

Strawberry Tree Playgroup
Trustees' Annual Report
For the period ended 30th June 2022

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 30th June 2022.

Purpose of Strawberry Tree Playgroup

To promote play based learning environments for all children under statutory school age from the area of Saval and its surrounding environs in County Down.

Summary

Strawberry Tree Playgroup is a community managed pre-school playgroup and is registered to accept a maximum of 26 children each session, five mornings per week from 9.00am to 12.00 noon. The playgroup is managed by a committee. Members of the playgroup (parents or guardians of children attending Strawberry Tree Playgroup) elect trustees of the playgroup annually at its AGM by means of a public vote.

The vast majority of Strawberry Tree Playgroups income is provided by the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB). Additional funding is provided by way of registration fees, donations and fundraising events.

The playgroup is registered by The Charity Commission. Inspections are carried out yearly by a Social Worker from Early Years. The report is displayed on the Parent's Notice Board.

Strawberry Tree Playgroup has been inspected by Social Services and ETI (Education Training Inspectorate). The full report is available to read from Strawberry Tree Playgroup.

Notable events that took place during the period reported on include:

1. *Easter raffle*
2. *Two Bonus Ball raffles*
3. *Santa Letters*
4. *Sponsored Sports day*

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The objective of the playgroup is to prepare the children for entering into the school environment. The playgroup has a common effort to advance education and in particular the education of the children by the provision of safe and satisfying group play, to promote the preservation of health of the beneficiaries and to support the values and principles of the pre-school curriculum.

Financial Summary

26 children attended Strawberry Tree Playgroup during the period of this report and the SELB provided funding totalling £52,026 and funding received for a 1 to 1 workers from Short Breaks team and also from Education Authority of £4,279. Money was received from Education Authority for additional costs in relation to Covid totalling £4,368. Families of children attending the playgroup are asked to make a voluntary financial contribution towards some of the running costs, and during the year, registration fees and weekly donations totalling £6,474 were received giving a total of £67,147 of income directly related to the children. Money was received from HMRC for SSP of £270 and Maternity pay of £4,140.

Strawberry Tree Playgroup was awarded a grant from Early Years for outdoor equipment totalling £1,000. Grants were also received from Department for Communities for unavoidable costs in relation to Covid of £4,035. We also received grants from Early years of £2,496 throughout the year. We also received Sustainability grants from Early years of £1,338.

With these grants the committee installed new outdoor equipment and matting. Outdoor resources were also purchased as majority of play was outside.

During the year we were successful with our application to the Pathway Fund and we were granted funds of £18,246 for period 1st July 2021 to 31st March 2022 and £3,649 for period 1st April 2022 to 30th June 2022.

The following fundraising events were organised during the year:

Fundraiser	Amount raised
Easter Raffle - Various prizes	£750
Bonus ball draw October 2021	£580
Bonus ball draw December 2021	£570
Santa letters December 2021	£188
Sponsored sports day	£150
	£2,238

Total income received for the financial year was £100,910.

The total running costs for the financial year were £92,172 which included staff wages, rent, heating, insurance, telephone and internet, premises costs, general playgroup expenses, uniforms and subscriptions. Costs were closely managed during these period and especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Trustees of Strawberry Tree Playgroup throughout the period of this report were:

Registered Person: Emma McConville

Chairperson: Catherine Digney

Vice Chairperson: Treasurer: Amanda Kearns

Treasurer: Fionnuala McCarthy

Vice Treasurer: Lisa Kearney

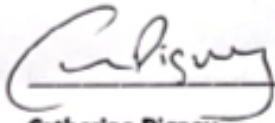
Secretary: Lisa Rocks

Vice Secretary: Natalie Sands

Staff Liaison Office: Helen O'Callaghan

Trustee Members: Edel Cunningham, Caoimhe Moore, Mary Jo Rivet, Serena Ward, Leanne Digney, Emma Malley, Gavin Walsh, Claire Kelly, Keri Doran, Denise Cunnuningham

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Catherine Digney

Chairperson

Dated:

Strawberry Tree Playgroup

41a Sheeptown Road, Newry, Co. Down, BT34 2LA

Registered Charity Number: NIC106117