

Charity No 100664

LITTLE AMPS EARLY YEARS

Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 August 2023

LITTLE AMPS EARLY YEARS

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LITTLE AMPS EARLY YEARS

Business Information

Business address

94 Kilrea Road
Upperlands
Maghera

Accountants

J A S Campbell & Co
49 Managher Road
Aghadowey
Coleraine
BT51 4DE

LITTLE AMPS EARLY YEARS

The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 August 2023

Introduction

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023.

The management committee are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year and the position at 31st August 2023, considering the additional financial burden placed upon the organisation by the new requirements by government for the living wage and workplace pensions we will meet our budget for the upcoming year.

Name, registered office and constitution of the charity

The legal registration details are :- LITTLE AMPS EARLY YEARS

Charities Commission Number NIC 100664

The telephone numbers are 02879645005

Objectives and Activities of the Charity

A summary of the objects of the charity as set out in its governing document.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our management committee and staff have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education and on fee charging.

The aims of Little Amps Early Years is to enhance the development and education of children under statutory school age.

We offer appropriate play facilities, with the right of parents/carers to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of the group, ensuring that the group offers opportunities for all children, regardless of religion, culture, race or means. We encourage the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs of such children and their families in the local area. We support the values and principles of Early Years.

Policies to ensure the childrens safety and welfare are in place, distributed to all and are strictly adhered to. These policies include such matters as diverse as :

- Safeguarding
- Equal Opportunities Policies.
- Additional Need Policies
- Medical Emergency Procedure
- Social Networking, E-safety and mobile phone policies.
- Covid-19 and Social Distancing

Little Amps Early Years recognises the importance of working in partnership with parents/carers to promote the best interests of children and that parents play a key role in the education of their children. The playgroup will work in partnership with and support parents in this role.

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Public benefit that is provided by the charity

The public benefit provided by the Playgroup starts with the childcare provided to the children, providing quality childcare from qualified child care providers and looking after their health and well being on a daily basis.

Following on from this, growing the child's potential during their time under our care and directing their personal and social development.

Providing a reliable and cost effective pre pre-school service to the parents, taking account of safety, educational and nutritional issues.

Providing support and guidance to the parents.

Radiating out from here to the community at large, providing local facilities that keep the community together. Therefore people don't have to leave the area to get these benefits in larger towns and cities leading to the slow decline of the area.

Providing local employment and training both full time / part time voluntary or paid.

Co-ordinating with local schools and facilities, to the benefit of all parties.

A lot of these goals are qualitative and longterm, and thus hard to measure. As a basic indicator though in 2022 we had 23 children from 21 families and in 2023 we had 21 children from 21 families.

Other more quantitative measures like numbers of local staff employed are detailed below:

	2023	2022	2021
No of staff members living within catchment area	3	3	4
No of students in the year	21	23	23

The charity's aims including the changes or differences it seeks to make through its activities .

Little Amps aims to promote the independence and personal development of the children within our care whilst also developing their social skills.

The charity contributes towards preparing our children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experience of later life.

An explanation of the charity's main objectives for the year.

Little Amps objectives during the year were as follows:

To increase childcare places, whilst still providing a high level of service.

To develop our links with local schools.

To provide ever improving training for our staff and so provide an even better service to the local community.

To increase the amount of fundraising activities in the community, and increase the funds generated by these new and existing activities.

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An explanation of the charity's strategies for achieving its stated objectives.

During this climate of reduced government funding, the Charity needs to stand on its own two feet, to continue to achieve the charity's objectives the following strategies have been identified:

Increased fundraising will be more important in the future as outside funding is more difficult to obtain and inflation increases all our costs.

We feel we have met our objectives and have adapted quickly to the changing circumstances faced, particularly over the past couple of years.

We used programmes such as See Saw in order to engage with the children, whilst learning from home.

services provided) that contribute to the achievement of the stated objectives.

The Charity's main aim is to enhance the development and education for children under statutory school age, in the Upperlands and surrounding area.

The Charity complies with all employment legislation, pays adequate salaries to staff, and provides opportunities for ongoing training in order to acknowledge the responsible and skilled nature of the work with children and to protect the rights of employees.

We ensure that each staff member will be trained to a minimum of NVQ level 3. Each child is allocated a key worker.

We adhere to the Minimum standards set out by the Northern trust

Supervision will be in the ratios as follows:

1:8 for 3-4 year olds. (no less than 3 staff at any time)

The contribution of volunteers

The Pre-school would like to thank all committee and voluntary staff for their continuous support

The Pre-school Management would also like to thank the Education Authority and Early Years for their continuous support.

