

Trustees Annual Report

The entire financial year (April 2020-April 2021) was dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic. During this year the staff team have been supported by a dedicated Committee who have continued to be engaged and involved despite being unable to meet in person throughout this period.

In March 2020, The Secretary for Education, Gavin Williamson had announced that all nurseries, schools and colleges would be shut down in response to the Covid 19 Pandemic for an unspecified length of time. Opportunity Pre-School remained closed for the entire Summer Term. Every parent was contacted and staff stayed in touch with parents struggling at home with the demands of toddlers, babies, jobs and their own worries during this stressful time. Staff were furloughed, but nevertheless contact was maintained with parents and children, and each preschool leaver was visited at the end of term personally by a staff member with their 'moving on' package, ready to start primary school.

Staff took up a great deal of online training during this time.

In July, the planning for reopening in September began. This involved 'bubbles' to separate staff and children into smaller groups and much planning for health, safety, cleanliness and infection control. The classroom was divided in half and a decked area created at the entrance to enable a through flow of ventilation.

Although there were 34 children on role, Opportunity opened with 2 bubbles of 8 children in preschool in September. The children settled well and thrived in their small groups enjoying a lot of time outdoors.

Despite the concerns expressed by OFSTED at a national level about preschool children regressing in skills since Lockdown, this wasn't the experience at Opportunity - so thanks must go to the patience, dedication and care of parents during those tough months.

At the start of the pandemic Committee members discussed how long the setting would be able to pay staff before funds were depleted - the calculations suggested 6-9 months. Thankfully, this was not the case. Central government and Shropshire Council continued funding Early Years settings throughout the Summer and Autumn Term based on the previous term's headcounts. Opportunity was effectively funded as a fully stocked preschool, hence the profit of around £7,000 showing at the half yearly point of September 2020.

From the start of Spring term 2021 this support from Shropshire Council was withdrawn. Opportunity Pre-School began drawing on reserves throughout the next term in order to maintain the staff team. It was hoped the number of children attending would increase. Covid cases spiked again and the setting (and all schools) remained closed until March 8th. Families whose children were due to join us in the Spring Term felt it was safer to wait until Covid cases began to fall. Our number on the register remained at best 18.

Our accounts for the last financial year 2019-20 showed a loss of around £3,500 and as expected this loss was repeated when accounts for 2020/2021 were finalised.

Shrewsbury Opportunity Group continued to pay staff at approximately 90% of their regular salary when the setting was closed. The group committed to paying staff if they had to self-isolate and also supported families by not charging for sessions that children were unable to attend because of illness or self-isolation.

Our staff team remains our greatest expenditure and our greatest asset!



Charity Name Shrewsbury Opportunity Group	No (if any) 1027151
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 06/04/2020	To	Period end date 05/04/2021
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
School Fees	1,971	-	-	1,971	9,727
LEA Funding	63,007	-	-	63,007	81,504
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	377
Donations	-	-	-	-	300
Interest/Miscellaneous	47	-	-	47	46
Utilities (Refund)	-	-	-	-	133
School Trips	-	-	-	-	-
Training	-	-	-	-	-
HMRC Grants	7,722	-	-	7,722	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	72,747	-	-	72,747	92,087
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	72,747	-	-	72,747	92,087
A3 Payments					
Salaries	73,853	-	-	73,853	75,655
Educational Resources	4,928	-	-	4,928	9,652
Snacks/Miscellaneous	1,350	-	-	1,350	3,277
Insurance	1,875	-	-	1,875	1,864
Utilities	3,442	-	-	3,442	3,344
Building/Grounds/Fittings	1,144	-	-	1,144	498
Admin/Legal	85	-	-	85	707
School Trips	-	-	-	-	190
Training	100	-	-	100	475
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	86,777	-	-	86,777	95,662
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	86,777	-	-	86,777	95,662
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 14,030	-	-	- 14,030	- 3,575
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	117,665	-	-	117,665	-
Cash funds this year end	103,635	-	-	103,635	- 3,575

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		39,381	-	-
		56,337	-	-
		7,918	-	-
	Total cash funds	103,636	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	4 Bay demountable classroom unit		-	-
	PCs x 2, Epson printer, Fax machine		-	-
	Furniture + specialist furniture		-	-
	Indoor/Outdoor play equipment/toys		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Anne Wardrobe	22nd Nov 2021	

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of

Charity Name

SHREWSBURY OPPORTUNITY GROUP

On accounts for the year ended

050420

Charity no (if any)

1027151

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all 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 (other than that disclosed below*):

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed

MSL

Date

14/1/21

Name

MARK SALLIN

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)

ACA

Address

BROOK HILL
LONGMEADOW DR
SHREWSBURY
SY2 6NA.

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose

