

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 2024



GLENULLIN CHILDCARE TRUST

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GLENULLIN CHILDCARE TRUST

Company Information

Chairperson

Matthew Godwin

Secretary

Clare Godwin

Treasurer

Ráichéal Mhic Niocaill

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 2024

Introduction

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024.

The board of trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year and the position at 31st December 2024, 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 2024

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 2023 we had 100 children from 100 families and in 2024 we had 74 children from 52 families.

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

	2024	2023	2022
Total hours childcare provided	57666	59406	56793
No of staff members living within catchment area	8	6	5
No of students in the year	0	1	0
Hours provided in Baby Room (6weeks - 2years)	9334	13080	11640
Hours provided in Toddler Room (2years)	14234	14645	13580
Hours provided in Middle Room (3years)	9432	6440	7368
Hours provided in Pre School Room	15126	12661	11305
Hours provided in After School Room	9540	12580	12900

* 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 2024

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, rearranging 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.

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 7%.

A new hourly rate has been introduced in the Afterschool's Room during term time to try to encourage parents to use this service. It is hoped that this will become increasingly popular.

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 2024

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 2024 year include the follows:

	2024	2023	2022
Smarties Tube Cottection	0	50	0
Clothes Bank	0	40	0
Raffles	3742	1000	630
Sponsored walk	0	1074	0
Christmas Show	170	650	0
Tae in the Pot	0	1475	0
Nursery Summer Fun Donations	0	63	0
Marathon Donations	2544	0	0
Bake Sale	241	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 2024, 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 2024

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.

As members of Early Years, this team provide support and mentoring to directors as and when required.

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 2024

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 £82,387 which continue to exceed the target however a decrease of £12,769 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 2024

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 £251,714 in 2023 to £288,203 in 2024. This is as a direct effect of increasing the fees and increased advertising of services.

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 -£12,769 (prior year -£12,611) and net realised outgoing/incoming resources of a capital nature of £ 0, (prior year £ 0), making net overall realised incoming/outgoing resources of -£ 12,769 (prior year -£12,611).

The total reserves at the year end after accounting for unrealised losses after revaluing investments of £ 0 (prior year £ 0), stand at £82,387 (prior year £95,156).

Free unrestricted liquid reserves amounted to £82,387 (prior year £95,156).

GLENULLIN CHILDCARE TRUST

The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024

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 2024 and November 2024 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.

Emily Cochrane - Acting Manager
Colleen Higgins - Deputy Manager

The members of the Board of Trustees of the Charity during the year ended 31st December 2024 were :-

Matthew Godwin	Chairperson
Ráicheál Mhic Niocaill	Treasurer
Clara Godwin	Secretary
Jill Hastings	Vice Chair
Dane Higgins	Director
Susanna McIlvar	Director
Eamon Maynes	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 2024

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
Ráicheál Mhic Niocaill
Clara Godwin

Chairperson
Treasurer
Secretary

Bankers

Danske Bank

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 2024

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 21 September 2025.

Matthew Godwin
Director and Trustee

