

Eastwood Community Playgroup Association

Registered Charity No. 1023369

OFSTED Registration

EY310444 / EZ119473 / EY555930

EYA Membership No. 27242

Eastwood Community Nursery

The Len Forge Centre

Eastwood Community Pre-School

Eastwood Community Centre

Eastwood Community Early Years

Edwards Hall School

TRUSTEES' REPORT

1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022

Charity Aims

The provision of sessional or full-day care and educational facilities across three Settings serving the community of Eastwood and the immediate surrounding areas for children from the age of two years up to acceptance in Reception Classes at Local Schools.

Charity Structure & Governance

Pre-School Learning Alliance Model Pre-School Constitution adopted in 2011.

Governing Committee comprises Trustees and Parent Members

Settings have an Ofsted rating of GOOD.

Charity Trustees

Jessica White (Chair) Robert Pickup (Secretary/Treasurer) Susan Bishop

Committee

Aimee Holohan, Sarah Wheddon

Source of Income

Grant of Funding from Southend City Council under the Nursery Education Scheme in respect of children of Families who qualify for state funding for early years learning. Fee Income from Families of children who attend our Settings for periods in excess of the state funding allowance and/or from Families of children who attend who do not qualify for state funding.

General Fund Raising from Parties and Events and Miscellaneous Donations

Current Position

It became clear during the Autumn Term 2021 that a number of local Pre-School Settings were not going to be able to continue operating either due to a lack of registrations or increasing costs which made their Settings no longer financially viable. ECPA were contacted by the Local Authority and/or directly by Parents seeking our support to accommodate children who had to move from their previous Settings. This helped maintain our initial registrations at a reasonable level and during the course of the year we have seen our registrations increase from 129 in September 2021 to 184 by End of Term in July 2022. The number of children using our provision of Breakfast & After School Clubs also increased from 40 to 99 over the same period.

There has been an increase in the number of Parents who, through qualification, have taken up the 30 Hour Attendance Funding which has resulted in our Income increasing during the last twelve months. However, an increased number of children for an increased number of hours has brought with it a significant increase in our Operating Expenses. It was necessary to employ an additional eight members of Staff during the year (an increase of 25%) to meet the demand placed upon our services. These additional costs together with Rent, Utilities and the general rise in the cost of living which has affected everything that we purchase, presented a challenge. Fortunately, we have been able to manage our resources to achieve a Surplus which will be utilised to support the future development of our Settings.

ECPA provide the normal full day, morning and/or afternoon sessions at each of our Settings and include Early Start at Nursery. Early Years provide Breakfast & After School Clubs which are also attended by school-age children. Holiday Club Sessions resumed for the October and February Half-Terms, Easter and Summer Holidays and there has again been a gradual increase in numbers for each Session. We were also pleased that, following the relaxation of the Covid restrictions, we were again able to hold our Graduation Parties for those children who were moving on to Reception Classes at our Local Schools.

Each Setting offers slightly different amenities built around the core care and learning of the EYFS requirements. The children enjoy the opportunity to develop their skills in the care of experienced and dedicated staff who seek to fully utilise the different amenities available at our Settings. The expansion of Forest School with children traveling off-site to experience an outdoor environment has proved very popular and has contributed to their development.

The Future

The initial Autumn Term 2022 registrations at our Settings are 27% down on our July 2022 numbers but we are already aware of new starters for January 2023 and we continue to receive enquiries. However, we do not anticipate repeating the growth seen in the last twelve months. Whilst the impact of Covid continues to slowly abate and business activity is gradually returning, it (Covid) cannot be ignored particularly where the health and safety of young children is concerned. Costs to maintain safe and hygienic environments have risen dramatically. The developing economic situation in the UK is affecting every area of life and will inevitably form the basis of decisions taken by Parents relating to the care and education of their children. It cannot be overlooked that 22% of our Income is from Non-Funded Fees which will be vulnerable to Parents deciding that due to economic pressures they would have to consider a reduction in attendances at our Settings. A reduction of this Income would not necessarily be directly reflected in a reduction of our Operational Expenses. The potential for a reduction of our Income, together with forecasted increases in our Rent and other general expenses, has caused the Trustees to ensure a suitable Contingency Fund is retained over and above the General Funds held for future development.

A development is planned at our Nursery Setting where we hope to erect a new building adjacent to the existing outdoor area used by the children to create a fully immersive indoor/outdoor experience for the children which is not possible from the existing building that we use. We are awaiting Planning Consent from the Local Authority and hope this will be granted this year. Our submission to the Council has the support of the Local Authority Early Years Team and Local Councillors which hopefully will assist in the final decision.

ECPA continue to offer Nursery Care for 2 year-olds with a flexible approach to opening hours, the provision of Breakfast and After School Clubs and a now enhanced provision of Forest School, which we hope places us in a position to attract sufficient children to our Settings. The challenge is to ensure that attendances do not drift down to a level that endangers the financial viability of the Settings. ECPA work closely with the Local Authority who utilise our ability to provide support for short-term placements for children and for those with particular care or learning requirements. We are proud that we were one of the first Early Years providers in the area to host children from Ukraine.

