



Patrons Christopher Khoo DL &
Naomi Khoo and Helene Raynsford
and Lord Brownlow CVO DL

Company Registration Number: 07279320
Charity Number: 1137609

**Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres
(Limited by guarantee)**

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

**Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres
(Limited by guarantee)**

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Year ended 31 March 2023

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**Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres
(Limited by guarantee)**

**Legal and Administrative information
Year ended 31 March 2023**

Registered office

Kennet Walk Community Centre
Kenavon Drive
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 3DG

Outreach addresses

Poplar Place
Shaw
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14 1NA

All Saints School
Norrey's Avenue
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1UX

Northumberland Road
Southampton
SO14 0EL

Coney Hill Road
Gloucester
GL4 4NA

Independent Examiner

Heather Wheelhouse ACA
BDO LLP
R+
2 Blagrove Street
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 1AZ

Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres (Limited by guarantee)

Directors' Annual Report

Period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

The Trustee Board presents its report, together with the financial statements, for the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Reference and administrative details of the charity, and its Trustee Directors

Dingley's Promise is a registered charity, number 1137609 and is a charitable company limited by guarantee, number 07279320

The charity number, company number, present Trustees (also being Directors of the charitable company – hereafter referred to as Trustees) are noted on page 1.

Trustee Board

The members of the Trustee Board during the period were as follows:

Chair:	Mr Russel Fowler (appointed 26 Nov 2020)
Treasurer:	Mr Peter Brogden (appointed 28 May 2020)
Trustees:	Mr Michael Scheepers (appointed 3 Sept 2021) Mrs Lorna Fairbairn (resigned 10 May 2022) Ms Joy Essien (resigned 08 Feb 2023) Ms Myra Kelly (resigned 06 Dec 2022) Mr Charlie Tate (appointed 18 Mar 2022) Ms Masako Eguchi-Bacon (appointed 18 Mar 2022)

Honorary President:

Mr David Ormrod

Patrons

Mrs Naomi Khoo

Mrs Helene Raynsford

Lord Brownlow of Shurlock Row

It is with great sadness that we report that patron Christopher Khoo DL passed away in 2022. We are deeply indebted for his contribution to Dingleys Promise.

Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres (Limited by guarantee)

Structure, governance, and management

Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres is both a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. It is governed by Articles of Association, which were approved and adopted in August 2010, (upon registration as a charitable company), and reviewed in 2022 to reflect the full scope of the impact we aim to have on children with SEND and their families across the country.

In May 2016, the company formally adopted Dingley's Promise as the new brand name, retaining Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres as its registered company name. The term Dingley's Promise (or Dingley) will be used throughout the remaining narrative sections of this document where appropriate.

As we seek volunteers with new skills and experience and as, inevitably, we must replace volunteers who can no longer work with us for various reasons, the charity will have to “induct” new Trustees on a reasonably regular basis. To provide a consistency and thoroughness of introduction that will maximise the new Trustee contribution as quickly as possible, we follow an induction process which is both simple and yet sufficiently flexible to take account of individual needs and availability. The process is described in the Trustee Induction document dated April 2017, and includes:

- Attending at least one Board Meeting as an observer;
- Providing a CV and letter/email outlining the contribution that the potential Trustee feels they will make to Dingley's Promise;
- Agreeing a written Trustee Role Specification specific to their role on the Board;
- Signing a Trustee Commitment document detailing their commitment to the organisation, including completion, within 3 months of appointment, of a Safeguarding Children Level 1 course and a clear DBS check.

Upon appointment as a Trustee, the Chair (or a designated Trustee) will inform Companies House and the Charity Commission of that appointment, and the new Trustee will complete the Ofsted EY2 on-line registration process.

When appointing key management, and when reviewing their remuneration packages, external benchmarking is undertaken against directly compatible roles, wherever possible. The Trustee Board is responsible for setting and agreeing the remuneration package of the CEO. The CEO reviews and recommends changes to the remuneration packages of his/her direct reports (see below), which must be agreed by the Trustee Board who will bear in mind the agreed expenditure budget for the relevant period.

