

Ballyclare Family Focus

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104737

Details

Known as	BFF
Status	Received
Registered	2016-02-25
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	240 Rashee Road Ballyclare Bt39 9jq BT39 9JQ
Phone	07428692808
Email	familyfocusballyclare@gmail.com
Website	www.ballyclarefamilyfocus.com

Activities

Purposes: 3.1 The Association is a Christian faith based organization established to advance education, community development and to promote health and mutual support among families in the Ballyclare area (hereinafter called the "area of benefit") without distinction of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, the inhabitants of the area of benefit and the said families in a common effort to provide relevant services, training, support and facilities in the interests of education and/or recreation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said families and in particular to; a) maintain and manage or co-operate with any local authority in the maintenance of a centre or centres in the area of benefit for activities promoted by the association (hereinafter called "the Centre").

What the charity does: The prevention or relief of poverty,The advancement of education,The advancement of health or the saving of lives,The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

How the charity works:

Advice/advocacy/information,Counselling/support,Education/training,Medical/health/sickness,Playgroup/after schools,Relief of poverty,Religious activities,Volunteer development,Welfare/benevolent,Youth development

Who the charity helps: Addictions (drug/solvent/alcohol abuse),Adult training,Ex-offenders and prisoners,General public,Learning disabilities,Men,Mental health,Older people,Parents,Preschool (0-5 year olds),Specific areas of deprivation,Unemployed/low income,Volunteers,Women,Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£76,573	£71,456	£0	7

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Eamon Mullan		
Mrs Allison Campbell		
Mrs Marion Mccallion		
Mrs Rachel Howe		

Ballyclare Family Focus

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104737

Accounts

**Ballyclare Family Focus/ Little Blossoms
Income & Expenditure Statement**

Ballyclare Family Focus Little Blossoms

01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025

01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025

01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025

INCOME

Fee Income	34279		34279
Salary Support	8249		8249
Grant Income	5035	5035	
Pathway Fund	24500		24500
Fund Raising	215	215	
Donations	124	124	
Other Income	4170	4170	
Total Income	76573	9544	67028

DIRECT EXPENSES

Staff Salaries & Pensions	50340		50340
Total Direct Expenses	<u>50340</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>50340</u>

GROSS INCOME

Income Less Direct Expenses	26233	9544	16689
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OPERATING EXPENSES

Purchases	731		731
Property Expenses	4160	4160	
Staff Training	1204		1204
Rent	8400	5520	2880
Heat and Light	2040		2040
Cleaning	310		310
Printing and Stationery	0		0
Software	360		360
PC/Printer Consumables	0		
Other Office Costs	714	437	278
Telephone	694	603	90
Post and Packing	10	10	
Insurance	1087	980	107
Volunteer Mileage Allowance	194	94	100
Advertising	403	178	225
Professional Fees	425	425	
Accounts Fees	301		301
Bank Charges	83	41	41
Total Operating Expenses	<u>21116</u>	<u>12448</u>	<u>8668</u>

SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)

Net Surplus (Deficit)	5117	-2903	8021
	0	=====	=====

Ballyclare Family Focus

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104737

Accounts

Ballyclare Family Focus/ Little Blossoms
Income & Expenditure Statement

BFF

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01/04/2023-31/03/2024 01/04/23-31/03/24 01/04/23-31/03/24

INCOME

Fee Income	24899		24899
Room Hire	120	120	
Grant Income	6880	6880	
Pathway Fund	26250		26250
Fund Raising	686	686	
Donations	400	400	
Other Income	270	46	224

Total Income	59505	8132	51373
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DIRECT EXPENSES

Staff Salaries	43689		43689
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Total Direct Expenses	43689	0	43689
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GROSS INCOME

Income Less Direct Expenses	15816	8132	7684
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OPERATING EXPENSES

Purchases	552		552
Other Direct Costs	300		300
Staff Training	3088		3088
Rent	7500	4560	2940
Heat and Light	1689		1689
Cleaning	140		140
Printing and Stationery	372	294	78
Software	490	130	360
PC/Printer Consumables	39	39	
Other Office Costs	896	522	374
Telephone	648	571	77
Post and Packing	21	21	
Insurance	966	966	
Volunteer Mileage Allowance	272	44	228
Professional Fees	141	141	
Accounts Fees	249		249
Bank Charges	79	34	45
Total Operating Expenses	17442	7322	10120

SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)

Net Surplus (Deficit)	-1626	810	-2436
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£5000 received by loan on 4.5.2023 to cover income deficit

Ballyclare Family Focus

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104737

Annual report

Ballyclare Family Focus

**240 Rashee Rd
Ballyclare
BT39 3JQ**

AGM Annual Report - June 2023 – December 2024

Ballyclare Family Focus, founded in 2003, is a Non-incorporated Christian Charity no 104737 registered with the NI Charity Commission.

