

Maine Integrated Playgroup Trustees Annual Report 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

93 Portglenone Road Randalstown BT41 3EH

Northern Ireland Charity Commission Number: 107780-0

Maine Integrated Playgroup is a community playgroup based in Randalstown, County Antrim Northern Ireland. It provides early years education for pre-school children and its main source of income is from the Education Authority in Northern Ireland. The funding is on a per child basis and Maine Integrated Playgroup can cater for up to 24 preschool aged children in morning sessions Monday to Friday during the academic year.

Aims

The vision for Maine Integrated Playgroup is to ensure children are emotionally and physically healthy, eager and able to learn and respectful of difference. Maine Integrated Playgroup aims to provide a structured play-based setting for children of statutory school age in the Randalstown and District area and to deliver the following outcomes:

1. Preparation of each child for primary school
2. Mastering the basic skills of expression, communication. Problem solving, early mathematics, creativity, knowledge of the world around us, experimentation and physical development
3. The ability to relate to other children and adults

Funding in 2022-23

Maine Integrated Playgroup receives funding from The Education Authority. Maine Integrated Playgroup also received additional grants from the Education Authority. In some years Maine Integrated Playgroup offers Pre-Pre sessions which are paid for by parents. Further funding comes from fundraising activity, commission from photography sessions and also donations from parents for snacks.

Maine Integrated Playgroup did not apply for or receive any Charity Funding in 2022-23.

Maine Integrated Playgroup has a policy, as per Social Services Guidance of having 3 months operating costs (approximately £12,000) in a reserve account. Reserves on 31st March 2023 were: £962.32

Maine Integrated Playgroup had £32,850.35 in its bank account on 31st March 2023.

Maine Integrated Playgroup shares a site with Maine Integrated Primary School. Maine Integrated Playgroup paid no rent, heating, cleaning, electric charges or other overheads in 2022-23. Maine Integrated Playgroup's only assets are the play resources, and a small amount of IT and domestic electrical equipment used for the running of the Playgroup.

Maine Integrated Playgroup has no liabilities.

Cash Held – Maine Integrated Playgroup handles cash from parental donations and fundraising activities. This cash is deposited in the Playgroup Bank account throughout the year and is used directly for the running of the playgroup. Cash deposited during 22-23 was £710. All payments into the accounts were for the benefit of the Playgroup.

Governance

Maine Integrated Playgroup is governed by a constitution adopted on 5th January 2008 and updated and approved by the members of the committee on 11th November 2014. A management committee of volunteers oversees the operation of the Playgroup. AGM is held each November and all parents are made aware of the AGM and encouraged to attend. The makeup of the management committee changes yearly as children normally attend Maine Integrated Playgroup for one year only before progressing to P1 in schools in the Randalstown and District area. In November 2022, Mrs Caoilfhionn Wilson assumed the role of Chairwoman, Maine Integrated Playgroup Management Committee. Due to a delay in vetting and Fit Persons interview it was May 2023 before Mrs Wilson fully assumed the role. Between November 2022 and May 2023 Mr Adrian Kenny continued his role as Chairman, Maine Integrated Playgroup Management Committee.

Northern Trust Social Services are the statutory authority who oversee the operation of the Playgroup. Social Services worked closely with the Management committee in 22-23 in supporting Mrs Wilson in taking up her Chairwoman's role.

No safeguarding concerns were raised regarding Maine Integrated Playgroup in 2022-23.

Maine Integrated Playgroup contracts an Independent Early Years specialist to support the Playgroup Leader and staff with the operation of the playgroup.

The Trustees have regard to the public benefit of the charity. The Trustees worked hard in 2022-23 to achieve the charity's aims namely:

- The advancement of education of pre statutory school age children in Randalstown and District area
- Deliver Aims 1-3 as listed above in this report

On-site activities such as the Christmas play in December 2022 help to further the charities aims – specifically aim 2 of Maine Integrated Playgroup and a raffle provided modest fundraising. Staff and volunteers of the charity gained an Incidental Benefit in the form of training and vetting to allow them to perform their roles. This could be regarded as a benefit as the skill and training could be transferrable to other roles.

Trustees 2022-23

Adrian Kenny – until May 2023 when Caoilfhionn Wilson took up role of Chairwoman

Caoilfhionn Wilson

Louise French – resigned from committee in November 2022

Victoria Walker

Cecelia Adair – resigned from committee in November 2022

Edel Woodin

Oonagh Stewart

Carla Adams - joined committee in November 2022

Clare Lyle – joined committee in November 2022

Kelly Mulholland – joined committee in November 2022. Resigned December 2022.

This report has been prepared to the best of our knowledge.

The report was approved by the Trustees on 29th January 2024.

Adrian Kenny

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop that starts under the name, goes up and over the 'A', then loops back down and under the 'K'.

Caoilfhionn Wilson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized cursive version of the name 'Caoilfhionn Wilson'.