

Heysham Youth and Community Playgroup
Trustees Annual Report – Year Ending 31st January 2025

The Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commissions general guidance on public benefit with particular emphasis on the commission supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education and fee-charging during the planning process for all activities and while setting the pre-school aims and objectives.

For children aged between three and five years old and qualifying two year olds, fees for 15hrs per week are obtained from the County Council in the form of Early Education Funding at no cost to the parents/guardians. Working parents now qualify for 30hrs extended funding for children over 2yrs old if they meet criteria. Two year old children who do not qualify and those three year olds who take up additional hours to those funded by the council, are charged at the rate of £5.00 per hour. This fee has been set to cover costs and is the lowest possible amount chargeable in order to maintain the pre-school's high standards.

By continuing to maintain our fees at a low rate we have again been able to provide affordable education and childcare for children aged between two and five. This can be accessed by underprivileged families in the local area and provides safe and stimulating care for children from all backgrounds including children with special education needs and disabilities, children with English as an additional language and children from disadvantaged backgrounds. These children have been given a chance to flourish and develop in a positive nurturing environment and have been given a good start for when they enter mainstream education.

We follow Government Policy in the form of the Early years foundation stage statutory framework, which is regularly updated to cover the most recent policy changes. Our overarching curriculum is based on the Department for Education's Non-Statutory guidance – Development Matters and we plan individually to meet the learning and developmental needs of each child.

Meetings are held between children's key workers and their parents as and when needed to enable discussion of their development at pre-school and we operate an 'open door' policy, encouraging parents to talk to us whenever they need to. We continue to use an online Learning Journal, which allows us to share information with parents about their child's experiences and development and vice versa; this gives both practitioners and parents a more accessible and mutually beneficial communication tool. Parents engage with this technology much more than the traditional paper-based information.

As well the key objectives for the Pre-school outlined above, under the Early Years Alliance, HYCC Pre-School also holds the following powers and objectives:

- a) To provide accommodation and equipment.
- b) To raise money to pay for the Pre-School activities.
- c) To make such payments as shall be necessary.
- d) To fix and collect the fees payable in respect of children attending groups run by the Pre-School.
- e) Subject to adherence with all applicable legislation, to control the admission of children to the groups run by the Pre-School and if appropriate require parents or guardians to withdraw them.

- f) To borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of the property as security for any money borrowed subject to complying with the provisions of sections 38 and 39 of the Charities Act 1993 if it is proposed to mortgaged land.
- g) To hire or acquire assets of any kind.
- h) To buy, lease or rent any land or buildings and to maintain and equip it for the use of the Pre-School.
- i) To sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the Pre-School's property subject to complying with the provisions of sections 36 and 37 of the Charities Act 1993.
- j) To set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure.
- k) To maintain and pay for membership of the Early Years Alliance.
- l) To ensure the property and assets of the Pre-School against any foreseeable risk and to take out other insurance policies to protect the Pre-School as required.
- m) To employ such paid and unpaid staff, agents and advisors as may be required from time to time.
- n) To do any other lawful things which are necessary or desirable to enable the Pre-School to achieve its aims.

Main Achievements During the Year

Over the past twelve months we have maintained the Pre-School and facilities to a high standard and continue to provide affordable education and childcare for the local community irrespective of background. Parent interactions were carried out face to face or via the telephone to support and inform parents.

The Sensory room is an asset to the setting and is a huge benefit to all the children, especially children with additional needs and sensory issues. It provides a cosy and relaxing environment for supporting children's personal, social and emotional development, especially for children affected by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). We continue to add to the resources available as and when they are needed and continue to build a broad resource base. Parents and local childminders with a connection to the setting can use this facility via prior arrangement.

We have continued to invest in our outdoor area and develop our allotment area on an ongoing basis, this year adding two apple trees. We encourage the children to plant and care for vegetables and fruits, learning about how seeds grow into plants we can eat - where food comes from and how to eat healthily.

Once again in the Spring term, we hired an incubator from Incredible Eggs. The children were able to look after the eggs, watch and learn in awe and wonder as the eggs hatched and little chicks emerged. We cared for them for 10 days, handled them and watched them grow. Incredible Eggs then returned to collect them and take them back to the farm where they live happy 'free range' lives.

