

Company number: NI661087

Kids Together Belfast

Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2023

Kids Together Belfast

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KIDS TOGETHER BELFAST ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT
APRIL 2022 – MARCH 2023

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Legal and Administration

Management Committee

- Laura Flannigan Chairperson
- Bridgeen McKenna Secretary
- Geraldine O'Neill Treasurer
- Peter Murphy Member
- Clare McConway Member

Charity Registration Number

NIC107518

Company Number

NI661087

Principal Address

134 Stewartstown Road
Belfast
BT119JQ

Independent Examiner

McCreery Turkington Stockman Ltd
1 Lanyon Quarry
Belfast
BT1 3LG

Bank

Ulster Bank
Unit G,
Westwood Centre,
Belfast
BT11 9BQ

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to promote the benefit of the service users who are living with a disability and their family and carers in the Belfast, Lisburn and County Antrim (hereinafter called the 'area of benefit') area without discrimination of age, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion, by the provision of advice, information, resources, education, recreational activities and support with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Our History

Kids Together has been working to provide services to children and young people with complex needs and disabilities and support to families since 2005. As we have grown considerably in the last 8 years, we have always pursued to ensure that any new initiative or funding programme remains aligned to our core ethos and focussed on delivering positive outcomes for the children, young people, and families that we work with.

Chairperson Report (Laura Flanagan)

As an organisation Kids Together Belfast (KTB) has navigated through the past 17 years, delivering services, and evolving to meet the growing needs of our service users. This endurance and resilience are symbolic of our commitment to the people that we provide services for.

The Board of KTB are extremely proud of the management and staff for the work and support they give to families of the children and young people throughout this year. It is also a testament to the management and staff that the feedback in evaluations which was glowing from those families supported throughout this year.

KTB continue to flourish and grow. Funding through DOH for Community Mental Health administrated through the Community Foundation NI in April 2022 allowed KTB to address the needs of mental health of families living with disability. The program entails family support, mentoring, Lego-Based Therapy program for children and young people, play therapy and children's counselling. This program supported children and young people with ASD to address their anxiety, mental health, and their social skills. KTB through this funded program and along with other funded programs support some of the most marginalized children and young people in our communities.

A second round of funding through DOH for Community Mental Health administrated through Community Foundation NI in April 2022 allowed KTB to develop a wide range of programs to address parents/carers mental health, this involved walking groups, therapies, and support groups.

Due to the growth and need of KTB Transitional Learning Centre, KTB have opened their third project at their new premises on Springfield Road which can support up to 24 young adults. KTB rented this property until January 2023 when KTB secured a 10-year mortgage from Community Finance Ireland to facilitate the purchase of the Springfield Road building.

KTB took part in the Fair Start pilot program funded by DoE, which support 24 children aged 2-4 who are under achieving. There are 4 pilots across Belfast who work in partnership with Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Speech & Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists from CDC and Education Psychologists from EA. The outcomes from this program for the children were outstanding.

KTB received funding through the DFC to fitout the Hannahstown project with a sensory room and also funding from the RTE Toy Show Appeal for a sensory gym at the Stewartstown Road site.

I also would like on behalf of KTB Board to thank all the funders that has supported us before and throughout the pandemic:

- Department of Communities: Salaries, running costs and equipment.
- BBC Children in Need: Salaries.
- Lottery Community Fund: Salaries, running costs programs.
- BHSCT Early Intervention Team: Family Support.
- BHSCT: Programs and running costs.
- BHSCT Federation of GP: Training.
- CFNI : Salaries, running costs & programmes

- Belfast City Council: Running costs, equipment & programs.
- Pathways: Salaries.
- HSCB Bright Start: Salaries, running costs.
- HSCB Fair play: Salaries.
- HSCB: Equipment.
- EA: Programs and running costs.

See below breakdown of all the individual groups running in Kids Together Belfast.

