

# Eastwood Community Playgroup Association

Registered Charity No. 1023369  
OFSTED Registration  
EY310444 / EZ119473 / EY555930  
EYA Membership No. 27242

**Eastwood Community Nursery**  
The Len Forge Centre

**Eastwood Community Pre-School**  
Eastwood Community Centre

**Eastwood Community Early Years**  
Edwards Hall School

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

### Charity Aims

The provision of sessional or full-day care and educational facilities across three Settings serving the community of Eastwood and the immediate surrounding areas for children from the age of two years up to acceptance in Reception Classes at Local Schools.

### Charity Structure & Governance

Pre-School Learning Alliance Model Pre-School Constitution adopted in 2011.  
Governing Committee comprises Trustees and Parent Members  
Settings have an Ofsted rating of GOOD.

### Charity Trustees

Jessica White (Chair) Robert Pickup (Secretary/Treasurer) Susan Bishop

### Committee

Sarah Wheddon, Jenna Fryer, Andrea Bassford, Kaz Abrahams, Sonia Odey, Leanne Bengel, Olivia Jay

### Source of Income

Grant of Funding from Southend City Council under the Nursery Education Scheme in respect of children of Families who qualify for State Funding for Early Years Learning. Fee Income from Families of children who attend our Settings for periods in excess of the State Funding Allowance and/or from Families of children who attend who do not qualify for State Funding.  
General Fund Raising from Parties and Events and Miscellaneous Donations

### Current Position

At the start of Autumn Term 2022 our initial registrations were 134 children across our three Settings, a reduction of 27% on our July 2022 numbers. Additional Starters were anticipated, as reported last year and by End of Term in July 2023 these numbers had increased to 173 which fortunately was only marginally below the July 2022 figure of 184. The number of children using our provision of Breakfast & After School Clubs started at 64 (50% higher than July 2022) and increased to 98 over the same period (only one less than the previous year).

Whilst our Funded Income has benefited from a small increase in the Hourly Rate during the year, our overall Funded Income was slightly reduced which can be attributed to a reduction in the number of children attending whose Families qualified for State Funding. Fortunately, our Income from Families who do not qualify for Funding or from Funded Families who elected to take additional hours has produced a reasonable increase (29%) to offset the Funded reduction. This, together with a pattern of increased attendances at our Breakfast & After School Clubs and our Holiday Clubs have contributed to a 6.4% increase in our Fee Income and an increase of 6.8% for our overall Income in the last year.

The potential impact of the rising cost of living anticipated in our Report last year has had a greater impact than expected due to the dramatic increase in the Rate of Inflation experienced during mid 2023 which whilst improving, is still being reflected in our operational costs. Our Staff Costs had increased by 7.2% at the end of August 2023 and will continue to rise due to the increases applied to the National Living Wage in April 2023. Rent payable for our three Settings increased by 35.2% and despite careful management of our costs, our overall operating expenses increased by 11.7%. We are fortunate that we have again managed to achieve a Surplus for the 2022-23 year which will be utilised to support the future development of our Settings.

ECPA provide the normal full day, morning and/or afternoon sessions at each of our Settings and include Early Start at Nursery. Early Years provide Breakfast & After School Clubs which are also attended by school-age children. Holiday Club Sessions are provided for the October and February Half-Terms, Easter and Summer Holidays and we have benefited from increased attendances at each Session resulting in a 36.2% increase in Fee Income. Forest School for our older children is included at no additional cost and has again proved very popular as are our Graduation Parties for those children who were moving on to Reception Classes at our Local Schools.

Each Setting offers slightly different amenities built around the core care and learning of the EYFS requirements. The children enjoy the opportunity to develop their skills in the care of experienced and dedicated staff who seek to fully utilise the different amenities available at our Settings.

### **The Future**

The speculated post-Covid increase in the birth-rate has not materialised to any significant degree in our area. In fact, to the contrary, there are reports that the birth-rate is falling which is more likely driven by the current uncertain economic situation. Pressure on Families' finances will continue to drive their decisions on where and for how long they can afford Early Years Services and we do not overlook that 28% of our Income is from Non-Funded Families. The Trustees are acutely aware of the potential difficulties that could be caused by a reduction in the number of Families looking for services in the Early Years Sector and will ensure that contingencies are maintained to secure our future.

Last year we reported that we were seeking Planning Consent from the Local Authority to erect a new building immediately adjacent to the outdoor area used by the children attending our Nursery Setting. Unfortunately, our Planning Application was rejected but after further representations by Local Councillors, the Southend Early Years Team and an online discussion between the Trustees and members of the Planning Authority, which resulted in the submission of certain clarifications and additional information by the Trustees, consent was granted in August 2023. Our Building Consultant is now working on a revised costing for the project as the original indicated prices have inevitably been affected by inflationary costs within the construction industry. Subject to an acceptable and affordable price, we hope construction can start in the New Year in anticipation of completion in time for the Summer Term 2024.

ECPA continue to offer Nursery Care for 2 year-olds with a flexible approach to opening hours, the provision of Breakfast and After School Clubs, Holiday Clubs and the now enhanced provision of Forest School, which we hope places us in a position to attract sufficient children to our Settings. The challenge continues to ensure that attendances do not drift down to a level that endangers the financial viability of the Settings. ECPA work closely with the Local Authority who utilise our ability to provide support for short-term placements for children and for those with particular care or learning requirements. We are proud that we were one of the first Early Years providers in the area to host children from Ukraine and from the increasing number of Families from many countries that are being supported in the City of Southend on Sea.

