Performance of the Charity**

#### ***A review of charitable activities undertaken by the charity***

The charitable activities undertaken by the Trust take the form of subsidising the cost of the childcare charged to the parents.

Additional support and guidance is provided to parents as they require it.

#### ***Fundraising activities***

Whilst the Trust relies on grant aid from the donors identified in the accounts, whose support is valued, there is still scope to further increase fundraising activities.

Those undertaken in the 2023 year include the follows:

	2023	2022	2021
Smarties Tube Collection	50	0	0
Clothes Bank	40	0	0
Raffles	100	630	230
Sponsored walk	1074	0	0
Christmas Show	650	0	0
Tae in the Pot	1475	0	0
Nursery Summer Fun Donations	63	0	0

#### ***Factors relevant to the achievement of the charity's objectives***

Factors affecting the ability of the Trust to achieve its objectives are as follows:

Effect of the economy on the price we can afford to charge for our services.

Competition with the local market for Childcare Provision.

Reduced availability of childcare costs being paid by the government.

Ever increasing cost of expenses and overheads.

Our main objective is to provide a quality childcare service for those in our community who need it. In 2023, even as we have continued to navigate our way out of the pandemic the safety of our children and families remained paramount.

#### ***Employment of disabled persons***

Ongoing consultations are being carried out with Early Years to formulate a disabled workers policy. But as yet no policy for disabled workers is in place.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

#### ***Nature of the Governing Document and Constitution of the charity***

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and as such is governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

## **GLENULLIN CHILDCARE TRUST**

### **The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023**

#### ***The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees***

When new trustees are required, usually through vacancies occurring, the existing trustees decide what skills, experience and knowledge is required.

Taking care to comply with any specific requirements set out in the governing documents.

The position is then advertised within the facility and local church bulletins.

Fit Person assessments as required are carried out by Social Services.

Candidates are formally appointed at the AGM.

#### ***The policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees.***

New trustees are introduced to the other trustees and key members of staff so that they can get a better understanding of the organisation, and the challenges it faces.

The trustees are given an induction pack outlining the background of the organisation, job roles and responsibilities etc, the pack includes such things as a copy of staff terms and conditions, finance manual and copy of memorandum and articles.

An assessment of the skill provided by the trustees and any training required by them is identified and then a plan is put in place to enable the trustee to acquire those skills needed to better fill their responsibilities.

Mentoring of directors is carried out by the Community Business Advisor from workspace in Draperstown.

#### ***The organisational structure of the charity and how decisions are made.***

Key decisions are the remit of the board of trustees, so they can best guide the future of the Trust.

Less important decisions may be delegated to sub committees set up for specific purposes.

Routine day to day decisions are the responsibility of key employees as per their contract of employment.

#### ***Relationships between the charity and related parties, including its subsidiaries***

The only transactions with related parties is disclosed in the notes to the accounts, this is a loan from the treasurer Patricia Mullan which is now repaid in full.

The Trust has no subsidiaries



## **GLENULLIN CHILDCARE TRUST**

**The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### ***The major risks to which the charity is exposed and reviews and systems to mitigate risks***

The trustees take the issue of risk management very seriously.

The major risks to the charity are :

The termination of funding is a threat.

The struggle is getting new families to take up our services, either due to competition or price rises that may be forced upon the Trust. The Trustees feel that the charity is well established in the community with a record of achievement that will stand it in good stead in the current financial climate. Any pressures that the Trust would be experiencing is likely to have a similar or greater effect on our competition.

Of a lesser degree of risk are factors like failure to comply with legal requirements. Close attention is given to these matters, but it is possible, however remote to have the child care facility closed down if there are failings in the ratio of staff to children. Very close attention and control is placed on these legal factors.

Risks such as change in demographics, are unlikely to have an immediate affect and would allow sufficient time to adapt if they were to occur.

More effort has been placed on Fundraising and has been successfully increased this year. More onus is to be placed on this by senior staff instead of relying on the voluntary committee.

Risk management is a dynamic process and so needs and gets the board's constant attention. It is felt that with the broad base of experience the trustees have, they are capable of steering the Trust through these difficult times.

### **Financial Review**

#### ***Policies on reserves***

The trustees having reconsidered the position of the trust now feel that an unrestricted reserve of £90,000 is now required bearing in mind the two conflicting factors that charity law requires any income received by a charity to be spent within a reasonable period of receipt, and for the trust to have a comfortable buffer for its normal trading. As the reserves of the Reserves of the company are now £95,156 which continue to exceed the target however a decrease of £12,611 occurred this year. With increasing expenditure it is vital finances are reviewed on a regular basis throughout the year.