Rainbow

Rainbow group for 2-3-year olds has been running from 2015 and funded by Early Years – the Organisation’s Pathway fund. This fund supports 15 placements and the National Lottery Community Fund supports a further 10 placements. Our Rainbow 3-4 aged group has begun running alongside the 2-3 programme from September 2022 – June 2023. The 2-3 and 3-4 programmes are a part of a Pilot Programme from the Belfast Wide Early Years Partnership. We work alongside health professionals (Speech and Language Therapists and Occupational Therapists) from the Belfast Trust *the Child Development Clinic*, the leading partner Sólás, East Belfast SureStart and Glenbrook SureStart.

KTB have 3 groups of 6 children in each group for the Rainbow Group running weekly with a total of 9 sessions a week. We also provided a summer scheme in July.

Criteria for entry is a diagnosed disability or the child has been referred to the Child Development Clinic for assessment and diagnosis. The child is required to be referred through the Belfast Trust Health and Social Care Services and the child needs to meet the threshold of needing speech and language therapy as well as occupational therapy. There is a parent expectation to be involved with our organisation by attending the stay and plays/make and take sessions and their child’s placement is dependant of this.

Sessions include activities from the Rainbow Program, activities that would challenge a child on the autistic spectrum. The SLEAM program is also factored into the daily running of the sessions to promote Speech and Language development through the mediums of Exercise, Art and Music. The daily session remains the same structure for continuity and predictability skills for the children. We implement structured work tasks following the TEACHH method and every day the children will have a group Attention Autism session.

Afterschools

The under 12 afterschools programme currently has 56 children aged 4-12 year old, attending Monday-Saturday in our main building across 2 floors. Kids Together provide 11 under 12 afterschools sessions per week. Between April 2022-March 2023 we provided a total of 668 sessions to our families including 7 weeks of Summer Scheme which had 4 sessions per day 5 days per week.

The over 12’s afterschools runs daily on our bottom floor with 24 young people aged 12-18, providing 6 sessions per week Monday-Saturday. Kids Together delivered 323 sessions from April 2022-March 2023 including 7 weeks of Summer Scheme.

Kids Together offer a variety of After school’s sessions and programmes from Monday through to Saturday with some programmes starting at 1:30pm and running to 6pm. Our variety of afterschools programmes run on 3 floors and support approximately 34 children and young people per day. The afterschools program supports children and young people with a range of social activities to help encourage development through play and recreation.

In the afterschool's session we aim to support each child in all areas of development through many types of play. These include cognitive, social & emotional, speech & language, fine & gross motor skills and not only reach their own potential, but also have fun and enjoy different experiences. Each session is structured with activities to cover each area of development. We aim to provide an environment where children feel happy, safe and included within their community.

Social Group

Social Group is a program created for children and Young people with ASD and/or moderate learning disabilities. The program is designed to allow children with ASD the chance to socialise with peers who struggle with similar issues such as anxiety, emotional regulation, social communication and social interaction. Social group is made up of 2 age groups.

- Under 12, 6 to 12 years
- 12 + years, 12 – 18 years

Social Group offers tailored activities which will help the children build emotional resilience, develop self confidence and self-esteem skills as well as offering strategies that they can use during times of stress which will in turn help them to function in the community. It also gives the service users a space where they can ultimately be themselves.

These activities include board games, arts & crafts, group games, group discussions, quizzes, movie nights as well as time set aside for daily check in's where the group can talk and process their day as well as get support from peers who are going through the same daily struggles.

Sensory time is vital within the social group, it allows the children within the group time to process their day and regulate emotions in a safe and calm environment.

Youth Group

Kids Together Youth consists of provision to children and young adults ages 12-18 and 18+. Our youth club has consistently evolved over the last number of years.

The young people that attend our youth club are able to access and socialise with their peers in an environment that supports their individual needs and encourages their progression through building on their personal skills, social development, group work and participation in a fun, safe and enjoyable environment.

The aim of the youth club is to encourage the young people to develop life skills through playing games, socialising with peers, participation in activities and promoting independence when suitable.

Additionally, depending on the young people in the groups, activities will vary to include: sports, music, table top activities, board games, quizzes, discos, sensory play, outings, trips, arts and crafts and group games such as bowling.