TRUSTEES AND GOVERNANCE

In the setting of our objectives and planning, careful consideration has been given to the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to insure that all activities help achieve the charity's purposes and provide benefit to the beneficiaries.

Ballyclare Family Focus (BFF) is constituted as a Voluntary Community Organization and a Registered Christian Charity as set out in our Governing Document. The Board of Management met bi-monthly and minutes have been recorded. The Board of Management consists of a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and two committee members. The new Board of Management consists of a Director, Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and three board members.

SUMMARY OF PURPOSE

Our vision is a harmonious and vibrant community which values the individual and family life: people feel accepted, confident and secure, engage productively in community life and have hope for the future.

We aim to be instrumental in providing effective early intervention Family Support Work for the town and rural communities of Ballyclare.

Outcomes

The outcomes for beneficiaries include:

1. Advancing education and providing educational courses and training for developing individual capabilities and life-skills.
2. Social and recreational groups.
3. Improvement of mental and emotional health and well-being and promotion of healthy lifestyles.
4. Networking with and signposting to other family support agencies, building partnerships to collaborate and broaden our services.
5. Encouraging the improvement of living conditions and safe and stable home environments for children, young people, individuals and families.

The main activities in BFF

BFF operates community outreach programmes and a preschool as a non-profit social enterprise.

1. Counselling and Active Listening Service and 'Pot of Gold' child bereavement care
2. Little Blossoms Preschool run by salaried staff.
3. Recreational and social gatherings for parents & children
4. Educational Courses - parenting courses.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS in 2023-24

Counselling & Active Listening Service Provision was available all year

Little Blossoms Pre-preschool	September 2023 - June 2024
Parent gatherings	Termly
Pot of Gold	September – Dec 2024
Family Support Hub	Monthly
Locality Planning Group	Monthly

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2023 - 24

Directors: Marion McCallion

Chairperson: Marion McCallion (Vice)

Secretary: Allison Campbell

Treasurer: Rachel Knowles

Committee: Eamon Mullan, Jennifer Morrison, Rachel Howe

BOARD MEETINGS

The AGM 2022-23 celebrated Ballyclare Family Focus 20th Anniversary on Tuesday 28th November at 7pm.

This year BFF welcomed Jennifer Morrison and Rachel Howe onto the Board of Management. Both Sinead Davies and Jennifer Morrison needed to step back from Board commitments but the addition of Rachel Howe was a strengthening factor.

Board meetings were held bi-monthly by zoom on 23rd Jan, 26th March, 9th April, 11th June, 3rd September, and 15th October.

The Board of Management focused on the action plan drawn up from the Strategy Review completed in June 2023 and presented by Alison Keenan from Eos Consultants in September 2023.

The Strategy Review has set out recommendations and targets for the next 5 years. In this first year, attention has been given to capacity building of our organization, preschool relocation and BFF management issues.

Governance Training Session for BFF Board Members was carried out by NICVA on 18th April 2024.

Minutes of all board meetings are available on request.

Acquisition of a Solicitor

BFF has acquired the services of solicitors Reid & Black of Ballyclare

BFF CENTRE MANAGEMENT

BFF Centre Manager: Adelyn Carr

Little Blossoms Pre – preschool Settings Manager: Jennifer Thompson

All BFF management and administration is done by Adelyn Carr. Little Blossoms management is done by Jennifer Thompson and supported by Adelyn.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Financial Management Team comprises of our Finance Manager Brian Glencross, Adelyn Carr, Marion McCallion, Jennifer Thompson and Anna Harper.

A Financial Advisory and Planning Group meet on occasion to address a number of financial issues. Members of this group included Brian Glencross, Robert Lamont and Eamon Mullan. We are thankful for each ones input.

Brian Glencross, from Bridon Business Services, manages the financial business of BFF and Little Blossoms Pre-preschool. Bookkeeping was managed by the Centre manager Adelyn Carr and volunteer Jessica Montgomery. Bank account signatories are Adelyn Carr, Marion McCallion and Anna Harper.