We are aware of the Charity Governance Code and we believe our own main principles and processes by which we govern adhere very closely to the seven principles of good governance contained within the code. As we develop our Trustee Board and ways of working, we will consciously and constantly check our progress against these principles and their underlying directional guidance.

Organisational structure and decision-making process

The Trustee Board delegates day to day management of the operations of the charity to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Catherine McLeod MBE, who was appointed in March 2015. The CEO has four direct reports:

- Fundraising & Communications Manager
- Finance Manager (FM),
- Operations Manager
- Training Programme Manager

Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres (Limited by guarantee)

During the 2022/23 financial year, Trustee meetings were held once every two months, either via Teams or in person. In between meetings, decisions were made in consultation with the Chair, Treasurer and other Trustees as required. If necessary, a special meeting of the Board was convened.

In 2016, we created an Advisory Board, and this currently comprises the following individuals:

Jacquie Hathaway (Early Years Foundation Stage & Ofsted compliance)
Laxmi Patel (SEND Law)
Liz Pemberton (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)
Chris Burnell (Buildings)
Lorna Fairbairn (HR)

Objectives and activities

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objective and in planning our future activities.

Dingley's Promise vision is *'The best start for every child'*.

Our Mission Statement is *'We deliver life changing support to under 5's with additional needs & disabilities and their families, by providing specialist learning through play, family support & training, and advice to mainstream settings'*.

Within this overall framework, our main objectives are:

- Reach as many children as possible.
- Ensure every child transitions to the best educational option for them when they leave us.
- Be active in networking and signposting to ensure all the child's needs are met.
- Ensure parents are always given choices and their voices are heard.

We also took the opportunity as part of the strategy review to bring to the fore our core values:

- We seek **excellence** in all we do through continuous learning and improvement.
- We **care** for each other, our children and their families.
- We promote **development** of children, families & our team in a stimulating environment.
- We work with **integrity**, sharing resources and expertise for best outcomes.
- We **empower** children and families to make their own choices.

The West Berkshire Centre operates from a building in Shaw, Newbury, which opened to families in mid-February 2015. We have a sub-lease for the building, large garden and 10 car parking spaces with Shaw Social Club which is co-terminus with their own lease with West Berkshire Council due for review and renewal in March 2024.

The Wokingham Centre operates from premises within All Saints School in Wokingham. We have a licence to occupy this space (with 12 months' notice by either party) and pay both fixed and variable (e.g. utilities costs) elements of rent based on the percentage of space that we occupy within the school.

The Reading Centre operates from a Reading Borough Council owned building for which we pay a peppercorn rent, but for which we must pay the buildings insurance, utilities costs and all associated building maintenance costs as part of the lease. The lease doesn't expire until July 2034.

In January 2023 a new Centre opened in Gloucester, fully funded by Gloucester Council, initially providing places for 16 children. A second new Centre was secured in Southampton and is expected to open its doors to children early on the new financial year.

Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres (Limited by guarantee)

Volunteers play a very important role within the charity, assisting with fundraising, undertaking administration to take the pressure off teams, supporting children in the Centres, and helping with mealtimes. Dingley's Promise was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (the MBE for charities) in June 2011.

Risk Management Statement

A formal Risk Policy has been implemented since February 2015 and is under six monthly review.

The policy states that :

- The Trustees and executive management of Dingley's Promise believe that sound risk management is integral to both good management and good governance practice.
- Risk management considerations will form an integral part of our decision-making and be incorporated within strategic and operational planning.
- Risk assessment will be conducted on all new activities and projects to ensure they are in line with the Dingley's Promise strategic plan and objectives.
- Risks and opportunities will be identified, analysed and reported at an appropriate level and escalated as necessary.
- A risk register covering key strategic risks will be maintained and updated at least twice a year and more frequently where risks are known to be volatile.
- All staff will be provided with adequate training on risk management and their role and responsibilities in implementing this.
- Dingley's Promise will regularly review and monitor the effectiveness of its risk management framework and update it as considered appropriate.
- Reports will be made to the Trustee Board and CEO each quarter of continuing and emerging high concern risks and those where priority action is needed to effect better control.
- This policy is a formal acknowledgement that the Trustee Board is committed to maintaining a strong risk management framework. The aim is to ensure that Dingley's Promise makes every effort to manage risk appropriately by maximising potential opportunities whilst minimising the adverse effects of risks.
- This policy will be used to support the internal control systems of Dingley's Promise, enabling us to respond to operational, strategic and financial risks regardless of whether they are internally or externally driven.

Going concern

Our performance in recent years, even those years which resulted in an operating deficit, has always left us at the end of the year with a good cash base, a Reserves Fund to cover a managed wind-down in the event of collapse in funding (or other event resulting in forced closure), sufficient funding in all other restricted funds to cover asset values and liabilities (e.g., unspent grants) and additional unrestricted funds to develop the organisation and its services. We are aware of, and adhere to, the Charity Commission's guidance on 'Managing a charity's finances: planning, managing difficulties and insolvency (CC12)'. We firmly believe that our strong governance and management make a compelling case for Dingley's Promise to be considered a Going Concern.

Achievements and performance

This was a year of continued growth and development at Dingley's Promise. Our four main areas of work – our Centres, our Family Support Programme, our Training & Consultancy programme and our Influencing work – all achieved significant progress this year.

Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres (Limited by guarantee)

In our Centres, we reached 15% more children directly than the previous year, and had fewer children with EHCPs and needing 1:1 support. A new pattern though is a rise in families wanting their children to go to special education when we think they would thrive in the mainstream. This means that for the first time in years the number of children leaving our service to the mainstream has dropped from 65% to just 53%. As a result, we are now tracking whether childrens transition to the setting we believe is best for them, to understand how parental trust in the mainstream system is impacting on inclusion and effective transitions.

As part of our strategy to continue to increase the number of children with SEND that we support, we were delighted to open a new Centre in Gloucester in January 2023. By our year end, this centre was flourishing with 16 children attending and 11 being supported through outreach. Five of these children are already expected to transition back to the mainstream in the next term, and four of our new starters had been unsuccessful in the mainstream but their families have now grown in confidence that their needs can be met in our setting. In addition we will soon be opening our doors at a second new Centre based in Southampton and funded by Southampton Council.

Our family support programme saw continued growth linked to the reach of our work, which now not only supports the families in our centres, but also the families on our waiting lists and other families with children with SEND in our local areas. Even if the children do not attend a Dingley Centre, we are committed to supporting their families, helping them link with others in the same situation, and supporting them to access the best early education provision for their children.

As in previous years, our families this year have reported high levels of satisfaction with the work we do, with 93% saying they feel more positive about the future as a result of our help, and 96% say they are more confident in supporting their child. Parents commented:

‘They have given so much support and love to our little girl and her speech and interaction has come on leaps and bounds.’

‘My son can communicate much better and is less frustrated and physical in harming himself. His understanding has come such a long way.’

Thirdly, our Training and Consultancy Programme continued to grow substantially, and we worked with 38 Local Authorities (compared with 4 in 2020/21, and 20 in 2021/22) supporting their early years strategic development. The number of learners grew to 5600, an increase of 1200% on 2021/22, showing that we are successfully growing the take up of our training across the country. Training is central to our strategy, and our ongoing programme with Comic Relief will see us grow our practitioners base to 30,000 over the next four years.

Finally, our Influencing programme has continued at pace, with demand for us to speak at various national forums and meetings focusing on the early years and children with SEND continues to grow. Our CEO has presented at events including the APPG for Childcare and Early Education, the Nursery World SEND Conference, Local Government Association webinars, Westminster Education Forum online conference and a Coram webinar. We have now joined the national Special Education Consortium.