Throughout school holidays and at alternative points in the year we will also run summer schemes and outings with our 12-18 youth including residential. We joined our friends from Sólás and went on a residential in Greenhill in Newcastle this year after a few years of no residential due to Covid Restrictions. It was an amazing success and all the young people loved it!

Our 18+ youth runs similarly and at various points in the year get opportunities to attend local facilities such as the Beechlawns Hotel for the MAC club and 18+ disco for individuals with disabilities. Some of these young adults also attend our TLC programme and will spend the day in TLC getting beautified for the disco including make-up, hair, nails etc.

Our youth also engaged proactively in fighting for their rights this year through protesting at the EA buildings to seek support for our youth provision. It was a great success and we look forward to beginning our EA Youth funding in April 23.

In this year we ran 188 in house evening sessions and 122 outreach support sessions. We supported 3008 placements in house for approximately 100 youth and young adult service users.

Transitional Learning Centre (TLC)

Kids Together Belfast offer a range of programmes from the age of 2-19 years and in September 2018 we developed a Transition Programme for school leavers and those 19+ called TLC (Transitional Learning Centre). The purpose of the TLC group is to ensure young adults with disabilities have an appropriate post-school placement where their needs are met and they have a sense of belonging.

The group works hard to remove barriers to access in the local community, ensuring all of our young people are building skills for life, creating lasting relationships and reducing feelings of isolation.

Our TLC group has gone from strength to strength, we started in 2018 with just 1 service user and now have 48 service users across our 3 TLC sites. This growth represents the need for the service and also the success of both the staff and young people in the group who work so hard to make it successful.

The TLC group delivers a wide range of tailored services for adults with disabilities, including skills building and target setting. Skills are individualised and targeted on the needs of the young adults as well as promoting choice and building on independence, creating a partnership working with the service user, their family, professionals and any other relevant persons. The weeks are packed with outings, activities, skills development and other services.

Each month follows a new theme with lots of opportunities for learning and fun. Throughout this year we have had visits from bugs and beasts, trips to the beach and the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum. We took part in a hockey skills day at Lisnagarvey hockey club and we were invited to lifestyle and performance gym to take part in various workouts to help raise funds to buy defibrillators for the local area. We participated with the KTB fundraiser for Children in Need. We held our very own masquerade ball and Disco for all our 18+ Service Users in the Ballymac Hotel. We completed OCN's in Personal Confidence and Self-esteem with Springboard. This was all whilst completing our daily activities in TLC, doing the shopping, the cleaning, exercising and having lots of fun.

This year we facilitated 48 service users through a mixture of full time and part time placements. We offered 15 sessions per week across our 3 sites April-June and September to March. In the Summer of 2022 we merged groups for the Summer and ran out of 2 sites. In total throughout the year we offered 679 sessions for our young adults in TLC

Group Mentoring

The Group Mentoring project funded by the Community Foundation aimed at children and young people with Autism (ASD) or awaiting diagnosis, who are also grappling with poor mental health. The program is designed to address challenges related to anxiety, emotional regulation, social communication and interaction. The initiative spans 12 weeks and has been instrumental in creating a supportive environment for participants.

The Group Mentoring project was specifically tailored to facilitate socialisation among children with ASD, fostering connections with peers facing similar issues. The initiative was made possible through the generous support of the Community Foundation Fund. The structure of the program includes a staff-to-participant ratio of 2:8 to ensure adequate support for each child. The age groups are divided into 6-12 years and 12-18 years, recognising the unique needs of each developmental stage.

The programme runs over 5 days 2 hours per session. At the end of each cohort we have a celebration event and a family day so that the young people that took part can have their achievements celebrated.

The 12-week programme covers a diverse range of topics critical to the well-being of the participants. These include:

- **What is Mental Health:** Providing a foundational understanding of mental health to empower participants with knowledge.
- **Resilience Building:** Equipping children and young people with tools to bounce back from challenges, fostering a sense of strength.
- **Understanding My Emotions:** Assisting participants in recognising and managing their emotions effectively.
- **Understanding Relationships:** Nurturing skills for building and maintaining positive relationships.
- **My Community and Me:** Encouraging a sense of belonging and understanding within the community.
- **Coping Strategies:** Introducing practical strategies to cope with stressors and challenges.