Notwithstanding the withdrawal of Ryan Air and the decision by Easy Jet to no longer operate a Flight Hub from Southend Airport, the development of commercial properties around the Airport appears to be slowly moving forward and new houses continue to be built and sold. The Trustees are confident that our proximity to these developments, the flexible services we can offer and our reputation with the Local Authority and Families, should help us to maintain our position as one of the first choices for Early Learning in Eastwood and the immediate surrounding districts.

*Jessica White*

.....  
Jessica White - Chair of Trustees

Date 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

# Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Eastwood Community Playgroup Association

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st August 2023.

## Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## Independent examiner's statement

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

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

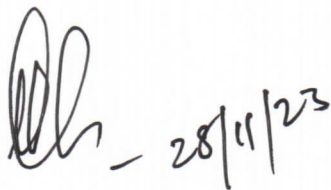
- (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- (ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply

with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;

have not been met; nor

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

**Changrez Khan FCCA**  
**569 London Road**  
**Westcliff on Sea**  
**SS0 9PQ**  
**28 November 2023**



# EASTWOOD COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP ASSOCIATION


Registered Charity 1023369

OFSTED Registration EZ119473 EY310444 EY555930

Income & Expenditure Account

Year Ended 31 August 2023

	2023	2023	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Fees - SBC Funded	475,958.55		441,070.42	
Fees - Invoiced/Vouchers	189,726.52		181,590.25	
Fees - Extra Sessions	3,175.00		843.75	
Uniforms Surplus / (Deficit) on Sales			-	164.35
Fees - Uniform	823.10			
Parties - Xmas	689.00		645.50	
Parties - Summer	461.00		951.00	
Miscellaneous	30.00			
Transfers	-			
Fund Raising - Photo Commissions	-		211.90	
Fund Raising - Xmas Fayre	-		46.16	
Other Income - Donations	141.17		422.81	
Other Income - Interest	3,740.89		707.87	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>674,745.23</b>		<b>626,325.31</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Staff Costs - Net Wages	432,113.87		378,285.39	
Staff Costs - HMRC Tax / NIC / StuLoans / Attachments	23,438.58		43,652.06	
Staff Costs - Pension	23,203.54		17,938.02	
Staff Costs - Training	2,706.12		1,060.00	
Staff Costs - Payroll	1,620.00		1,305.00	
Premises - Rent	56,898.44		42,066.16	
Premises - Telephone	3,345.05		2,412.36	
Premises - Gardens/Bldg Maintenance	275.84		230.46	
Premises - EY Alliance Gen. Insurance	2,424.72		2,265.12	
Premise - Cleaning/Waste	6,351.25		965.84	
Premises - Nursery Cabin	1,870.00		2,268.40	
Food Purchase - Kitchen/Snacks	4,803.74		4,805.25	
Operating Costs - Office	1,484.76		1,682.75	
Operating Costs - Site Set-up & Cleaning	-		4,636.72	
Operating Costs - Arts/crafts	1,749.96		1,058.23	
Operating Costs - Equipment	13,072.30		11,817.57	
Operating Costs - Equipment Insurance	107.88		215.76	
Operating Costs - Consumables	7,616.05		4,521.87	
Operating Costs - Mini bus	2,856.65		2,737.75	
Operating Costs - Website	301.96		338.70	
Uniforms	1,315.59			
Independent Accounts Examiner Fee	2,400.00		2,400.00	
Advertising	130.00		900.00	
Fees/Charges - Ofsted	305.00		305.00	
Fees/Charges - Data Protection	35.00		35.00	
Fees/Charges - EY Alliance	194.96		198.75	
Misc - Gifts/Refreshments	855.75		275.25	
Sundry	30.00		135.50	
Parties - Xmas & Summer	1,134.02		829.24	
Fees/Charges - S'market Delivery	48.50			
Staff Costs - Redundancy Settlement	-		3,000.00	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>592,689.53</b>		<b>532,342.15</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>82,055.70</b>		<b>93,983.16</b>

 28/11/23

# EASTWOOD COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP ASSOCIATION


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## Balance Sheet

As on 31 August 2023

<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Debtors	8,832.47	7,346.79
Uniform Stock	697.24	581.07
Cash at Bank	415,791.76	335,512.71
Cash in Hand	232.12	127.45
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>425,553.59</b>	<b>343,568.02</b>
 <b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors	2,400.00	2,470.13
Total Asses less liabilities	<u>423,153.59</u>	<u>341,097.89</u>
 <b>Reserves</b>		
Balance Brought Forward	341,097.89	247,114.73
Suplus in the Year	82,055.70	93,983.16
<b>Total Surplus Funds</b>	<u>423,153.59</u>	<u>341,097.89</u>

 25/11/23

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Note to the Accounts

As on 31 August 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Debtors</b>		
Outstanding Fee as August 31, 2022*	6,393.49	5,902.42
Receipts in Bank related to Y/E August 31, 2023 received after the date	2,438.98	1,444.37
	<b>8,832.47</b>	<b>7,346.79</b>
* This is treated as Fee Income for the Y/E August 31, 2023		
<b>Cash at Bank</b>		
Checking Account	18,516.09	49,356.90
Reserve Account	226,822.84	115,792.11
Monmouthshire Building Society Account	85,000.00	85,000.00
Redwood Bank	85,452.83	85,363.70
	<b>415,791.76</b>	<b>335,512.71</b>
<b>Creditors</b>		
Payments in Bank related to Y/E August 31, 2023 paid after the date*	-	70.13
Independent Examiner Fee	2,400.00	2,400.00
	<b>2,400.00</b>	<b>2,470.13</b>

\* This is treated as Expense for the Y/E August 31, 2023

  
28/11/23

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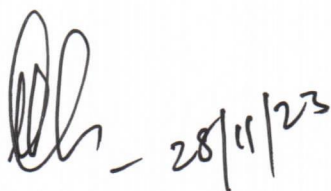
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