

TOBER TINYS COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees who have served during the year were:

Trustees:	
Treasurer	Emma Forde
Secretary	Jenna Pickering
Chairperson	Paula Monahan
Trustee	Paula Glendinning
Trustee	Rachele Glendinning
Trustee	Nicola Higgins
Trustee	Amy Patterson
Trustee	Michelle Shiels
Trustee	Gemma Thompson

Public benefits

The benefits flowing from the purposes of Tobertinys Community Playgroup are that parents of pre-school children from Tobermore and surrounding areas have an opportunity to be looked after in a safe and stimulating environment under the care of suitably qualified play leaders. Their children benefit from being able to attend such a facility close to their own homes where there is no regular public transport. They benefit from the fact that they have access to both education and recreation in safe and secure facilities in an organisation managed by their own parents and local people. The community benefits by securing this facility for local children and therefore being able to offer the service at reasonable prices affordable to local parents. There is no private benefit flowing from these purposes except for the salaries of the personnel employed by the project which is necessary for the running of the project. These benefits are measured by the numbers of children coming to the facility each year. They are also measured by consultations with the children themselves who regularly evaluate their own activities. Feedback is also obtained by parents at least twice a year but most parents get a daily report on the progress of their child and so the benefits are often measured by the one to one interview with parents which incur on a regular basis. There is no harm flowing from these purposes.

Aim of the organisation

Tobertinys runs a pre-school facility in the village of Tobermore which is attended by children from Tobermore and surrounding districts. Children are provided with education and recreation facilities and practical assistance for the children where necessary. The Group provides and maintains suitable equipment and facilities for the education and recreation of the children subject to the specifications of social services and DEL. The committee of volunteers manage the team of workers recruit and select them and manage all human resource requirements. They also manage the building ensuring that adequate insurance, properly trained volunteers, parents or guardians of the children all have an input into the appropriate activities of the childcare group. The committee also carries out a range of fund raising activities, ensures the financial well-being and management of the organisation. They also ensure a co-ordinated integrated and holistic approach to young children's learners

Charitable purposes

The Group was established to promote play based learning environments for all children under statutory school age, (hereinafter referred to as the beneficiaries) of the Magherafelt area and its surrounding environs in Co Londonderry (hereinafter called the area of benefit) without distinction of age, gender, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion by associating the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and in particular to advance the education of the beneficiaries by the provision of safe and satisfying group play with the right of parent/carers to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of the group and to promote the preservation of health of the beneficiaries and support the values and principles of early years.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Trustees' Report

Now as I complete my 3rd term as Chairperson of Tober Tiny's I continue to be fulfilled and excited for what our community based Tober Tinys Playgroup offers and how they support, listen and engage with the ever growing demand. For the second year running we have been over subscribed and had a full competency starting in September again. This year came with a few changes, as Muriel McCarroll left to take up a new post, with Alex Smyth, at the time Playgroup Assistant took position of Deputy Leader. Playgroup Assistant role remained with Jacqui Mullholland and a newly appointed Playgroup Assistant came onboard, Erin Moore. Our leader Clare Montgomery, continued to lead this team through these changes and at a time also which was personally challenging with the sad loss of her father and uncle. The strength of the team has been exemplarily over this past year. Further changes occurred with Playgroup Assistant Erin leaving due to ill health and Trainee Chloe Patterson after finishing her exams was now qualified to be appointed as Playgroup Assistant.

I would like to congratulate the team for all they have achieved in the 2023/2024 year and the collective effort from all the staff, embracing the challenges and working hard to ensure standards were maintained to the high level that exist. Thank you also to Jenna Pickering who joined the team as a funded place from the EA for a statement child. Each staff member brings their own special trait that makes Tober Tinys the welcoming, exciting and happy place of learning for each child and promotes confidence to the parents. To Clare, I congratulate you for continuing to lead the team which such focus, determination and kindness and I am confident that the best is always achieved because of the excellent teamwork and leadership that exists.

This year has seen us stabilise for the first time since the pandemic and whilst its been slightly harder to manage that we don't overspend, this year was about ensuring that we now have enough to put into the reserves pot, should the worst case scenario ever arise, and this is a positive step in the right direction. I say this with the backup of some great funding opportunities that we have been successful in and namely the Pathway Fund, which without we simply would not be able to function like we have. The Staff Team and committee continue to fundraise which has helped to modernise Tober Tinys in updating the tables and chairs for the children, the outside play area has had a clean up and general maintenance. I would like to again thank TBD for their donation this year again to Tober Tiny's and donations from family of playgroup users for any fundraising opportunities and the subscriptions / voluntary subscriptions being paid by pre-pre and nursery sessions, all assisted in making the efficient running less of a burden.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the management committee for their support this year and their wise council when required, attending meetings and helping with supporting the team. For those that I know are not rejoining, I thank you for giving up your time to play a part in the Tober Tinys Successes over the year or longer.

In terms of successes we have had, thankfully, a content year with the following positives to take forward and acknowledge:

Thankful for Pathway funding again which aids the running of Tober Tinys financially and allows our team to provide the best educational tools and safe environment for our children.

Funding success for an Interactive Screen for the use of more modern learning tools for the children and for activity based learning

Upgrade of the furniture and key important areas for the children to ensure safety is upheld.

Continued supporting team efforts and appreciation for all the work that goes into the Committee Fundraising - coffee morning, quiz sheets, bus runs.

Experience gained and confidence secured in supporting some children with additional or complex needs.

This year comes as our 25 year anniversary and therefore some nice plans will be focused in and around April 2025.

Continue to build the already strong foundations of a good team, build in any new members of the committee / management positions (once the reelection has taken place)

Continuing strong links with the community - easter bonnet walks, Christmas coffee morning, savings club.

Hoping to secure Pathway Fund for another year

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Continue to put the team and children at the heart of the community based Playgroup and provide assistance were required and the links with neighbouring schools

To promote that we should Smile, Have Fun, Be kind, and talk to one another, to ensure good mental health for all. Finishing lastly with the erection of a New Tober Tinys Community Playgroup Sign which will be purchased from the funds raised at a recent Summer Charity Ball hosted by myself, Chairperson. Funds of £1000 was raised for Tober Tiny's and this new sign will help mark the 25 years with a new fresh look for Tobers

In closing, I would like to encourage you all to become part of the management committee. New faces will bring new skills, experience and ideas all of which are very welcome. Finally I hope that the staff and management committee have a positive start to the year and that this year is a successful one for Tober Tinys Community playgroup.

Financial review

All the funds administered in grants by the charity are governed by procedures and policies laid down and agreed in advance between the charity and those partners funding the grant schemes.

All financial procedures for the group are reviewed annually to ensure that all policies and procedures are updated to conform to any new financial legislation that has been introduced.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

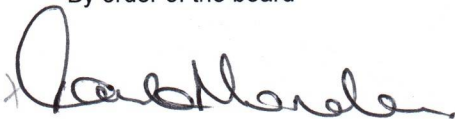
The Constitution requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Tober Tinys Community Playgroup and of the surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that Tober Tinys Community Playgroup will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of Tober Tinys Community Playgroup and to enable the trustees to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of Tober Tinys Community Playgroup and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are satisfied that all grants have been used solely for the purposes for which they were provided.

By order of the board



Chairperson