The primary goal of the Group Mentoring project is to create a safe and supportive space where young people with ASD can develop the skills necessary to navigate a society that may not fully comprehend their unique needs. By addressing mental health, emotional regulation and social interaction, the programme aims to empower participants, enhance their self-esteem, and contribute to their overall well-being.

Throughout the 12 week projects within the time frame, the programme has witnessed notable achievements. Participants have demonstrated improved socialisation, increased emotional regulation and a greater understanding of mental health concepts. The intentional design of the program, including the staff-to-participant ratio, has allowed for personalised support, contributing to the success of the programme.

The Group Mentoring project has proven to be a vital resource for children and young people. The impact on participants' socialisation, emotional regulation and overall well-being underscores the importance of ongoing support for initiatives addressing the unique needs of this demographic.

Counselling Service

Kids Together Belfast' counselling service has catered to 14 Children & Young people from April 22 to March 23. Counselling in the form of 1:1 talking therapy has been crucial this year for improving mental, emotional, and physical health of the children and young people within the service. It has led to improved relationships between siblings, peers and improved overall well-being of each client. These results can be seen via self-report measures such as client questionnaires, parental feedback and observational tools from the therapist. The therapeutic approach used is the eclectic approach which uses both directive and non-directive methods, this is tailored to suit each individual child. Mediums are used in order to help the child feel comfortable within the session and open up to the therapist.

There have been a lot of tools and mediums used throughout the year which are vital in the counselling process. These have been tailored to address specific therapeutic goals for each client. A few examples of these would be the use of therapeutic games facilitating communication, encouraging teamwork and developing problem-solving skills. Visual aids have assisted those in understanding, managing and expressing their emotions. Teaching breathing exercises, mindfulness relaxation and developing personalised toolkits has proved beneficial for many children and young people and challenging negative thoughts has been fundamental. This involved identifying and restructuring negative thought patterns that contribute to emotional distress which has been done through discussions, worksheets and stimulating real-life social scenarios for those suffering with social anxiety. This service has been vital for the family unit and being able to support children and young people through their therapeutic journey has been rewarding both personally and professionally.

Therapeutic Services: 'Play Therapy'

This year, Kids Together have been able to offer Play Therapy support services to 18 children and their families struggling with a range of social, emotional and behavioural issues.

Our Play Therapy intervention supports children aged 4-12 years old, by using a 1:1 integrative, holistic approach which utilises play and other creative modalities including: art, music, drama and sand play to help children process a variety of issues affecting their emotional and psychological wellbeing. Eg: medical issues, family trauma, difficulties with social skills and interaction.

Within the therapeutic session, children are guided by a trained therapist to use the play materials as a means of expression and communication. Landreth (2002) states that during the Play Therapy sessions, *'play becomes the child's language and toys become their words.'*

Intervention Duration

Kids Together Belfast Play Therapy services are offered as 1-hour weekly sessions for a duration of 12 weeks, depending on the referral needs of the child. The family is provided with an initial parental consultation with the therapist. The child's family history and referral issues are discussed and the hopes and expectations for the intervention are outlined.

A parental review meeting takes place at the half-way point of the intervention to evaluate the child's progress and discuss any new or emerging issues or behaviours with the child.

At the end of the 12-week process, a final closing meeting is conducted with the family. An assessment tool, *'Goodman's Strength and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQ)'* is used 'pre' and 'post' therapy, to evaluate the impact of the intervention and indicate the child's areas of need which may still require additional signposting or further support.

By offering these therapeutic services to our immediate West Belfast community and the surrounding areas, Kids Together are helping to tackle the stark statistics found within the, *'Youth Wellbeing Prevalence Survey'* (2020) which outlined that, *'1 in 8 children in NI are experiencing emotional difficulties'* and that the rate of anxiety and depression in children in NI is 25% higher than the rest of the UK.

