

An Grúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Tachráin

Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

For the Year to 31st March 2024

Annual Report for the year March 31st 2024

The trustees of Irish language Parent and Toddler community group, An Grúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Tachráin, are pleased to submit their report and accounts for the period 1st April 2023 to March 31st 2024.

Achievements and Performance

The Year in Numbers

Years promoting the use and learning of Irish in the locality: 14

Management Committee meetings between April 2023-March 2024: 3

Members of the public served: 260

Guest Speakers: 2

Surplus for the year: £00

Meeting Programme

An Grúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Tachráin's (hereafter referred to as An Grúpa) Management Committee meets once a quarter throughout the year with the exception of July and August.

Events, Programmes and Activities

Weekly activities:

An Grúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Tachráin organises a weekly Parent and Toddler Group through Irish in Bryansford Hall. The Group is attended by approximately 17 adults and 20 children each week. The group lasts between 10.00am-11.30am each week. The parent and Toddler group costs £3 per family each week to attend.

The Weekly group includes an art & craft table;

Free play;

A healthy snack for the children;

A healthy snack for the adults;

One-to-one play with the fluent Irish language assistants. Examples: jig-saws, building blocks, playing shops etc;

A story time session;

A Rhyme-Time session and sing along

Seasonal Activities:

Halloween party

The Grúpa is visited each November by the P1 teacher of the local Bunscoil/Irish language primary school, Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche along with a number of the P7 students

Christmas Party with visiting elf and gifts

The Grúpa pays a visit to the local Naíscoil/Irish language pre-school for special joint events such as visiting reptiles etc

Easter egg search

End of year Annual Picnic in local Bunscoil/Irish language Primary school grounds

Community Out-Reach:

The Grúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Tachráin advertises events coordinated by the local Irish language community group, Glór Uachtar Tíre.

Group Structure

An Grúpa generally has a committee of five members who meet each quarter.

An Grúpa is run weekly by three people who are paid by grants obtained from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

Accommodation

An Grúpa hires Byransford Hall from the Parish of Maghera for its weekly group. The rent is paid out of the grants obtained from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

Financial Review

Financial Performance

Financial performance in the year to March 31st 2025 has been broadly consistent with the trustee's forecasts and expectations; An Grúpa has a small surplus of income. An Grúpa has managed not to get into debt due to a grant from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council plus financial support provided by the local Irish language group, Glór Uachtar Tíre which provides loans when the account has cash-flow problems. These loans are always recorded, members of both community organisations' committee members are informed of the loans and they are always duly repaid.

Income

£13,250.9

Expenditure

£9,725.62

Reference and Administrative Details**Charity Name**

An Grúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Tachráin

Charity Number Registered Charity in Northern Ireland

NIC106790-0

Principal Address

2-4 Castle Avenue

Castlewellan Co Down, BT31 9DX

Charity Trustees as of March 31st 2024

Sinead Doyle - Chairman

Edel Dogherty- Treasurer

Emer O'Hagan - Secretary

Alice Lundy – Grants Officer

Structure, Governance, and Management**Governing Document and Constitution**

The Society is a charity and is governed by a constitution adopted January 2011 this is publically available at from the Glór Uachtar Tíre office in Castlewellan. The Society is run entirely by its Management Committee who meet quarterly to manage it. The group employs two people on a part-time, temporary basis to run An Grúpa each week. The weekly parent and toddler group is supported by the local Irish Language Development Officer. An grúpa has a rota of 5 volunteers who help out weekly.

Trustee Selection and Management

Trustees or members of the Management Committee are adopted solely on the basis of a vote at the groups' AGM as outlined in An Grúpa's constitution.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Objects

The object of GUT as set out in our Constitution is the following

The purpose of the group is to provide a regular meeting place for parents/ carers of young children, Mums-to-be and to provide fun activities for the children all through the medium of the Irish language in an informal environment.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees of An Grúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Tachráin confirm that they have had regard to the NI Charity Commission's Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

The public benefit requirement has informed the activities of An Grúpa in the year to March 31st 2025. In evaluating public benefit the trustees note that membership of An Grúpa is open to all who share an interest in pre-school development and the Irish language. Whilst we would encourage those with interest to join our ranks we also strive to make our services and facilities available to those with no back ground in Irish.

The direct benefits which flow from our object or purpose includes increasing the opportunity for locals to experience play and learning through Irish for their children and for the parents/carers themselves. The parents/carers get the opportunity to introduce their children to a new language and An Grúpa is often the first step for a parent considering educating their children through Irish. Regarding the benefits to the children, all the research shows that bilingualism has cognitive benefits for children.

These benefits are demonstrated by the fact that An Grúpa has been taking place successfully since 2011 and that the group is growing in numbers each year.

Additionally, the benefits are demonstrated through feedback An Grúpa receives in our event feedback forms from Parents and Carers.

The purposes of our charity will not lead to any harm. An Grúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Tachráin's beneficiaries includes the general population living within south east Down including Newcastle, Castlewellan, Dundrum, Clough, Hilltown, Rathriland, Ballyward and the surrounding areas. A private benefit to trustees may arise from our programme of ongoing training programmes. Through this training trustees may gain skills and experience which are transferable to other settings such as First-Aid etc. These benefits are incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to our beneficiaries.

Approved, adopted and signed on behalf of the Management Committee.



Sinead Doyle (Chairperson)