

NI Charity NIC 103950

Annual Report 2016-2017

Our Campaign Group to establish a shared education NW Children's Science Centre received a communication on 21st April 2016 from the NI Charities Commission that we had been successful in registering as a NI Charity NIC 103950. Board Members Mrs. Mary Casey, Prof. Robert Gavin, Mrs. Sumeeta Gupta, Mrs. Ethna McCullagh, Prof. Paul McKeivitt and Mrs. Mary Quigley.

Immediately after receiving this NI Charity status our Board communicated with the CEO of Glasgow Science Centre that we intended to visit the Centre and requested a meeting with him and his senior management team. The Meeting at Glasgow Science Centre was funded by Culmore Women's Handcraft Group and took place on 31st May 2016. Board Members who attended the meeting were Mrs. Mary Casey, Prof. Robert Gavin, Mrs. Ethna McCullagh, Prof. Paul McKeivitt, and Mrs. Mary Quigley. The depth and quality of discussion and tour was very positive and a potential future relationship was promised.

On 30th June 2016 an Ulster Bank Account Number 12920648 was opened with a £10 lodgement under the name of Amelia Earhart Steam Zone and the signatories are Mrs. Mary Casey, Prof. Paul McKeivitt..

A Meeting of Board Members took place on 7th July in Starbucks Coffee House on the Crescent Link and we agreed to establish links with Foyle Learning Community and to meet with Mr.Allen of Foyle College.

Board Members met with Mr. Allen, Principal of Foyle College on Tuesday 8th November and received information on Foyle Learning Community and advice to meet with the current Chair of Foyle Learning Community, Mrs. Marie Lindsay, Principal of St. Mary's College. He stated that Foyle Learning Community comprised a significant number of post primary schools that came together approx. 10 years ago to establish a shared STEM Centre at Ebrington .and to secure a slice of the funding available under Digital Derry and under the Department of Education's related strategy.

On Friday 2nd December Board Members met with Mrs. Marie Lindsay, Chair of Foyle Learning Community and Principal of St. Mary's College. According to the Principal of St. Mary's College and current Chair of the Foyle Learning Community, the feedback from the Department of Education has been that the proposal had no budget nor outline of how Operating Costs will be covered. She stated that the Department has been found to be risk averse. Marie Lindsay stated that the Foyle Learning Community have the plans drawn up, the classrooms assigned and all in place to secure capital investment in the building but cannot provide details on how it will pay for the running costs

During mid December 2016 our NI Charity applied for a 'Techies in Residence' – 'Techies in Residence brings together social challenges from charities and social enterprises with digital technology professionals to produce innovative digital products and services that have potential for deep social impact' and is a Building Change Trust initiative but our NI Charity was deemed unsuccessful.

Board Members met on Friday 16th December 2016 in the Everglades Hotel and agreed to set up a meeting with the former Ulster University STEP Up Director, Dr. Damian O'Kane.