Financial Review

The financial year 2022/23 was another year of growth for Dingley’s Promise. Total income increased by 16% over the previous year to reach £991K. Local Authority payments grew by £73K (+72%) and Nursery Education Grants by £55K (+39%), while earnings from Consultancy and Training increased from £71K to £97K, a growth of 37%. The programmes funded by the major grantors, Comic Relief, Big Lottery and Children in Need, continued unchanged.

Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres (Limited by guarantee)

Expenditure increased from £852K in the previous year to £1021K in 2022/23, (+20%). Within this increased spend £58K related to two new centres, opened towards the end of the year, and £20K to the new Stronger Practice Hub project.

At the end of 2022/23 the charity is reporting a net deficit of £30K. The Trustees, however, are confident that this is a temporary imbalance. The balance sheet remains strong with net assets of £243K and cash available of £304K. The charity comfortably meets its' going concern criteria.

As mentioned above, Dingley's Promise opened a new centre in Gloucester late in 2022/23. A further new Centre will be opening in Southampton early in 2023/24. Together with continuing growth in the Consultancy and Training activity, these additional centres will contribute to a 50% growth in the charity's income in 2023/24.

Plans for future periods.

We continue to be ambitious about transforming the early years for children with SEND and their families, and this is reflected in our five-year strategy that was established in 2022 and is regularly reviewed at key meetings including the Trustee Board meetings. Our five-year strategy has four core focus areas:

- Develop all existing and new Centres to ensure they are centres of excellence, with a focus on ensuring the voice of the child and the voice of our families are central to our work, further expansion of our family support operation, embedding our KPI tracking processes, and ensuring the right quantity and quality of operational management.
- Open eight new centres across England to ensure we have a presence in every region and are able to support local best practice for children with SEND in the early years. As mentioned earlier, we have already opened the first of the targeted eight centres in January 2023 (Gloucester) and will be opening a second in Southampton next financial year.
- Develop our national change work including support and consultancy with 130 local authorities, increased public speaking to raise awareness and profile, and lobbying for national change. We aim specifically to bring about a duty to assess sufficiency for children with SEND in the early years, and changes to the standard training for early years practitioners to include content on effective inclusive practice.
- Expand our training to reach 50,000 learners over five years (see progress above), increasing the number of short courses from four to ten, developing a programme for specialist settings and bringing the running of our accredited Level 3 programme in house.

We are both ambitious about what can be achieved over the coming years and have the support of our teams and stakeholders to help us achieve this. One year into our strategy, the results we have already achieved give us great confidence in this ambition. However, we are also very aware that, as we continue to expand and reach more children with SEND and their families, the quality and consistency of the services we provide is absolutely critical, and we continue to stay focused against this through a periodical process of targeting, tracking and reviewing excellence.

Signed by order of the Trustee Director Board on 13th September 2023



.....
Mr Peter Brogden

Company registration number: 07279320

Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres (Limited by guarantee)

Independent Examiner's report to the Directors of Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centre

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 10 to 21.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 31 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the statement I have made.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies. I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the Act 2006; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

DocuSigned by:

.....DA15AED75D45453.....
Heather Wheelhouse ACA

BDO LLP
R+
2 Blagrove Street
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 1AZ

23 October 2023

Date:

**Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres
(Limited by guarantee)**

**Statement of financial activities
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	← Unrestricted funds					Restricted funds →						
	Unrestricted Funds	Training Offering	Reading	Reading Buildings	Wokingham	Wokingham Buildings	Newbury	Newbury Buildings	Gloucester	Southampton	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£		£		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:												
Donations and legacies												
- Donations and legacies	146,029	-	1,000	-	1,500	-	2,118	-	-	-	150,647	166,804
- Grants (note 2)	6,394	181,643	59,863	-	85,373	-	43,434	-	-	-	376,707	289,637
Income from investments												
- Bank interest	813	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	813	483
Charitable activities												
- Performance related grants (note 2)	18,455	11,261	137,259	-	135,584	-	87,580	-	47,261	25,810	463,210	395,281
Total income and endowments	171,691	192,904	198,122	-	222,457	-	133,132	-	47,261	25,810	991,377	852,205
Expenditure on:												
Raising funds (note 3a)	90,301	414	216	-	805	-	189	-	87	10	92,022	88,280
Charitable activities (note 3b)	10,243	175,065	255,991	1,898	207,015	-	208,878	12,327	46,088	11,444	928,949	763,599
Total expenditure	100,544	175,479	256,207	1,898	207,820	-	209,067	12,327	46,175	11,454	1,020,971	851,879
Net (expenditure)/ income	71,147	17,425	(58,085)	(1,898)	14,637	-	(75,935)	(12,327)	1,086	14,356	(29,594)	326
Transfers between funds	(132,422)	-	56,127	-	-	-	75,935	-	360	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(61,275)	17,425	(1,958)	(1,898)	14,637	-	-	(12,327)	1,446	14,356	(29,594)	326
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2022	150,033	42,865	1,958	37,331	11,909	-	-	28,607	-	-	272,703	272,377
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2023	88,758	60,290	-	35,433	26,546	-	-	16,280	1,446	14,356	243,109	272,703

Transfers from the Unrestricted Fund to the Reading and Newbury Restricted Funds are made to ensure that the balances carried forward into 2023/22 for each of these restricted funds are sufficient to cover any deficit.

The charitable company's income and expenditure all relate to continuing activities. The charitable company has no recognised gains and losses other than the net movement in funds each year.

The notes on pages 14 to 21 form part of these financial statements

Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres (Limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2022

		← Restricted funds →								
	Unrestricted Funds	Training Offering	Reading	Reading Buildings	Wokingham	Wokingham Buildings	Newbury	Newbury Buildings	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:										
Donations and legacies										
- Donations and legacies	159,786	-	900	-	-	-	6,118	-	166,804	64,779
- Grants (note 2)	17,150	89,785	47,717	-	73,658	-	61,327	-	289,637	370,990
Income from investments										
- Bank interest	483	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	483	921
Charitable activities										
- Earned income	2,735	70,001	48,491	-	92,561		44,145		257,933	239,590
- Grants (note 2)	-	-	77,348	-	30,000	-	30,000	-	137,348	125,847
Total income and endowments	180,154	159,786	174,456	-	196,219	-	141,590	-	852,205	802,127
Expenditure on:										
Raising funds (note 3a)	87,468	-	357	-	166	-	289	-	88,280	85,332
Charitable activities (note 3b)	7,211	116,921	229,680	1,747	192,743	-	202,970	12,327	763,599	664,097
Total expenditure	94,679	116,921	230,037	1,747	192,909	-	203,259	12,327	851,879	749,430
Net income/(expenditure)	85,475	42,865	(55,581)	(1,747)	3,310	-	(61,669)	(12,327)	326	52,697
Transfers between funds	(83,312)	-	22,573	-	-	-	60,739	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	2,163	42,865	(33,008)	(1,747)	3,310	-	(930)	(12,327)	326	52,697
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2021	147,870	-	34,966	39,078	8,599	-	930	40,934	272,377	219,680
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2022	150,033	42,865	1,958	37,331	11,909	-	-	28,607	272,703	272,377

Transfers from the Unrestricted Fund to the Training, Reading and Newbury Restricted Funds are made to ensure that the balances carried forward into 2023/22 for each of these restricted funds are sufficient to cover any deficit.

The charitable company's income and expenditure all relate to continuing activities. The charitable company has no recognised gains and losses other than the net movement in funds each year.

The notes on pages 14 to 21 form part of these financial statements

**Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres
(Limited by guarantee)**

**Balance sheet
As at 31 March 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5	43,495	58,540
Current assets			
Other debtors and prepayments	6	124,295	54,237
Cash at bank and in hand		304,180	260,372
		428,475	314,609
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Other creditors and accruals	7	(228,861)	(100,446)
Net current assets		199,614	214,163
Net assets		243,109	272,703
Represented by:			
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	8	88,758	143,148
Restricted funds		154,351	129,555
		243,109	272,703

The Directors are satisfied that the charitable company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the charitable company keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act; and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of the financial year and of its results for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

These financial statements were approved by the Trustee Director Board and authorised for issue on 13th September 2023 and were signed on their behalf by:


Mr Peter Brogden

Company registration number: 07279320

The notes on pages 14 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

**Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres
(Limited by guarantee)**

**Statement of cash flows
Year ended 31 March 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash provided by operating activities	13	50,038	15,916
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest income		813	483
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(7,043)	-
Cash used in investing activities		(6,230)	483
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		43,808	16,397
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		260,372	243,975
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		304,180	260,372
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash in hand		304,180	260,372

The notes on pages 14 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres (Limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies

General information

Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres is a registered charity, registered in England and Wales, number 1137609, and a charitable company limited by guarantee, number 07279320, incorporated in England and Wales. The address of its registered office is Kennet Walk Community Centre, Kenavon Drive, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3GD.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP(FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in pound sterling (£) and the figures are rounded to the nearest £.

Going concern

Our performance in recent years, even those years which resulted in an operating deficit, has always left us at the end of the year with a good cash base, a Reserves Fund to cover a managed wind-down in the event of collapse in funding (or other event resulting in forced closure), sufficient funding in all other restricted funds to cover asset values and liabilities (e.g., unspent grants) and additional unrestricted funds to develop the organisation and its services. In each of the last three years, we have operated for a time without a Fundraising Manager yet have achieved income no worse than 9% short of budget and managed our operational expenditure to match. We are aware of, and adhere to, the Charity Commission's guidance on 'Managing a charity's finances: planning, managing difficulties and insolvency (CC12)'. Under normal circumstances we firmly believe that our strong governance and management make a compelling case for Dingley's Promise to be considered a Going Concern.

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees believe that whilst there is some doubt relating to future income streams, this does not give rise to a material uncertainty regarding the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees therefore believe that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

At the end of August 2023, the charity had approximately £315,000 of cash available. The trustees have carried out sensitivity analysis that confirms that should no further income, other than what has been confirmed, be received, the charity is able to meet liabilities as they fall due for at least another 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres (Limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies (*continued*)

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent funds of the charitable company that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use.

Restricted funds represent funds available to meet specific expenditure as specified by the fund provider.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the company is legally entitled to the income, receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. Income from external grants is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as soon as it is receivable unless donor conditions related to performance and specific deliverables apply. These grants are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration through performance.

Income subject to the specific wishes of the donors is treated as restricted funds.

Expenditure

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT, which cannot be recovered. Certain expenditure is apportioned to costs categories based on the estimated amount attributable to the activity during the year.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives.

Equipment – 4 years straight-line
Leasehold improvements – over the remaining term of the lease

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activity over the period in which the cost is incurred.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Pensions

The charity contributes to a defined contributions scheme.

Significant judgements and estimates

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

There were no judgement or material estimation uncertainties affecting the reported financial performance in the current or prior year.

**Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres
(Limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Year ended 31 March 2023**