A case study from one of the families who have benefitted from our Play Therapy services state that:

'As a parent, I feel the Kids Together service is a vital tool in our community; it offers family support that is much needed to promote the overall mental health and wellbeing of children and families in West Belfast. I would personally like to thank Kids Together for their Play Therapy support for my daughter and family in our time of need. I can only praise and highly recommend the service of the Kids Together team.'

Family Support

By the end of March 2022 Kids Together Belfast had a Family Support Team made up of 5 dedicated members of staff. The service provided a 12-week Home Visiting service to 147 families and an additional 74 families of children within the mentoring projects who received a minimum of 3 home visits during the 12 week programme, that have children/young adults with Sensory, Learning or physical disabilities and/or Autism or awaiting an ASD Diagnosis with 3,634 sessions being carried out.

The team met the numbers of the hub almost half way through the year and in previous years the hub would provide additional monies to provide more services however this wasn't the case which meant we had to stop taking referrals from the Family Support Hubs which shows the reflection of a low number within the

reporting period. Additionally, as part of the Community Fund, we received funding to provide family which we partnered up with the Belfast Trust in the agreement that referrals would mainly come from the Family Support hubs. This was a big stress releaser for the hubs as through the additional funding they were able to access our family support service.

At the beginning of the 12 weeks the family, along with their Support Worker, will carry out a Family star. Throughout the 12 weeks the family and worker will review the Family Star to monitor the progress being made. Together the Family and Support worker will agree on areas of need to work on over the 12 weeks. An example of support provided would be:

- Sleep routines/social stories
- Behavioural management strategies
- Visual aids
- Support in filling out appropriate forms
- Be a listening ear for families
- Liaise with relevant professional
- Signpost to relevant organisations and support services

Our team have a wealth of knowledge when it comes to supporting children and families with Disabilities with a range of experience in day care settings with children with disabilities, personal lived experiences, managing Day Care settings and working with Young Adults with Disabilities to name a few. Using a person-centred approach our team strive to make the families we support feel welcomed, supported, heard and empowering parents with the knowledge to meet their children's needs.

Lego Based Therapy

Lego-Based Therapy project is a transformative programme funded by the Community Foundation, specifically designed for children and young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or awaiting diagnosis. This 12-week program has proven to be a valuable resource in fostering communication, social interaction, and emotional regulation.

Lego-Based Therapy (LBT) is a structured intervention that utilises the universal appeal of Lego bricks to enhance social and communication skills. The programme, sponsored by the Community Foundation Fund, is tailored for children and young people aged 6-12 years. With a staff-to-participant ratio of 2:6, the program ensures sufficient support for each child, fostering a conducive environment for growth and development.⁴

Lego-Based Therapy Roles

The Lego-Based Therapy sessions are organised into small groups, with each participant assigned a specific role:

- **Builder:** Responsible for constructing the Lego model. This role encourages fine motor skills development, spatial awareness, and collaboration.
- **Supplier:** In charge of providing the necessary Lego pieces to the Builder. This role promotes communication, turn-taking, and understanding the needs of others.
- **Engineer:** Tasked with reading and interpreting the building instructions, facilitating communication, and reinforcing the importance of clear communication within the group.

Program Effects:

The Lego-Based Therapy project has demonstrated several positive effects on participants:

- **Enhanced Communication Skills:** Participants, who initially struggled with communication, showed improvements in expressing their thoughts, ideas, and needs. The structured nature of the Lego activity provided a comfortable platform for communication development.
- **Emotional Regulation:** Children and young people facing emotional overwhelm found the Lego sessions to be a therapeutic outlet. The hands-on nature of the activity, coupled with the supportive group environment, contributed to improved emotional regulation.
- **Social Interaction:** Through the assigned roles and collaborative building process, participants developed essential social skills such as teamwork, turn-taking, and understanding the perspectives of others. Friendships formed during the program extended beyond the Lego sessions.
- **Increased Confidence:** As participants successfully completed Lego projects, a sense of accomplishment and increased self-esteem emerged. The program provided a non-judgmental space where each child's contribution was valued.

The success of the Lego-Based Therapy project warrants consideration for expansion and sustainability. The Lego-Based Therapy project has proven to be a valuable asset for children and young people. The structured approach, coupled with the engaging nature of Lego activities, has contributed to significant positive outcomes in communication, emotional regulation and social interaction.

