



**AUSOME KIDS ANNUAL REPORT**  
April 2023 – March 2024

AUsome Kids, 41A Molesworth Street, Cookstown  
Co Tyrone, BT80 8NX  
NIC 108162

## **Our purpose**

To provide a safe and inclusive space within our community, where children with autism and their families can grow and develop together; learning to accept and celebrate their Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

To support and inspire our children to develop confidence, resilience, and self-worth, while positively impacting on their social, emotional and mental well-being.

To provide training to the general public in relation to ASD.

## **Summary of activities**

All our trustees have regard to the Commission's Public benefit requirement and our sessions are for public benefit. The following are examples of the sessions that we have facilitated:

**Kids** – Lego, drawing, painting, STEM fun - magnetic playdoh, baking, Christmas community cards, drama, mindfulness, puppet making, cooking, sensory and wellbeing, Halloween fun, Christmas fun & Sensory Santa

**Parent/carer** – wellbeing, arts, painting, craft, coffee mornings

We have also facilitated a number of projects.

### **Community & Wellbeing – Radius Housing – 191 attended**

(Nature & Mindfulness, Mindful making, Movement sessions- fit minds, Wellbeing and time for yourself, Sensory Celebration)

May, June & July sessions were held – our families took part in wellbeing sessions along side various facilitators; these were a major hit! We had nature and mindfulness, mindful making, movement sessions, wellbeing time for carers, this was finalised with a sensory celebration.

### **CWSAN – Funding Wellbeing sessions - 72 attended**

This project was a series of wellbeing sessions based around the 'Take 5' steps to wellbeing. Based around connection with others in the community with Movement sessions, Nature & mindfulness, Mindful makers & learning something new sessions, Well-being and time for yourself sessions, learning self care techniques. These all aim to build resilience, empower individuals and promote positive mental health.

### **FITminds – Fun for all 4 week programme – 72 kids**

This project was funded by ourselves and families. Our families asked for more movement classes with Ronan @Fit Minds. As always, these were a great hit with the kids, creating fun ways to develop our fine and major motor skills. We ran 3 sessions on a Tuesday for 4 weeks totalling 12 sessions and 72 kids!

### **Arts programme**

This was a rolling project was self-funded, we created lots of arts and crafts but also finalised our 'Gratitude wings' which was amazing. This project that runs throughout the year, helps our kids to socialise while having fun with others. We had Harry potter days, Mario, self portraits, candle making and treasure chests to name a few.

## **Our success & achievements**

We saw AUsome kids grow this year again with more than 172 families registered with us. We successfully continue to grow.

Our chairperson, Pamela Glasgow Baxter was mentioned in the Kings Birthday honours and was awarded a BEM for services to children with autism.

Other organisations continue to work with us, namely Autism NI, Network Personnel family support, social workers and Autism advisory service.

Our families, volunteers, facilitators, and other local organisations/charities and have provided excellent feedback. Our families feedback ranges from 'we had an amazing time' to 'thanks for all you do for us' and 'you have been such a support for us'.

## **Summary of Financials**

*For full report see financial accounts - McKinney Dawson Accountants*

<b>Incoming Grants/Donations/ Sales</b>	<b>£11,931</b>
<b>Outgoing Rent/Equipment/Facilitators/Sessions</b>	<b>£10,609</b>
<b>Balance at end of March 2023</b>	<b>£1229</b>

Thanks to Mid Ulster Area Service, Horizons Cookstown for the donation of £472.50

Thanks to Cookstown Leisure Centre for the donation of £4000

Thanks to Cookstown Primary School for the donation of £600

### **Grants breakdown:**

<b>Radius Housing</b>	-	£896
<b>CWSAN</b>	-	£848

## **Plans for 2024-25**

- Look into building a youth sub-committee
- Build a volunteer group
- Continue to work with wellbeing as focus
- Further explore the need for an older group
- Continue to develop AUsome Kids' profile within the community

## **Volunteers**

With thanks to our committee who continue to give their time to AUsome Kids.

Thanks also to all our volunteers over 2023-24, they may be small in numbers but they have worked throughout the year to help our AUsome kids & families.

## **Our governing document**

AUsome Kids was formed and constituted in February 2020 and amended in April 2021. it is a working document that informs and guides the activities we run at AUsome kids, no further amendments needed.

## **Trustees**

(As of 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Pamela Glasgow Baxter

Olga Kelly

Valerie Morrow

Jade Kelly