2. Grants	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds						2023 Total £
		Training Offering	Reading	Wokingham	Newbury	Gloucester	Southampton	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bailey Thomas	-	-	-	3,000	2,000	-	-	5,000
Barbard Ward	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Berkshire Community Foundation	-	-	-	5,458	-	-	-	5,458
Big Lottery COL	-	-	-	9,468	-	-	-	9,468
Big Lottery Core	-	-	-	39,410	-	-	-	39,410
Bosher Hinton Foundation	-	-	1,929	-	-	-	-	1,929
Calderdale Council	-	644	-	-	-	-	-	644
CDC Funding	-	64,340	-	-	-	-	-	64,340
Charities Trust	350	-	-	-	-	-	-	350
Children In Need	-	-	19,718	-	19,717	-	-	39,435
Comic Relief	-	114,652	-	-	-	-	-	114,652
Edward Gostling	-	-	-	6,594	-	-	-	6,594
Field Seymour Parks	-	-	-	1,790	-	-	-	1,790
Garfield Weston	-	-	6,250	6,250	6,250	-	-	18,750
Global Make Some Noise	-	-	6,043	6,043	6,043	-	-	18,129
Gloucestershire County Council	-	-	-	-	-	47,261	-	47,261
Greenham Trust Ltd	-	-	-	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Improvement And Development Agency	-	800	-	-	-	-	-	800
Jules Thornton	-	-	-	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Peter Baker Playschemes	-	-	-	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Peter Harrison	-	-	1,044	1,044	1,043	-	-	3,131
RBC FSW Project	-	-	15,106	-	-	-	-	15,106
Reading Borough Council	-	-	31,346	-	-	-	-	31,346
Reading SLA	-	-	41,800	-	-	-	-	41,800
Rutland County Council	-	800	-	-	-	-	-	800
Souter Playschemes	-	-	-	1,380	1,380	-	-	2,760
Southampton City Council (performance related contract)	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,810	25,810
St James's Place	-	-	5,000	-	-	-	-	5,000
Swindon Borough Council	-	406	-	-	-	-	-	406
The Early Charity	-	-	4,774	-	-	-	-	4,774
West Berks SLA	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	30,000
Wokingham SLA	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
Wokingham Town Council	-	-	-	1,158	-	-	-	1,158
Wokingham UC	-	-	-	3,322	-	-	-	3,322
	5,350	181,642	133,010	116,417	73,433	47,261	25,810	582,923

**Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres
(Limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Year ended 31 March 2023**

3. Expenditure

	← Restricted funds →											
	Unrestricted Funds £	Reading Centre £	Reading Building £	Wokingham Centre £	Wokingham Building £	Newbury Centre £	Newbury Building £	Training Offering £	Gloucester Centre £	Southampton Centre £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
a) Expenditure on raising funds												
Advertising/Marketing	1,839	189	-	695	-	189	-	414	87	10	3,423	2,834
Fundraising purchases	6,716	27	-	110	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,853	16,208
Salaries, national insurance & pensions	69,954	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69,954	60,624
Contractors	5,673	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,673	8,564
Fundraising – Major event costs	6,119	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,119	50
	<u>90,301</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>805</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>189</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>414</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>92,022</u>	<u>88,280</u>
b) Expenditure on charitable activities												
Salaries, national insurance & pensions	-	186,822	-	158,418	-	156,420	-	109,204	26,728	6,699	644,291	514,024
Contractor	-	7,061	-	6,996	-	6,996	-	46,707	1,325	379	69,464	66,086
Play equipment expenses	-	3,722	-	3,569	-	1,609	-	529	2,492	18	11,939	18,502
Transport costs	-	1,535	-	56	-	80	-	-	-	-	1,671	3,697
Stationery & consumables	285	570	-	1,803	-	883	-	-	296	7	3,844	2,180
Rent, rates & utilities	785	8,929	-	11,363	-	12,146	-	226	(94)	22	33,377	29,773
Building & garden work	-	20,945	-	358	-	13,352	-	-	252	-	34,907	36,461
Inspection costs	-	-	-	220	-	-	-	-	-	-	220	220
Training & personal development	1,037	3,382	-	2,820	-	3,203	-	-	458	1,009	11,909	10,380
Insurance	-	1,272	1,474	1,272	-	1,272	-	-	1,026	7	6,323	5,379
Bank fees	1,027	63	-	63	-	63	-	-	12	3	1,231	525
Computer running costs	1,138	2,745	-	2,745	-	2,745	-	-	520	149	10,042	11,810
General purchases	5,294	8,981	-	13,847	-	6,811	-	17,222	12,299	974	65,428	15,297
Legal and professional fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	1,500	2,000	14,649
Special Events	-	2,505	-	730	-	2,243	-	-	-	-	5,478	5,970
Depreciation	-	6,782	424	2,078	-	377	12,327	-	98	-	22,086	23,735
Independent examiner's fee	420	420	-	420	-	421	-	420	419	420	2,940	3,150
Accounts preparation fee	257	257	-	257	-	257	-	257	257	257	1,799	1,050
Doubtful debt expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,493
	<u>10,243</u>	<u>255,991</u>	<u>1,898</u>	<u>207,015</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>208,878</u>	<u>12,327</u>	<u>175,065</u>	<u>46,088</u>	<u>11,444</u>	<u>928,949</u>	<u>763,599</u>