The reserve policy is monitored during the year, and if necessary reviewed due to changing needs and circumstances.

## **GLENULLIN CHILDCARE TRUST**

**The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### ***Principal funding sources and how expenditure in the year under review has supported the key objectives of the charity.***

The principal sources of funding are

Activities for generating funds this is income derived from child care activities . This has increased from £227,221 in 2022 to £251,714 in 2023. This is as a direct effect of easing of COVID restrictions and returning to a more normal service provision.

Voluntary Income is derived from other bodies The trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank Early Years, EA-NE-REGIO, Department for Communities and HM Revenue & Customs.

Many thanks for your generous grant-aid towards the capital spend and operating costs of the Trust, without whose support we would not still be operating.

Income during the year has been used to cover the support cost of the Trust as per the Profit & Loss Account.

### ***The investment policy and objectives, including the extent (if any) to which special, environmental or ethical considerations are taken into account.***

The Trust has no significant funds to invest and as such ethical considerations are seen as a moot point.

### ***Availability and adequacy of assets of each of the funds***

The board of trustees is satisfied that the Trust's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund.

### ***Transactions and Financial position***

The financial statements are set out on pages 14 to 23. The financial statements have been prepared implementing the 2005 Revision of the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales (revised in June 2008) and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). As stated in the introduction to this report, the Trustees consider the financial performance by the charity during the year to have been satisfactory.

The Statement of Financial Activities show net outgoing/incoming resources for the year of a revenue nature of -£12,611 (prior year -£10,016) and net realised outgoing/incoming resources of a capital nature of £ 0, (prior year £ 0), making net overall realised incoming/outgoing resources of -£ 12,611 (prior year -£10,016).

The total reserves at the year end after accounting for unrealised losses after revaluing investments of £ 0 (prior year £ 0), stand at £95,156 (prior year £107,767).

Free unrestricted liquid reserves amounted to £95,156(prior year £107,767).



## **GLENULLIN CHILDCARE TRUST**

**The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### ***Specific changes in fixed assets***

Changes in fixed assets are shown in detail in the notes to the accounts.

There have been only a small increase in fixed assets.

### ***Share Capital***

The company is limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital.

### **Plans for Future Periods**

The trust continues to dedicate time and personnel to sourcing and securing funding from all available avenues. Fees were increased in April 2023 and ongoing review of this is required due to the further planned increase in national living wage and ongoing cost of living crisis.

### **The name of the Chief Executive Officer and other senior staff member(s) to whom day to day management of the charity is delegated by the charity trustees.**

Deirdre Maguire - Manager  
Emily Cochrane - Deputy Manager  
Cathy Faulkner - Deputy Manager

### **The members of the Board of Trustees of the Charity during the year ended 31st December 2023 were:**

Ráicheál Mhic Niocaill	(appointed July 2022)	Chairperson
Briege O'Kane	(appointed October 2022)	Treasurer
Mary Kate McLaughlin	(appointed July 2022)	Secretary
Matthew Godwin	(appointed October 2023)	Vice Chair
Jill Black	(appointed October 2023)	Director
Susanna McIlvar	(appointed October 2023)	Director
Clara Godwin	(appointed October 2023)	Director
Orna Young	(Resigned October 2023)	Vice Chair
Ciaran McNicholl	(Resigned October 2023)	Director

All are directors of the company and also trustees of the charity, and their responsibilities include all the responsibilities of directors under the Companies Act and of trustees under the Charities Act.



## **GLENULLIN CHILDCARE TRUST**

**The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Committee Members**

There were no Committee Members this year other than those seven listed above

### **Non Committee Members**

There were no Non Committee Members this year

### **The members of the Board of Trustees of the Charity at the date the report and accounts were approved were:-**

Matthew Godwin  
Ráichéal Mhic Niocaill  
Clara Godwin

Chairperson  
Treasurer  
Secretary

### **Bankers**

Danske Bank  
Main Street  
Kilrea  
Coleraine

### **Solicitors**

Francis J Irvine & Company incorporating Francis J McNicholl Solicitors  
42 Dublin Road  
Belfast  
BT2 7HN

### **Independent Examiner**

J A S Campbell  
Accountant  
49 Managher Road  
Aghadowey  
Coleraine  
BT51 4DE

## **GLENULLIN CHILDCARE TRUST**

**The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023**

### **Statement of Directors' and Trustees' Responsibilities**

The Charities Act and the Companies Act require the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to :-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

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

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the responsibility of the independent examiner in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, on the face of the report, there are no inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

### **Method of preparation of accounts**

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board of trustees on 28 October 2024.



Ráichéal Mhic Niocaill  
Director and Trustee