

## Chairpersons Report Dunloy Stronger Together AGM 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Good evening everyone. You are all very welcome to our AGM. We especially welcome Damian McGuckian who has very kindly offered to preside over the election of officers at our meeting tonight.

This has been an extremely busy and successful year for Dunloy Stronger Together which is evidenced by the 2023 calendar of events that is attached to this report. However, these brilliant events are just the tip of the iceberg with a massive amount of work in the background to make it all possible. Every single one of these events/activities are in support of our mission statement which is "Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies, Healthy Community".

The major developments this year are that Dunloy Stronger Together (thereafter referred to as DST) have formally taken over responsibility from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 for the running of the local playgroup which has been renamed as Dunloy Wraparound Club (thereafter referred to as DWC). A new committee has been elected for DWC with a big increase in enrolments and extended opening hours from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

None of this would be possible without the drive, hardwork and passion of DST's first full time employee Lauren Elliott who took up post on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Lauren has been a key part of DST for a number of years but has now taken on the full-time roles of Events Manager for DST and Playgroup Manager and Playgroup leader for DWC and has been doing an incredible job over the last 6 months. Lauren recently singlehandedly secured over £20,000 of funding for DST to support ongoing activities as well as completely refreshing all policies and procedures so that DWC is now fully registered with social services.

DST are also blessed with a fantastic committee of dedicated volunteers and helpers. Maire Buckley has taken on the role of Vice-chair of DWC this year as well as Vice-chair of DST and dedicates a lot of time and effort in these roles. Jane McFerran is treasurer of DST and brilliantly keeps everybody up to speed on all things financial throughout the year. Aine Mc Cullough as secretary of DST taking minutes of all meetings and keeping everything running smoothly. Similarly DST's other committee members Aidan Clifford, Johanne Mc Michael and more recently Bernie McClean who are a great source of help, support and guidance throughout the year.

It would be wrong here not to acknowledge Sharon Gault who was instrumental earlier in 2023 in securing grant funding and running the health and well being project in January as well as the cross community youth project with Green Pastures. We wish Sharon every success in her new ventures as youth worker for the Education Authority. Similarly a huge thanks goes to Sarah Jane O'Donnell who has been part of our committee over the last few years but is now focussing any of her spare time to establishing a new charity "Causeway Neurodiversity" to provide support for neurodiverse individuals and their families in the Causeway Coast area. What a fantastic and much needed charity!

This year we have had massive support from local businesses. Without this support DST absolutely would not have been in a position to taken on responsibility for the playgroup or to take on our first full-time employee. I hope I don't leave anyone out and if I do then I sincerely apologise. Fibrus, Maine Surface Finishing, Premier Electrics, DB Contracts, Creagh Concrete, Sean & Rosemary Cochrane's Charity have all made significant financial contributions alongside other contributors who have asked to remain anonymous. Your help and support has been critical and is very much appreciated by all in the community.

Finally, the success of DST and everything that we do is a reflection of the brilliant community of Dunloy that we are blessed to live in and to serve. As I said earlier, our mission statement is simple; "Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies, Healthy Community". We are passionate to provide whatever services we can to continue to support the people and the village of Dunloy and the surrounding areas. The support we receive throughout the year from the whole community helps to energise and motivate and encourage all involved to keep going from strength to strength and expand the services and activities that we offer.

Thank you all for being here tonight and for your support in my role as Chairperson.

I will now hand over to Damian for the election of officers for the new committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'B' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

Bobby Carlin

Chairperson

Dunloy Stronger Together

28<sup>th</sup> September 2023