Salary payments:

Brian Glencross operates our payroll and we extend many thanks to both Brian and Anna Harper, who together with Jennifer Thompson, our settings manager, manage our preschool staff salary payments

Staff pension scheme

This year BFF has set up a pension scheme with NEST in order to provide staff pensions. Brian Glencross will manage the pension scheme.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

BFF has two business bank accounts with Danske Bank. One is for the business of Little Blossoms Pre-preschool and the other is for the business of BFF.

Brian Glencross from Bridon Business Services is our Financial Manager who draws up all our monthly accounts, wages reports and our end of year income and expenditure accounts. Our Auditor is Geoff McGookin.

The end of year income and expenditure accounts reflect a **surplus of £810** in the BFF Account and a **deficit of £2,463** in the Little Blossoms Account. This brings our total deficit to **£1,626**.

INCOME

Funding

BFF is financially dependent on income from funding and donations. Funding Bodies that supported BFF this year include ANB Council grants and Pathways Fund.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Council provided a 3-year grant award of £20,640.00 which provides £6880 per year from April 2023-31 March 2026 to contribute to premises and activity costs.

Failed applications were made to Halifax Invest 40 grant and the Lottery Fund 2024-25

In January 2024 BFF registered with the Stewardship Funding Body

On this funding portal supporters can quickly and easily set up regular or one-off giving online. Automatic monthly payments direct to our bank account include all gifts which have cleared into our Stewardship account.

Marion McCallion is a registered user on the Partner Account of Ballyclare Family Focus.

Preschool fees income

Little Blossoms Preschool has kept fees at an affordable cost with child places subsidised by The Pathways Fund which is a DE Early Years' Education Fund.

Fundraising

Donations came from Penny Tuppence Fundraising Charity' Pennypots' and we extend our grateful thanks and appreciation to Andy McCallion. We were blessed to receive a number of anonymous donations.

Insurance Costs With the amended figures due to increased preschool numbers and inflation rates our insurance premium has gone up from 911.25 to £1147.95

Rent increment- from October 2023 rent has increased to £700 pm for both BFF (£460) & Little Blossoms preschool (£240)

Outstanding Loans

We have three outstanding loans and wish to extend our grateful thanks to our kind donors.

VOLUNTEERING

We could not have managed nor achieved this year without the SIGNIFICANT help from our VALUED and dedicated volunteers. Volunteer team includes members of the Board of Management, parents and people from community. 10 Volunteers helped with activities including administration, fundraising, publicity, project coordination, planning, management, and running our various community outreach projects. Volunteer training was accessed by means of webinars.

Belfast Bible College Placement BFF partnered with BBC to host a student from Belfast Bible College on weekly ministry placement. Isabell Hamill helped with our BFF administration, Pot of Gold registrations and counselling referrals.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS

Family Support Network Hubs and Locality Planning Group

Adelyn Carr from BFF attends the monthly Action for Children 'Family Support Hubs' and the Northern Trust 'Locality Planning Group'. Monthly meetings are either face to face or online. Through the Family Support Hub we receive our child and teen referrals for our Pot of Gold group. Teens are seen at our Active listening one to one sessions and some are referred on to the Ray of Light Course with Mary Gault.

NICVA Membership and Early Years Membership was renewed.

Pot of Gold 2023- Adelyn Carr, Marion McCallion, Isabel Hamill, Pam Winter, Jean Downey facilitated this 12-week course attended by 10 children. Which ran from September 2023 – Jan 2024

Pot of Gold 2024 - Adelyn Carr, Marion McCallion and Deborah Halligan facilitated this 12-week course. 12 children applicants but only attended by 5 children.

This year BFF partnered with Growing Through to manage and administrate the referrals and registration of children for the Pot of Gold course, Adelyn from BFF attended the Newtownabbey Family Support Hub and Mary Gault attended the Carrickfergus Family Support Hub

BFF COUNSELLING SERVICE

Active Listening & mentoring:

One to one active listening sessions were attended by a number of adults and children in need of support attended with their parents. Parent support as also provided through our active listening service

Adelyn Carr and Marion McCallion held sessions for 12 adult clients this year. Adelyn mentored 5 young adults.

Telephone Sessions were also carried out with a number of clients and Isabel Hamill helped with these telephone appointments.

Little Blossoms Pre-preschool for 2-3 year olds is a private non-for-profit social enterprise which is run by salaried staff.

Jennifer Thompson, the Preschool Settings Manager, efficiently ran the preschool operations with a team of 8 staff comprising: Tasha Loughlin, Kathy Black, Lesley-Ann Witherspoon, Jenny Taylor, Irene Boyd, Sarah-Jayne Hunter and Jaki Wright. Irene Boyd, Sarah-Jayne Hunter and Jaki Wright received redundancy payments. Deborah Halligan joined the staff team through a Jobstart Scheme in September 2024.

We acknowledge the vital contribution they have made in establishing high standards and quality early learning experiences for the children who attended this year.

Premises relocation

In order to meet the Planning Permission and Building Control requirements BFF has decided to relocate the preschool to the New Heart Church facility in the new year. Over the year we have carried out building control work in order to renovate and prepare the facility for a move in January 2025.

Ballyclare Family Focus

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104737

Annual return

Independent Examiner's Statement
For
Ballyclare Family Focus and Little Blossom Preschool Playgroup
April 2023 – March 2024

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2008 and section 44(1)(b) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulations have not been met or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Geoff Mc Gookin

Relevant professional qualification or body: itia

Address: 6 Cairn Gardens, Coleraine, BT51 3DL

Date: 30/12/2024

Ballyclare Family Focus

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104737

Accounts

Ilyclare Family Focus/ Little Blossoms Ballyclare Family Focus
Income & Expenditure Statement

Little Blossoms

01/04/2022 - 31/03/2023

01/04/2022 - 31/03/2023

01/04/2022 - 31/03/2023

INCOME

Fee Income	25795		25795
Room Hire	595	595	
Grant Income	11948	11948	
Pathway Fund	23133		23133
Fund Raising	963	963	
Donations	721	721	
Other Income	29	29	
Total Income	63184	14255	48928

DIRECT EXPENSES

Staff Salaries	43271		43271
Total Direct Expe	43271	0	43271

GROSS INCOME

Income Less Direct	19912	14255	5657
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OPERATING EXPENSES

Purchases	331	24	307
Rent	6600	3600	3000
Heat and Light	1799		1799
Cleaning	271	5	266
Printing and Stationery	120	74	46
Software	688	50	638
PC/Printer Consumables	234	234	348
Other Office Cost	373	25	466
Telephone	986	520	
Post and Packing	6	6	
Other Donations	5	5	
Insurance	962	962	
Volunteer Mileage	120	10	110
Professional Fees	6360	6360	
Accounts Fees	346		346
Bank Charges	101	42	59
Total Operating Expenses	19301	11918	7383

SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)

Net Surplus (Deficit)	611	2337	-1726
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Ballyclare Family Focus

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104737

Annual report

Ballyclare Family Focus

AGM Annual Report Jan 2022- April 2023

Ballyclare Family Focus, founded in 2003, is a Non-incorporated Christian Charity no 104737 registered with the NI Charity Commission.

SUMMARY OF PURPOSE

Our vision is a harmonious and vibrant community which values the individual and family life: people feel accepted, confident and secure, engage productively in community life and have hope for the future.

We aim to be instrumental in providing effective early intervention Family Support Work for the town and rural communities of Ballyclare.

Outcomes

The outcomes for beneficiaries include:

1. Advancing education and providing educational courses and training for developing individual capabilities and life-skills.
2. Social and recreational groups.
3. Improvement of mental and emotional health and well-being and promotion of healthy lifestyles.
4. Networking with and signposting to other family support agencies, building partnerships to collaborate and broaden our services.
5. Encouraging the improvement of living conditions and safe and stable home environments for children, young people, individuals and families.

The main activities in BFF

BFF operates community outreach programmes and a preschool as a non-profit social enterprise.

1. Educational Courses in upskilling, employability and parenting courses.
2. Recreational and social Group (Parent & Toddler, Coffee Mornings)
3. Counselling and Active Listening Service and 'Pot of Gold' child bereavement care
4. Little Blossoms Preschool run by salaried staff.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS in 2022-23

Counselling & Active Listening Service Provision was available all year

Little Blossoms Pre-preschool	September 2021-June 2022 and Sept 2022–June 2023
Little Blossoms Awards Ceremony	26/3/23
Dizzy Ducklings Parent & baby Group	September 2021-June 2022 and Sept 2022 – June 2023
Connected Baby Parenting Course	May 2022- August 2022
Pot of Gold	September – Dec 2022, Jan-Feb 2023
Optimal Business Support & Strategy Review	November 2022-March 2023
Optimal Workshops & Conjunction Counselling Service	Mar-May 2023