In the run up to Christmas we had a roast dinner for all the children. We also had a party day with a magician, party food, games, music and dancing. All the children received a book as a gift from the setting for Christmas/winter holidays and a chocolate selection box.

Our landlords Lancashire County Council have verbally extended our lease, and have agreed revised heads of terms. We are responsible for the building including all utilities, services and maintenance. Our costs for maintenance of the building have increased dramatically as repairs are undertaken and costs of utilities soar.

Ofsted conducted an Inspection on 6th September 2024 and we were awarded a 'Good' rating. We received positive feedback and continue to strive to meet requirements which will see us continue to achieve a good rating and therefore provide a good quality of care and education for the children in our community.

The Pre-School has continued to purchase new resources to help the children's progress and development. The rejuvenation of our outdoor spaces which are a huge benefit for our children with regard to experiences and physical activity, is an ongoing action and require a great deal of expense and time.

Financial Review

Monies remaining in the Pre-School accounts at the end of the year will be held in reserve to allow for fluctuations in Pre-School numbers and in accordance with our additional objectives (item J) to allow for special purposes such as events, training and the purchase of new resources when needed in order to enhance the environment and maximise the learning opportunities for the children. We are also now mindful of the commitment to maintain the building and environment to a safe and functional standard, including the outdoors.

Preschool expenses, in accordance with item A of the Pre-Schools main objectives, have increased substantially with the signing of the lease. Daily running costs including wages, rent and purchasing new resources for the children continue to be budgeted for.

Heysham Pre-School

Balance Sheet as at 31st January 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Current Assets				
Natwest - Wages Account	160,837.64		201,188.28	
Natwest - Fund Account	18,053.67		13,844.65	
Natwest - Community Account	153,513.74		-	
Cash in Hand	171.78		543.78	
	<u>332,576.83</u>		<u>215,576.71</u>	
Current Liabilities				
Creditors	8,122.08		1,289.49	
	<u>8,122.08</u>		<u>1,289.49</u>	
Net Current Assets		<u>324,454.75</u>		<u>214,287.22</u>
	£	<u>324,454.75</u>	£	<u>214,287.22</u>
Represented By:				
Capital Account				
Opening Capital		214,287.22		217,483.19
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year		110,167.53		(3,195.97)
		<u>324,454.75</u>		<u>214,287.22</u>
	£	<u>324,454.75</u>	£	<u>214,287.22</u>

HYCC Pre-school - Profit & Loss Year ending 31 January 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Income		
Parents	24,732.98	27,143.24
LCC Funding	267,792.47	151,157.62
Grants	9,184.00	0.00
Commission	94.67	136.77
Lunch Money	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	3,513.74	0.00
Donation	500.00	0.00
Training	0.00	0.00
Fundraising	0.00	120.00
	305,817.86	178,557.63
 Expenditure		
Wages	147,918.93	130,215.08
Employers NI	2,927.85	1,891.68
Pensions	2,416.18	2,181.21
Supply staff	0.00	678.00
Rent	13,500.00	15,750.00
Water rates	1,724.08	3,039.37
Heat & Light	5,667.75	8,275.46
Milk & Food	1,171.47	1,311.18
Toys & Materials	1,786.98	2,373.63
Insurance	684.99	654.18
Phone	1,281.13	1,245.82
Postage	22.84	25.50
Stationery	394.50	620.29
Website	25.83	96.84
Printing	0.00	0.00
Equipment	5,707.09	0.00
Registration Fees	864.20	808.20
Training	120.80	265.00
Trip & Special events	700.00	648.40
Repairs	4,865.34	7,673.21
Uniforms & Clothing	142.80	167.40
Cleaning	1,206.95	1,204.47
Waste Disposal	543.27	503.88
CRB Checks	74.50	340.00
Sundry	868.84	554.90
Bank charges	242.01	221.90
Entertaining	0.00	0.00
Fundraising costs	0.00	0.00
Accountancy	792.00	1,008.00
	195,650.33	181,753.60
 Profit/ (Loss) for year	 110,167.53	 (3,195.97)