Achievements and Performance of the Charity

A review of charitable activities undertaken by the charity

The charitable activities undertaken by the Trust take the form of free places for children of pre school age and a small fee for those in the pre pre-sessions

Additional support and guidance is provided to parents as they require it.

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Fundraising activities

Whilst the Charity relies on funding from the donors identified in the accounts, whose support is valued, there is still scope to further increase fundraising activities.

Those undertaken in the 2023 year include the following:

	2023	2022	2021
Fancy Dress walk	900	0	0
Donation of whitegoods from Donaghy's	600	0	0
Smartie tubes, quiz sheets	419	0	0
Penny Wars	618	0	0
Cheque for Treasure Hunt from Primary School	367	0	0
Total fundraising/donations	2,904	1,351	1,545

Factors relevant to the achievement of the charity's objectives

One of the main factors affecting the Charity's ability to achieve its objectives is that Little Amps is the only pre school setting within a 5 mile radius of the village of Upperlands.

Employment of disabled persons

Little Amps is an equal opportunities employer.

Structure, Governance and Management

Nature of the Governing Document and Constitution of the charity

Little Amps is governed by a constitution administered by a Management Committee.

The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees

When new committee members are required, usually through vacancies occurring, the existing members decide what skills, experience and knowledge is required.

Taking care to comply with any specific requirements set out in the governing documents.

Fit Person assessments as required are carried out by Social Services.

Candidates are formally appointed at the AGM.

The policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees, Management and Committee Members.

New members are introduced to the others and key members of staff so that they can get a better understanding of the organisation, and the challenges it faces.

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The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 August 2023

The organisational structure of the charity and how decisions are made.

Key decisions are the remit of the Manager/Leader and Management Committee, so they can best guide the future of the charity.

Less important decisions are delegated to the Staff.

Routine day to day decisions are also the responsibility of key employees as per their contract of employment.

Relationships between the charity and related parties, including its subsidiaries

The Trust has no subsidiaries

The major risks to which the charity is exposed and reviews and systems to mitigate risks

The trustees and members take the issue of risk management very seriously.

The major risks to the charity are :

The reduction of funded places is the major threat to the ongoing viability of the Pre School

Of a lesser degree of risk are factors like failure to comply with legal requirements. Close attention is given to these matters, but it is possible, however remote to have the setting closed down if there are failings in the ratio of staff to children. Very close attention and control is placed on these legal factors.

Risks such as change in demographics, are unlikely to have an immediate affect and would allow sufficient time to adapt if they were to occur.

Financial Review

Policies on reserves

The trustees having reconsidered the position of the charity now feel that an unrestricted reserve of £10,000 is required to cover any expences like redundancies etc

The reserve policy is monitored during the year, and if necessary reviewed due to changing needs and circumstances.

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Principal funding sources and how expenditure in the year under review has supported the key objectives of the charity.

The principal sources of funding are

	£
EA-NE-REGION CRE funded places	36,528
Non funded places (Fees)	3,774
Other Funding - D O H Oil Grant	800
Early Years Pathway	4,000

Little Amps would like to take this opportunity to thank Early Years and the Education Authority for the support provided towards staff costs.

Also Donaght Brothers for their donation of white goods.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Income during the year has been used to cover the support cost of the Playgroup as per the Profit & Loss Account.

Availability and adequacy of assets of each of the funds

The Trustees and Management Committee are satisfied that the Trust's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund.

Transactions and Financial position

The financial statements are set out on pages 13 to 17. The financial statements have been prepared implementing the 2005 Revision of the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales (revised in June 2008) and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). As stated in the introduction to this report, the Trustees consider the financial performance by the charity during the year to have been satisfactory.

The Statement of Financial Activities show net outgoing/incoming resources for the year of a revenue nature of -£ 7,191 (prior year -£ 3,244 and net realised outgoing/incoming resources of a capital nature of £ 0, (prior year £0), making net overall realised incoming/outgoing resources of -£ 7,191 (prior year -£ 3,244).

The total reserves at the year end after accounting for unrealised losses after revaluing investments of £ 0 (prior year £0), stand at £21,832 (prior year £29,023).

Free unrestricted liquid reserves amounted to £21,280 (prior year £23,643).

Specific changes in fixed assets

Changes in fixed assets are shown in detail in the notes to the accounts.

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Independent Examiner

J A S Campbell & Co
Accountant
49 Managher Road
Aghadowey
Coleraine
BT51 4DE

Statement of Directors' and Trustees' Responsibilities

The Charities Act requires the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to :-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the responsibility of the independent examiner in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, on the face of the report, there are no inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

Method of preparation of accounts

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was presented to the members and approved by them at the AGM on September 2024, and duly recorded in the minutes.