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2022-23

Directors: Marion McCallion

Chairperson: Sinead Davies

Secretary: Marion McCallion

Treasurer: Lisa Mayberry

Committee: Allison Campbell, Rachel Knowles, Theophilus Agbaeze

BFF CENTRE MANAGEMENT

BFF Centre Manager: Adelyn Carr

Little Blossoms Pre – preschool Settings Manager: Jennifer Thompson

BOARD MEETINGS

- 6 Board meetings were held bi-monthly from April 2022 to Jan 2023
- A number of emergency board meetings were held by zoom during the year
- AGM 2021-22 was held on 16th Dec 2022 in the format of a Quiz and Christmas party
- Due to the covid 19 disruptions the NI Charity Commission allowed the option not to submit our Annual Report and financial report for 2021-23

Capacity Building of our Board of Management

- A number of initiatives were carried out this year to strengthen and build the capacity of our Board of Management to include the following:
 - o Recruitment of new member in April 2022 included Theophilus Agbaeze

- In March 2023 NICVA provided direction and advice on developing our organization into an ICC (incorporate Community Charity) as we have been operating as a non-incorporated charity for the past 20 years
- Board members attended Charity Commission training which helped to assess and review our 'Public Benefit Statement' and 'Purposes'
- A strategy review was achieved through the Optimal Programme and ANB Council grant

STRATEGY REVIEW

BFF were funded for the Optimal Programme from July to October 2021. David Gillespie from Ledcom engaged to mentor us and lay a foundation for updating our Strategy Plan.

The main outcome from the Optimal Programme was an Action Plan which identified a proposed Business Plan for a counselling service, after school's club, play therapy service and extending pre-school to a 5th morning and afternoon provision. A financial plan was drawn up and the main conclusion was that business sustainability required new ideas to make the business more viable and sustainable.

Through SWOT analysis with committee members we decided that the existing 5-year strategy (2018-23) needed to be reviewed.

A strategy plan was developed by Eos Consultants in July 2022 and completed by 31 March 2023

The Board of Management worked on finding additional members to help with financial management and marketing

From November 2022 to March 2023, Allison Keenan from Eos Consultants worked with our Board of Management and a Steering Group to review our last strategy (2018 – 23) to develop a new strategy for 2023-27. The Steering Group included David Duncan, Eamon Mullan, Theophilus Agbaeze, June Caskey, Kerry McDowel.

The main focus of the strategy plan is building a successful future for our organization, capacity building and financial sustainability with an emphasis on Good Governance and developing the skills of the Board of Management to effectively manage, guide and direct all our activities.

The Board of Management worked on finding additional members to help with financial management and marketing.

FINANCE & FUNDING

BFF is financially dependent on income from funding and donations. Funding Bodies that supported BFF this year include ANB Council grants, Pathways Fund.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Council provided £5,000 funding of for Premises costs for the year 2022-23 and £6,000 for our Strategy Review Consultation in 2022-23

Failed applications were made to Children in Need for children's counselling, Small Rural Business Grants for men's sheds project.

Little Blossoms Preschool has kept fees at an affordable cost with child places subsidised by The Pathways Fund which is a DE early years' education fund.

Brian Glencross, from Bridon Business Services, manages the financial business of BFF and Little Blossoms Pre-preschool. Bookkeeping was managed by the Centre manager Adelyn Carr and volunteers Lisa Mayberry, Sam Hemphill. Signatories are Adelyn Carr, Marion McCallion and Anna Harper

A Financial Advisory and Planning Group was set up to address a number of financial issues. Members of this group included Brin Glencross, Lisa Mayberry, Robert Lamont, Theophilus Agbaeze, Rachel Knowles, Jenifer Thompson and Adelyn Carr. We are thankful for each ones input.

Fundraising

The bulk of our income from donations came from the enormous efforts of Andy McCallion from Penny Tuppence Fundraising Charity. This year Andy raised over £1,000 for BFF for which we extend our grateful thanks and appreciation.

VOLUNTEERING

We could not have managed nor achieved this year without the SIGNIFICANT help from our VALUED and dedicated volunteers. Volunteer team includes members of the Board of Management, parents and people from community. 16 Volunteers helped with activities including administration, fundraising, publicity, project coordination, planning, management, and running our various community outreach projects. Volunteer training was accessed by means of webinars.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS

Pot of Gold – child bereavement peer support club - Adelyn Carr, Marion McCallioin, Cynthia, Rocio, Rosie Wallace and Andy McCallion facilitated this 12 week course attended by 8 children. Referrals were received from the Family Support Hub

Dizzy Ducklings – Parent and baby group - Jacqueline and Pauline Coney helped Adelyn Carr in running this group

Connected Baby Course - We resourced material from Suzanne ZedyKe to develop this course on child attachment. The hope is to offer this training course to primary school teachers and parents.

The team who researched and developed the training programme included Sinead Davies, Lisa Mayberry, Karen Lennox and Adelyn Carr.

Active Listening Service – One to one active listening sessions were attended by a number of adults and children in need of support attended with their parents. Parent support as also provided through our active listening service

BFF COUNSELLING SERVICE

Active Listening & mentoring:

Adelyn Carr and Marion McCallion held sessions for 5 adult clients and 5 teenage clients this year

Lisa Mayberry's Report:

Lisa Mayberry volunteered as our counselling services co-ordinator this year. In this role Lisa managed the NRC placement students to provide free counselling for our clients. Lisa continued appointments with a number of clients.

The student counsellors were Eamon Mullan, JulieSmith, Lisa Sheridan and Suzanne. Over the year 15 clients were counselled. Carol Smyth a private counsellor hired our counselling room

- Lisa Mayberry stepped down from Board membership to set up manage CONJUNXION - the BFF Counselling Service, in the hope of receiving remuneration for her work

Conjuxion Counselling Service:

In view of setting up our BFF counselling service as a second social enterprise, Lisa Mayberry received mentoring from David Gillespie from Ledcom and training in social enterprise business from Mallusk Social Enterprise, in August 2022 – March 2023. This was funded by the ANBCouncil.

Family Support Network Hubs

BFF has representation on the Action for Children Family Support Hubs and the CYPSP Locality Planning Group. Through the Family Support Hub we receive our child and teen referrals for our Pot of Gold group. Teens are seen at our Active listening one to one sessions and some are referred on to the Ray of Light Course with Mary Gault.

NICVA Membership and Early Years Membership was renewed.

Little Blossoms Preschool

Jennifer Thompson's Report

- The Pathways Fund provided £23,133.33 to subsidise child places for the year April 2022-Mar 2023
 - o A requirement of the Pathway fund is that our managers attend two governance training sessions each year
- Registration of our preschool with the Social Services progressed throughout the year. Once registered, parents will be able to access Universal credit payment and this will mean more children from disadvantaged backgrounds can attend thus increasing our numbers and growing our preschool.

Little Blossoms Pre-preschool for 2-3 year olds is a private non-for-profit social enterprise which is run by salaried staff.

At the end of 2021, Ashley Morgan left her position as Settings Manager. Holly Ward and Shannon Witherspoon both shared the settings manager role until April 2022. We are so appreciative of the skills and abilities that all our settings managers contributed to the running of the preschool.

Jennifer Thompson became the Preschool Settings Manager in April 2022 and efficiently ran the preschool operations with a team of 8 staff. (Tasha Loughlin, Kathy Black, Irene Boyd, Sarah Jane Hunter, Lesley-Ann Witherspoon, Jenny Taylor, Jacki Wright)

We acknowledge the vital contribution they have made in establishing high standards and quality early learning experiences for the children who attended this year.

Staff attended a development training courses, received an award for Community Preschool Winner at the Family First Spring Award ceremony.

Little Blossoms parents & children participated in extracurricular activities which included:

- Trip to Funworks in June 2022
- Tots that bop autumn party in October 2022
- Winter walk with the elves in Dec 2022
- Penny for Play fundraising
- Easter Parade & Picnic in March 2023

TRAINING COURSES

The 'Building Connections' Programme was attended by board members and staff in February and March 2023. In March HR training was received by webinar webinar

Family Support Agencies Network- BFF is one of a number of family support agencies who represent at the CYPSP Locality Planning Group (Northern Trust care for children & youth) and the Family Support Hub,

Ballyclare Family Focus

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104737

Annual return

Independent Examiner's Statement
For
Ballyclare Family Focus and Little Blossom Preschool Playgroup
April 2022 – March 2023

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2008 and section 44(1)(b) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulations have not been met or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Geoff Mc Gookin

Relevant professional qualification or body: itia

Address: 6 Cairn Gardens, Coleraine, BT51 3DL

Date: 06/12/2023