Parental Support Groups

Parental and Carer Support Programmes

Kids Together Belfast is able to facilitate safe space for parents/carers who care for children with disabilities, encourage them to provide support and share their personal experiences with each other if they feel comfortable to do so. Many parents/carers attending the support groups have shared similar feelings of helplessness, social isolation and poor mental health. Since attending the support groups parents have felt less alone in their struggles from having the opportunity to speak to other parents who understand. Even if their children may not have the same disability or their children may not be the same age, parents within these groups have empowered and supported each other by showing a listening ear with no judgement.

Our 12-week mental health programme is a great way to bring parents together over the course of 12 weeks, encourage them to get to know each other and enjoy self-care therapies provided by services within our community. Our 12-week programme involves beauty treatments, a wide range of holistic therapies and team bonding experiences. We also are able to provide free counselling services for any parents and carers who feel it would be beneficial to them.

Any parent or carer can attend the 12-week programme however we also provide a separate group specifically for "dads" to encourage male carers to come together and support each other. From training provided to our parent co-ordinator by the psychologist Stephen Biddulph, it has been found the importance of the 'fatherhood role' can be unfortunately overlooked and can have a major impact on children's lives.

We want to encourage dads/stepdads/male carers to also prioritise their mental health and support each other where possible. From Kids Together creating a dad's group we have been able to facilitate a safe space for friendships amongst male carers to grow which inevitably can empower and strengthen the family dynamic as a whole. We aim to promote social inclusion, confidence and boosting self-esteem for the parents who take part in any of our parental support groups.

Some of the programmes so far have involved:

- Reflexology treatments
- Massages/Sport Massage
- Facials
- Beauty treatments such as hair, nail and eyebrow appointments
- Art Therapy
- Breathwork and Meditation Classes
- Action Mental Health Workshops
- Parental workshops provided by STRIVE NI and GamCare
- Goal setting and self-reflection

Kids Together Belfast

Directors' Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Under the requirements of the Memorandum the Trustees hold office until the next Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election.

Individuals are invited to serve as Trustees on the basis of their abilities and background so as to achieve a balance between those from the business, voluntary and charity sectors.

Trustees Induction and Training

The Trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the premises. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

Organisational Structure

At present Kids Together Belfast has 5 Trustees who meet regularly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity.

A scheme of delegation is in place and day to day responsibility for the provision of the services rest with the Strategic Development Co-ordinator and Project Co-ordinators.

Investment policy

Any surplus funds are transferred into short term savings accounts for investment.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees retain funds in the charity in order to provide sufficient working capital to facilitate the ongoing activities. The target for unrestricted fund reserves is six months support costs.

Volunteers

The charity is appreciative of the efforts of its volunteers who are involved in service provision.

Kids Together Belfast

**Directors' Report
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditors

The auditors are deemed to be reappointed in accordance with Section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.


Director

DATE: 20th December 2023

Kids Together Belfast

Independent auditors' report to the members of Kids Together Belfast

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Kids Together Belfast for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the Year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the absence of reference to a material uncertainty in this auditor's report is not a guarantee that the Company will continue in operation. Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditors report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Kids Together Belfast

Independent auditors' report to the members of Kids Together Belfast continued

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

the information given in the trustees' Report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the Directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Kids Together Belfast

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We identified the areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements and risks of material misstatement due to fraud, using our understanding of the entity's industry, regulatory environment and other external factors and inquiry with the Trustees. In addition, our risk assessment procedures included: inquiring with the Trustees as to the charities policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations and prevention and detection of fraud; inquiring whether the Trustees have knowledge of any actual or suspected non-compliance with laws or regulations or alleged fraud; inspecting the charities regulatory and legal correspondence; and reading Board minutes.

We discussed identified laws and regulations, fraud risk factors and the need to remain alert among the audit team.

The charity is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements charity and financial reporting legislation. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items, including assessing the financial statement disclosures and agreeing them to supporting documentation when necessary.

The charity is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: health and safety, anti-bribery, employment law, environmental law.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these non-direct laws and regulations to inquiry of the Trustees and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. These limited procedures did not identify actual or suspected non-compliance.

We assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. As required by auditing standards, we performed procedures to address the risk of management override of controls. On this audit we do not believe there is a fraud risk related to revenue recognition. We did not identify any additional fraud risks.

In response to risk of fraud, we also performed procedures including: identifying journal entries to test based on risk criteria and comparing the identified entries to supporting documentation; evaluating the business purpose of significant unusual transactions; assessing significant accounting estimates for bias; and assessing the disclosures in the financial statements.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

Kids Together Belfast

In addition, as with any audit, there remains a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditors-responsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

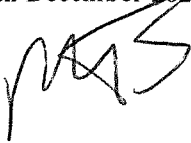
The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Richard McClay FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of McCreery Turkington Stockman LTD
1 Lanyon Quay
BELFAST
BT1 3LG

Chartered Accountants

20th December 2023



Kids Together Belfast

Statement of Financial Activities (Including Summary Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 March 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
		2023	2023	2023	2022
Income from:	Notes	£	£	£	£
Donations/other income		-	34,920	34,920	1,430
Parental/Direct payments		-	1,350,294	1,350,294	126,458
Charitable activities	3	-	734,734	734,734	44,689
Transfer from unincorporated entity	11	-	-	-	880,126
Total income		<u>-</u>	<u>2,119,948</u>	<u>2,119,948</u>	<u>1,052,703</u>
Expenditure on					
Charitable activities	4	-	(1,551,499)	(1,551,499)	(153,543)
Total resources expended		<u>-</u>	<u>(1,551,499)</u>	<u>(1,551,499)</u>	<u>(153,543)</u>
Net income before transfers		<u>-</u>	<u>568,449</u>	<u>568,449</u>	<u>899,160</u>
Transfer between reserves		-	-	-	-
Net incoming resources		<u>-</u>	<u>568,449</u>	<u>568,449</u>	<u>899,160</u>
Fund balances brought forward		-	899,160	899,160	-
Fund balances carried forward		<u>-</u>	<u>1,467,609</u>	<u>1,467,609</u>	<u>899,160</u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

The notes on pages 20 to 25 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Kids Together Belfast

**Balance sheet
as at 31 March 2023**

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		397,367		96,330
Current assets					
Debtors	7	87,300		9,026	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,155,126		910,556	
		<u>1,242,426</u>		<u>919,582</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(172,184)</u>		<u>(116,752)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>1,070,242</u>		<u>802,830</u>
Net assets			<u><u>1,467,609</u></u>		<u><u>899,160</u></u>
Capital and reserves					
Restricted funds	9		<u>1,467,609</u>		<u>899,160</u>
Total funds			<u><u>1,467,609</u></u>		<u><u>899,160</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed and approved for issue on its behalf by



Trustee

DATE: 20th December 2023

The notes on pages 20 to 25 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Kids Together Belfast

Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash generated from operations		
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	568,449	899,160
Depreciation	19,515	1,054
(Increase) in debtors	(78,274)	(9,026)
(Decrease) in creditors	(94,568)	116,752
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>415,122</u>	<u>1,007,940</u>
Cash flow statement		
Net cash inflow from operating activities	415,122	1,007,940
Cash flow from investing activities		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(320,552)	(97,384)
	<u>94,570</u>	<u>910,556</u>
Cash flow from financing activities		
Receipts from issue of new loans	150,000	-
Increase in cash in the year	<u>244,570</u>	<u>910,556</u>
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds		
Increase in cash in the year	244,570	910,556
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2022	<u>910,556</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2023	<u>1,155,126</u>	<u>910,556</u>

Kids Together Belfast

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document and 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 published in October 2019". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2. Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

1.3. Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Investment income is recognised once the income has been declared and notified to bank accounts.

