

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: NI646300 (Northern Ireland)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 107926

**Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements
For the Year ended 30 Jan 2024
For
Place to Wonder Ltd**

**Janet Jensen, ACMA, CGMA
Independent Examiners
Ekstra Accounting Solutions Ltd
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BT8 6PB**

PLACE TO WONDER

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For the Year Ended 30 Jan 2024**

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Report of the Trustees For the Year Ended 30 January 2024

The trustees who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 January 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Charity's objectives are to:

- Celebrate and promote the art of storytelling and related arts in Northern Ireland (the "area of benefit") by: (i) hosting storytelling events, activities and workshops in diverse venues; (ii) engaging new audiences; (iii) organising related recreational and leisure-time activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for members of the public.
- Advancing the education of people of all ages, backgrounds and cultures in the area of benefit in the appreciation, knowledge and practice of storytelling and raising awareness of its value in enhancing wellbeing and healing and in stimulating creativity and a sense of wonder.

The direct benefits of these objectives are:

- Creating community events and programmes that bring stories to life in outdoor immersive storytelling experiences. We bring these arts events to accessible locations in local parks and community centres ensuring there are no barriers for communities from all backgrounds to access the arts. Bringing stories to life in this way supports children and young people to develop speech and language skills, build confidence and foster a love of reading and creating their own stories.
- Using the arts and storytelling in communities as a tool to translate mindfulness techniques to help participants lower anxiety and increase their capacity to self-regulate. Each story we create weaves in calm-down techniques that support families to breathe and safely process emotions. These activities empower parents and carers to use storytelling in their daily lives to breathe, connect and co-regulate with their child. Our interactive arts experiences bring communities together from all backgrounds to be connected in the wonder and awe our stories create. Increasing community connection and well-being.

These benefits can be demonstrated through direct feedback from participants. Evaluations are conducted at the end of each project and individual workshop. Feedback recorded that after taking part in our programmes 100% of our participants felt inspired and more confident to take part in arts activities in arts venues in their areas. 100% of our participants said they felt a surge of joy and uplifted after participating in our workshops.

These benefits can also be demonstrated through our project outcomes. At the end of our latest project we adapted one of our storytelling experiences into a children's relaxation book ensuring parents and carers could continue using storytelling as a tool to promote well being in their daily lives. 100% of the parents/carers said they felt more empowered and confident to use storytelling as a tool to lower anxiety with their children after our project. We commit to producing an annual impact report as part of our annual reporting.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is governed by its constitution. The charity is managed by a committee of trustees, which must have a chairperson, secretary, and treasurer. All trustees must be members of the charity. Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM); however, during the year, the trustees may appoint up to three additional trustees. All trustees must stand down at the next AGM but are eligible to stand for re-election.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The results for the year 2023/2024 are set out on page 6 and the trustees consider these results to be satisfactory. Place to Wonder's total incoming resources for the year were £20,943 (of which £17,785 is restricted income). Net movement of funds for the year amounted to an decrease of £13,687.

Restricted funds representing income received for projects but not yet expended increased by £14,606. An increase in unrestricted funds totaled £710. Total funds carried forward as set out on page 10 are £15,316 (Restricted - £14,606) and (Unrestricted - £710)

TRUSTEES REPORT

Over the past financial year Place to Wonder has generated funding from 5 funders and executed the following projects and pieces of work:

- Place to Wonder and Flickerpix created a partnership co production with Copa Studios in Brazil to generate more funding for our Luna in Dream Land Animation (a series that will explore children's anxieties using storytelling through animation) to broadcasters across Ireland and Northern Ireland and secured 85% of the funding. We aim to go into production in Spring 2025.
- With the funding we secured the year before we created another Children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing programme that will be adapted into a children's relaxation book called Sweet Dreams. This programme is specifically for early years children to support self-regulation and speech and language development post pandemic. This financial year the programme was delivered in primary schools, nurseries, sure starts and to refugee families across Belfast. Reaching over 600 participants.
- Our Dream a Little Dream Children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Workshops continue to be delivered to schools across Belfast. The workshop has also been adapted into a Dream a Little Dream Children's Relaxation book each child received a book after the workshop @ £10 per book generating passive income for the organisation. This year we added Sweet Dreams workshops and books to this programme generating additional funding @ £8 per book.
- We secured an additional 2 years of funding from Children in Need to take the Sweet Dreams programme to 28 Sure Starts across Northern Ireland until 2026.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company Number
NI64300 (Northern Ireland)

The company is a charity at law and is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland

Registered Office
33 Wynchurch Road
Belfast
Co Antrim
BT6 0JH

Trustees

Ryan Doherty
Grainne McHugh
Orla Kelly
Hannah Walsh


Independent Examiner

Janet Jensen, ACMA, CGMA
Ekstra Accounting Solutions Ltd
2 Beechill Park South
Belfast
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BT8 6PB

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 5/08/24 and signed on its behalf by:

Name of Trustee

Date


Grainne McHugh

5/08/24

PLACE TO WONDER

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees