

# **The Dry Arch Children's Centres**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)**

**Year ended 31 March 2023**

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

#### **Reference and administrative details**

<b>Registered charity name</b>	The Dry Arch Children's Centres
<b>Charity registration number</b>	NIC101767
<b>Company registration number</b>	NI031540
<b>Principal office and registered office</b>	Unit 1 50 Legavallon Road Glenshane Business Park Dungiven Co Derry BT47 4QL

#### **The trustees**

Mrs B Macqueen  
Mrs J Whiteside  
Mr D Whiteside  
Mrs M Carey  
Mrs T McCloskey

**Company secretary** Mrs B Macqueen

**Auditor** Claremount  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor  
1b Brookmount Crescent  
Omagh  
Co Tyrone  
BT78 5HG

**Bankers** Ulster Bank  
29 Clooney Terrace  
Waterside  
Co Derry  
BT47 1AS

# **The Dry Arch Children's Centres**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)***

**Year ended 31 March 2023**

#### **Structure, governance and management**

##### **Governing Document**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 5 November 1996. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

##### **Management**

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act, the memorandum and the articles of association and to any directions given by special resolution, the business of the Company shall be managed by the directors who may exercise all the powers of the company.

##### **Risk Management**

The trustees of The Dry Arch Children's Centres acknowledge their responsibility in identifying and mitigating the various risks which the company may be exposed to. They have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed.

A strategic plan has been created setting out the key aims, objectives and policies for the company as shown in this report. This strategic plan is constantly evolving to reflect the changing needs of families in the Dungiven and Limavady areas. This plan ensures that the charity has a clear focus - to provide quality support services to enable and enrich the developmental opportunities of children.

Quarterly financial budgets and variance reports are prepared in conjunction with the company's funding partners. This provides feedback into the performance of the charity and address areas for potential improvement. Budget preparation ensures that the charity is constantly looking forward and does not rest on its laurels as funding is dependent on future activities. Performance reports are provided to the trustees on a monthly basis to ensure information obtained is accurate and relevant for decision making purposes.

The company operates a comprehensive recruitment and training process for all current and potential staff members. As child safety is paramount, each potential new employee is subject to a vetting procedure before their contract of employment is signed. Qualifications and references are checked thoroughly to ensure that each new employee has the required skills to improve the existing workforce. Job training and development (including health & safety) is also provided for existing employees to further their skills and experience.

# **The Dry Arch Children's Centres**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)***

**Year ended 31 March 2023**

#### **Objectives and activities**

The principal aim of Dry Arch Children's Centres is the empowerment of family members through the provision of a continuum of high quality support services that enrich the lives and improve developmental outcomes for children.

Associated Aims:

1. To encourage children from an early age to avoid risky behaviour and to moderate or overcome any and all physical, mental, emotional, educational and/or motivational barriers to improved self-esteem and personal development.
2. To promote and support the parenting role as the primary carers and enablers of their children's development.

Dry Arch Children's Centres provide fully integrated, seamless and non-stigmatising services that flexibly meet the needs of children, young people and their families. These services have been developed in partnership with our local communities, as well as with other individuals and agencies with whom we share responsibility for families.

The Dry Arch Children's Centres model delivers a holistic approach to meeting individual, family and community needs through the joint planning and delivery of services. Its integrated and seamless approach achieves more than the sum of its parts. This markedly contrasts a disaggregated arrangement wherein separate services are provided from a common base. In short, families get joined-up support from one place ensuring the right help at the right time.

Sample Services Provided:

- Full Day Care/Nursery.
- Sessional Creche.
- 2-Year Old Programme.
- Pre-School Playgroup.
- Out-of-Schools programme.
- Sure Start.
- Parenting Education and Support.
- Youth Support.
- Health Promoting Homes.
- Health Promoting Farmers.
- Outreach Support.
- Home-Based Support/Family Visiting.
- Parenting Assessment and Contact.
- Adult Education and Training Centre.
- Early Intervention Family Support Hub.

#### **Strategic report**

The following sections for achievements and performance and financial review form the strategic report of the charity.

# **The Dry Arch Children's Centres**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)***

#### **Year ended 31 March 2023**

##### **Achievements and performance**

All objectives set within the previous year have been achieved.

In addition to the objectives outlined the organisation, in continuing to listen to our community and their needs, have developed a number of new project areas and made very successful appointments to ensure these objectives set for 2023/24 can be met accordingly.

##### **New projects and initiatives include:**

- Launching our BEE-LONG Campaign to create a connected, Compassionate Community
- Launching our Neurodiversity Campaign to support Families struggling whilst awaiting a diagnosis or those who have had a recent diagnosis.
- Launching a specific Programme to tackle “Mental ill-Health” and high levels of anxiety among the Younger generation

# **The Dry Arch Children's Centres**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)***

**Year ended 31 March 2023**

#### **Financial review**

The organisation had another successful year in which the level of income received increased once again and they invested in a further £15,254 of fixed assets. The net assets of the organisation now stand at £1,233,543.

#### **Principal Funding Sources**

The principal funding source for the charity is currently by way of grant and contract income from the Health and Social Care Board. The charity also generates income from its day care and out of school programmes to supplement this grant income.

#### **Grant Policy**

Grants obtained are classified as restricted funds and are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

#### **Reserves Policy**

The trustees are confident that the reserves of the company are of a sufficient level to be able to continue the current activities of the charity in the event of a drop in funding. Unrestricted reserves are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Restricted reserves are subjected to restrictions on their use by the donor.

Finance reserves are set aside to protect the charity against drops in income and as a back-up for future extensions and commitments when necessary. It is also policy to increase reserves to cover six months operational expenditure should it be required in the future.

It is the intention of the charity to increase reserves annually to accommodate for the provision of employee pension contributions in line with Pension Regulator legislation.

The charity transfers a minimum of £2,000 per month into its business reserve account from unrestricted monies and the level of reserves is monitored quarterly as part of normal budgetary reporting and control.

The Management Committee of the charity monitor the drawing down of reserves and takes corrective action to replenish these whenever necessary.

# The Dry Arch Children's Centres

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

#### Year ended 31 March 2023

#### Plans for future periods

##### Review of Objectives 2022/2023

The demand for our services has continued throughout the year with more and more Children, Young People and Parents presenting with Anxiety related conditions and mental ill-health. In response we have developed a number of new and bespoke age appropriate programmes delivered to Families both in house and within the Family Home as well as across all schools in the catchment area. This has included new appointments of two new staff with very specific skills sets. The number of Partner agencies has also grown with a greater number of referrals made to the Early Intervention Family Support HUB. More and more Families are struggling with the cost of living crisis and as such we have partnered with Money and Pensions to train our staff in money management and better informing Parents of what is available to them in times of financial crisis.

As demand for support services increases we continue to develop and direct services and programmes to where we are needed most.

##### Services include:

- SureStart Provision
- Early Intervention Family Support HUB
- Child Care and Nursery Provision
- Out of schools
- Wrap around Care and support
- Youth Mentoring and Programmes
- Family support Home Visiting
- Therapeutic Support in group and one to one basis
- Play Therapy
- Therapeutic intervention within Schools
- Health and Nutrition Programmes

All of these heading include a wrath of programmes which can be viewed on our new website and App.

##### Vision for 2023/24

The vision for the incoming year ahead remains steadfast in ensuring we develop and deliver Appropriate, timely and meaningful services and support systems to our Families. We want to strengthen our Community through the BEE-LONG campaign and intend to go on the road with a number of community led Initiatives supporting the notion of "connect and compassion" in an attempt to highlight the issue of Isolation and Loneliness and how this impacts our emotional and physical wellbeing at any age and stage of our lives. For too long we have become disconnected from each other, communicating only through airwaves.

We want to highlight the strength in the PACEs Agenda, linked to the ACEs Agenda but focusing more on the positives of resilience and less on the adversities of ACEs.

# The Dry Arch Children's Centres

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

## Demand

There continues to be an increase in demand for Children presenting with high levels of anxiety from an early age as well as high referral rate for youth and family support services within all school age groups. It is intended to continue support through various platforms but primarily meeting and supporting Children, Young People and Families face to face in a group or one to one platform. Our services have continued and will do so in the future, as long as we are needed!

We have developed a new website and Family Support APP to enable us to reach our Families quicker and easier. Other platforms include:

- Social media platforms to inform Parents of what is available.
- Sure Start Provision for 0 to 4 year olds
- Daily telephone calls to clients
- Centre Based Programmes
- Home Visiting Support
- Therapeutic Supports
- Neurodiversity Supports
- Therapeutic Programmes within Schools
- Online/Zoom Support where appropriate
- Food parcels and hot meals delivered to those in most need;
- Social Supermarket
- Continued relationship with HUB partners to ensure seamless delivery.

## Early Intervention Support

The vision of reaching all Children, Young People and their Families is alive within our vision. We need to reach Families before they are in need of support. We need to get the message out that there are so many support available to Families who are struggling and intervene early.

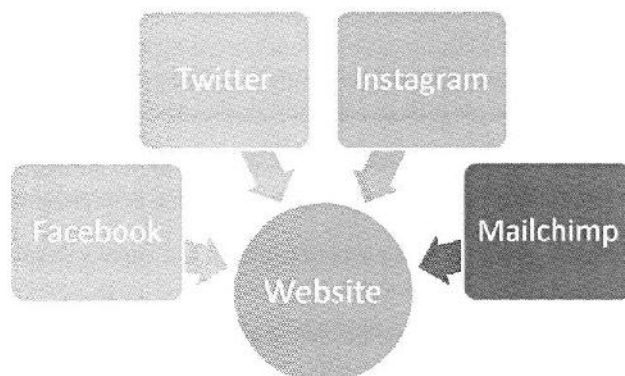
## Monitoring (Paperless by 2024)

### Utilising Digital Methods to adapt to the needs of service users

We continue to operate systems that allow us to reach our target audience via digital platforms from initial contact to final audit. This is in keeping with our vision to be a paperless organisation by end of 2024.

Our current platforms include:

How did we communicate with our parents, families, and the community?



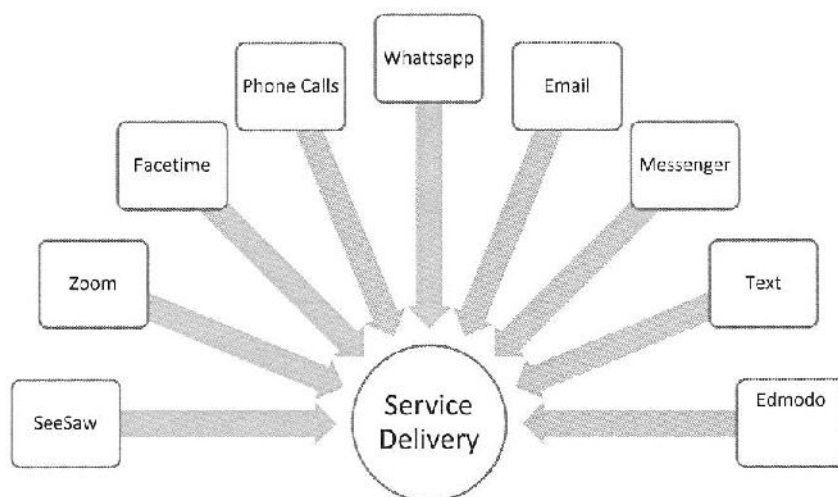
# The Dry Arch Children's Centres

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

## How we are delivering online services and supporting families



Zoom Pro enables us to deliver a range of programmes for parents and children without limit. These have been especially beneficial for programmes such as Breastfeeding Support, hypnobirthing, anxiety programmes and reaching those who struggle to join a group as a result of fear of the virus and social situations. We will continue to support Parents and Children where this anxiety exists.

Edmodo has been excellent in setting up training programmes for parents which can be delivered both, live or recorded in advance to enable parents/carers to log on when it suits them.

Staff have adapted well to implementing digital platforms to everyday life at the Dry Arch centre, supporting our promotional channels such as Facebook and Instagram.

## Projected activity for 2023/24

Our services will continue to be responsive to the needs of local Families. With our HUB partners we aim to address the crisis felt by many due to the increase in the cost of living. Families are having to choose between heating their homes or feeding their families. This should never be a choice anyone has to make! The Dry Arch ED is a member of the Regional Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership and the Regional Poverty Task and Finish Group in the Western Trust Area charged with tackling the issue of real poverty felt within our communities today. More than in the past 25 years.

We will develop and deliver more Parenting Programmes based on the “ifamily2, and what it means to be a Parent of the generation.

- Training for Teachers in Schools to enable them to better regulate whole classrooms to allow for more relaxed learning environments and less anxiety and stress among Teachers and the Children within their classrooms..
- Bed poverty campaign to continue to highlight and address the numbers of Children and Parents sleeping on sofas and floors.
- PACE's Agenda to highlight the need for better community connection and engagement as well as better understanding of what isolation and loneliness is doing to our mental health.

# The Dry Arch Children's Centres

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

#### Year ended 31 March 2023

##### Partnership Working

The Early Intervention Family Support HUB continues to grow and referrals to this service increase weekly. The number and types of services have increased with more and more primary school aged Children finding themselves struggling to cope emotionally. The Dry Arch Management and Staff will not let a Global Pandemic prevent us from reaching Families, particularly those Families who need us most. These services will include:

- Equine Therapy
- Therapy Dog within schools
- Play Therapy
- Therapeutic Play
- Art Therapy
- Lego Therapy
- Resiliency based programmes for all age groups.

All other Family Support services will continue, but a greater emphasis will be placed on therapeutic programmes in partnership with local primary schools, in an attempt to address the increasing numbers of referrals for those Children struggling with anxiety and social isolation.

The Dry Arch Sure Start and Early Intervention Family Support Programme will continue to provide support and guidance to families in the Limavady Borough Council area.

##### Addressing the Right to Food

We have established links with Children in Northern Ireland as part of a regional approach to tackling food poverty and holiday hunger. The campaign will be led by the Young People and aims to bring the issue food poverty to local MLA's and ultimately inform policy in Northern Ireland as has been the case in England. This work has seen many Young People flourish throughout 2023 and will continue throughout 2024.

##### Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, for that period.

# The Dry Arch Children's Centres

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

#### Year ended 31 March 2023

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

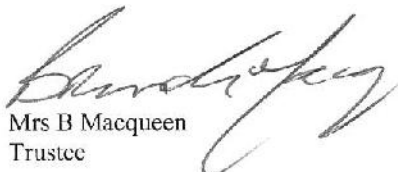
#### Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The auditor is deemed to have been re-appointed in accordance with section 487 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 23 January 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Mrs B Macqueen  
Trustee