1.4. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Land and buildings	-	Not depreciated
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	20% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	-	25% straight line

1.5. Cash at bank and in hand

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Kids Together Belfast

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

..... continued

1.6. Financial Instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.7. Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

Kids Together Belfast

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

..... continued

1.8. Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2. Employees

	Year ended 2023	Period ended 2022
Number of employees		
The average monthly numbers of employees (including the Trustees) during the year were:		
Support staff	67	67
Employment costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages, salaries and pension costs	1,119,813	80,762
Social security costs	63,696	4,887
Other pension costs	15,655	1,163
	<u>1,199,164</u>	<u>86,812</u>

There were no employees earning over £60,000 in the two years ended 31 March 2023.

Kids Together Belfast

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

..... continued

	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
3. Charitable activities income				
Community Foundation	-	240,646	240,646	12,352
DFC	-	114,551	114,551	20,160
Solas	-	62,882	62,882	-
Pathway	-	30,000	30,000	-
Children in Need		26,258	26,258	
BHSCT	-	98,524	98,524	-
Belfast City Council	-	25,851	25,851	-
HSCB	-	31,022	31,022	-
Lottery Community Foundation	-	100,000	100,000	-
Other	-	5,000	5,000	-
Early Years Additional Covid Support	-	-	-	7,677
Community Restorative Justice	-	-	-	4,500
	-	734,734	734,734	44,689

	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
4. Charitable activities expended				
Wages and salaries	-	1,199,165	1,199,165	86,813
Staff training	-	10,783	10,783	1,002
Equipment and project costs	-	67,528	67,528	31,454
Light & heat	-	37,985	37,985	3,733
Telephone and internet	-	13,619	13,619	1,306
Rent and water charges	-	57,054	57,054	3,562
Insurance	-	15,005	15,005	2,125
Repairs	-	50,059	50,059	2,603
Travel	-	18,384	18,384	1,851
Stationery, adverts and IT	-	24,665	24,665	12,971
Bank charges	-	2,702	2,702	290
Legal and professional fees	-	32,635	32,635	3,819
Audit fee	-	2,400	2,400	960
Depreciation	-	19,515	19,515	1,054
	-	1,551,499	1,551,499	153,543

Kids Together Belfast

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

..... continued

5. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises on ordinary activities for the year. The organisation is a registered charity .

6. Tangible fixed assets	Property and lease costs £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2022	11,113	82,305	50,648	144,066
Additions	250,000	70,552	-	320,552
At 31 March 2023	261,113	152,857	50,648	464,618
Depreciation				
Transferred in	-	23,341	24,395	47,736
Charge for the year	-	12,952	6,563	19,515
At 31 March 2023	-	36,293	30,958	67,251
Net book values				
At 31 March 2023	261,113	116,564	19,690	397,367
At 31 March 2022	11,113	58,964	26,253	96,330

7. Debtors	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments and accrued income	87,300	9,026
	<u>87,300</u>	<u>9,026</u>
8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023 £	2022 £
Property loan	150,000	-
Trade creditors	7,737	5,765
Accruals	14,447	110,987
	<u>172,184</u>	<u>116,752</u>

Kids Together Belfast

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

..... continued

9. Statement of funds	Restricted reserve account £	Total £
Total reserves at 1 April 2022	899,160	899,160
Total income for the year	2,119,948	2,119,948
Total expenditure for the year	(1,551,499)	(1,551,499)
Total reserves at 31 March 2023	<u>1,467,609</u>	<u>1,467,609</u>

The general reserve represents the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

The restricted reserve funds represent the funds held by the charity that have restrictions on use.

10. Analysis of net assets between funds	Restricted reserve fund £	Total £
Fund Balances at 31 March 2023		
represented by:		
Tangible fixed assets	397,367	397,367
Current assets	1,242,426	1,242,426
Current liabilities	(172,184)	(172,184)
Total net assets	<u>1,467,609</u>	<u>1,467,609</u>

The general reserve represents the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

The restricted reserve funds represent the funds held by the charity that have restrictions on use.

11. Transfer from unincorporated entity

On the 15th March 2022 the assets and liabilities of Kids Together Belfast - Charity Number NIC100903 - were transferred into the company Kids Together Belfast- Company Number NI661087. The value of funds transferred was £880,126.

12. Related party transactions

There was no related party transactions during the year under review.