Whilst development of commercial properties around Southend Airport appears to have slowed following the withdrawal of Easy Jet and Ryan Air, new houses continue to be built and sold. The Local Authorities have issued plans for further developments to take place around our area. Our proximity to these developments, the flexible services we can offer and our reputation with the Local Authority and Families, should help us to maintain our position as one of the first choices for early learning in Eastwood and the immediate surrounding districts.

Jessica White

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Jessica White - Chair of Trustees

Date 1st December 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Eastwood Community Playgroup Association

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st August 2022.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report


My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - (ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;have not been met; nor
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Changrez Khan FCCA
569 London Road
Westcliff on Sea
SS0 9PQ
28 November 2022



28/11/2022

EASTWOOD COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP ASSOCIATION


Registered Charity 1023369

OFSTED Registration EZ119473 EY310444 EY555930

Income & Expenditure Account

Year Ended 31 August 2022

	2022	2022	2021	2021
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Fees - SBC Funded	441,070.42		378,661.04	
Fees - non-funded	181,590.25		82,846.45	
Fees - Extra sessions	843.75		1,499.00	
Fees - Lunch Club/snack	0.00		191.25	
Uniforms Surplus / (Deficit) on Sales	- 164.35		-624.23	
Parties - Xmas	645.50		0.00	
Parties - Summer Party	951.00		530.00	
Fund Raising - Photo Commissions	211.90		269.20	
Fund Raising - Xmas Fayre	46.16		0.00	
Donations	422.81		252.55	
Bank Interest	707.87		43.85	
Total Income		626,325.31		463,669.11
EXPENDITURE				
Staff Costs - Wages	378,285.39		302,827.92	
Staff Costs - HMRC/MC	43,652.06		29,180.38	
Staff Costs - Pensions	17,938.02		13,485.26	
Staff Costs - Training	1,060.00		1,201.60	
Staff Costs - Payroll	1,305.00		1,260.00	
Staff Costs - Redundancy Settlement	3,000.00		0.00	
Premises - Rent	42,066.16		37,575.10	
Premises - Telephone	2,412.36		1,857.82	
Premises - Gardens / Building Maintenance	230.46		338.87	
Premises EY Alliance Insurance	2,265.12		2,246.65	
Premises - Waste	965.84		910.88	
Premises - Nursery Cabin	2,268.40		0.00	
Food Purchase - Kitchen/Snacks	4,805.25		4,469.24	
Operating Costs - Office	1,682.75		2,186.56	
Operating Costs - Site Set-up & Cleaning	4,636.72		2,764.20	
Operating Costs - Arts/crafts	1,058.23		730.75	
Operating Costs - Equipment	11,817.57		8,951.68	
Operating Costs - Equipment Insurance	215.76		257.76	
Operating Costs - Consumables	4,521.87		3,251.86	
Operating Costs - Mini bus	2,737.75		1,369.68	
Operating Costs - Website	338.70		869.26	
Independent Accounts Examiner Fee	2,400.00		2,400.00	
Advertising	900.00		40.00	
Ofsted Registration Fees	305.00		525.00	
Data Protection	35.00		35.00	
EY Alliance Fee	198.75		191.25	
Misc. Expenses - Gifts & Refreshments	275.25		560.06	
Sundry	135.50		78.45	
Parties- Summer & Christmas	829.24		509.87	
Total Expenditure		532,342.15		420,075.10
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		93,983.16		43,594.01

 28/11/2022

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Balance Sheet

As on 31 August 2022

Current Assets	2022	2021
	£	£
Debtors	7,346.79	7,023.31
Uniform Stock	581.07	394.40
Cash at Bank	335,512.71	242,972.02
Cash in Hand	127.45	520.15
Total Assets	343,568.02	250,909.88
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	2,470.13	3,795.15
Reserves		
Balance Brought Forward	247,114.73	203,520.72
Suplus in the Year	93,983.16	43,594.01
Total Surplus Funds	343,568.02	250,909.88

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Note to the Accounts

As on 31 August 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Debtors		
Outstanding Fee as August 31, 2021*	5,902.42	5,642.61
Receipts in Bank related to Y/E August 31, 2021 received after the date	1,444.37	1,380.70
	7,346.79	7,023.31

* This is treated as Fee Income for the Y/E
August 31, 2022


Cash at Bank

Checking Account	49,356.90	42,226.58
Reserve Account	115,792.11	115,745.44
Monmouthshire Building Society Account	85,000.00	85,000.00
Redwood Bank	85,363.70	-
	335,512.71	242,972.02

Creditors

Payments in Bank related to Y/E August 31, 2022 paid after the date*	70.13	1,395.15
Independent Examiner Fee	2,400.00	2,400.00
	2,470.13	3,795.15

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