

ESKRA CHILDCARE LIMITED
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and activities

Eskra Childcare Ltd operates a wrap-around daycare service and playgroup based in the local community centre in Eskra. The business was set up in 2001 to provide childcare solutions for parents in this relatively disadvantaged rural community and help sustain numbers at the local primary school.

Our Goals

Eskra Childcare Ltd will advance the education of children up to the age of 12 years by:-

1. Providing the necessary facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children, which is affordable and accessible to families in the Eskra community and wider district.
2. Meeting the social, educational, and developmental needs of pre-school children in the Eskra community and wider district by the provision of pre-school education.

The company is a registered charity under registration number NIC106089.

Public benefit

Eskra Childcare Ltd delivered significant public benefit against both objectives over the last trading period. In the financial year ending 31 March 2023 Eskra Childcare Ltd provided:-

- Pre-school education for 47 children aged 3 - 4 years; and
- A stimulating environment for 274 children aged 5 months - 12 years

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ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

During 2023/24 the business emerged fully from the COVID challenge and built on the strong financial performance of the previous year. The business faced a significant challenge when one of the key management team decided on a change in career and leave Playtime. The directors recruited Early Years to help plan for succession. After undertaking a recruitment exercise and exploring the local labour market the solution was found in restructuring the business to give our senior staff more responsibility. It is a great credit to the Childcare Manager that this restructuring of the organisation has been a success and provides a strong foundation for the future of the business.

It was a significant achievement for Playtime to secure another grant from the Pathway Fund for the professional development of our staff and we appreciate the commitment of staff to give up leisure time to undertake training.

Key Highlights

We were delighted to report that staff remuneration has remained above the national minimum wage last year. Unfortunately it has meant a that our parents faced a significant increase in childcare fees. However we feel that the increased wage levels has made recruitment a little easier.

Our Goals for Next Year

We plan to continue our engagement with parents/carers, grandparents, and the local community by extending the opportunities for them to become involved within our pre-school programme.

We plan to strengthen our finance and governance systems with investment in software. We also plan to develop our new core management team and recruit additional directors to build the management capacity and professionalism of the organisation.

We plan to develop a new 10-year Capital Investment plan to continue the development of our facilities.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Eskra Childcare Ltd is delighted to report an excellent financial performance.

Risks & Uncertainties

The main risks for the charity in the next year is recruiting qualified staff and planning for the retirement of our Childcare Manager.

Principal funding sources

Eskra Childcare Ltd generates 87% of its income from fees from parents who use the childcare facility. The company also received £78,659 from the Department of Education to deliver a pre-school education curriculum for 45 local children aged 3-4 years.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees aim to hold sufficient designated funds to support social enterprise activity. In addition, reserves are maintained to provide a hedge against the loss of traditional project funding for the delivery of Eskra Childcare Ltd.'s objectives, and to fund the Charity's capital and property maintenance plans to fund for the upkeep and renewal of premises. The Trustees are satisfied the designated funds remain adequate for the time being.

Going concern

The trustees have assessed, based on the anticipated activities of the charity, that there are adequate resources in place to meet the on-going costs of the charity for a minimum of 12 months from the date of signing of the financial statements. In coming to this conclusion, the trustees have assessed the entity's current financial arrangements and available resources of the charity. For this reason, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which presumes the realisation of assets and liabilities in the normal course of business.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

Eskra Childcare Ltd is managed by 6 trustees nominated by the local community and parents using the daycare service. The trustees are also directors of the company.

Chairperson: Chris McCarney

Company Secretary: Colette McCaffrey

Treasurer: Stephen McEvoy

The directors/trustees meet at least four times per year and individual trustees take specific responsibility for financial issues, HR issues, policies and safeguarding.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Eskra Childcare Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

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

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The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware;
and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, McAleer Jackson Ltd, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 29 January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



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C McCarney
Trustee