Rent expenditure is not seen as a donated service as there is no reliable estimate for a rental value, is it also seen as surplus to requirements for the Reading Borough Council and therefore has no market value.

**Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres
(Limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Year ended 31 March 2023**

4. Staff costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries	654,432	530,600
Employers NI	41,570	29,540
Employer Pension Contributions	18,243	14,508
	714,245	574,648
	No.	No.
The average number of part-time employees was	48	33
The average number of full time employees was	9	7

No employees received employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2022 – Nil).

No member of the Trustee Director Board received any remuneration or expenses during the year (2022 – Nil).

The key management personnel of the charity received employee benefits totalling £254,316 (2022 - £231,437).

5. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Improvements	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 31 March 2022	177,279	55,641	232,920
Additions	2,912	4,131	7,043
Disposals	-	(2,391)	(2,391)
At 31 March 2023	180,191	57,381	237,572
Depreciation			
At 31 March 2022	124,957	49,423	174,380
Charge for the year	17,291	4,797	22,088
Elimination of disposal	-	(2,391)	(2,391)
At 31 March 2023	142,248	51,829	194,077
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	37,943	5,552	43,495
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	52,322	6,218	58,540

**Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres
(Limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Year ended 31 March 2023**

6. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	98,854	33,373
Doubtful debts	-	(1,493)
Prepayments	25,441	22,357
	<u>124,295</u>	<u>54,237</u>

**7. Creditors
Amounts falling due within one year**

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	12,566	17,203
Other taxes, social security & pensions	17,573	11,410
Accruals & other creditors	11,133	6,066
Deferred income	187,589	65,767
	<u>228,861</u>	<u>100,446</u>

Income received during the year that has been deferred as it does not meet the recognition criteria as set out in the accounting policies is as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds					2023 Total
		Training Offering	Reading	Wokingham	Newbury	Glouces ter	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
The Garfield Weston Foundation	6,250	-	-	-	-	-	6,250
Newbury Town Council	-	28,241	-	-	-	-	28,241
The Good Exchange	-	-	-	-	34,080	-	34,080
Big Lottery Fund	-	-	-	12,080	-	-	12,080
Gloucestershire County Council	-	-	-	-	-	41,614	41,614
Rutland County Council	-	400	-	-	-	-	400
Calderdale Council	-	900	-	-	-	-	900
Donorfy Web App	-	-	135	-	1,500	-	1,635
East Sussex County Council	-	17,500	-	-	-	-	17,500
Wokingham BC	-	-	-	689	-	-	689
HUB Blagdon	-	32,000	-	-	-	-	32,000
The Steel Boys	200	-	-	-	-	-	200
Global's Make Some Noise	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
Peter Baker Foundation	-	-	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
	<u>16,450</u>	<u>79,041</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>12,769</u>	<u>37,580</u>	<u>41,614</u>	<u>187,589</u>

**Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres
(Limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Year ended 31 March 2023**

7. Creditors (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds	← Training Offering	Reading	Wokingham	Newbury →	2022 Total
			£	£	£	£
Big Lottery Fund	-	-	-	3,233	-	3,233
Comic Relief	-	29,928	-	-	-	29,928
Global's Make Some Noise	18,130	-	-	-	-	18,130
Nicola Marriott	-	-	120	-	-	120
Peter Harrison Foundation	-	-	1,044	1,044	1,044	3,132
Wokingham Borough Council	-	-	-	11,224	-	11,224
	<u>18,130</u>	<u>29,928</u>	<u>1,164</u>	<u>15,501</u>	<u>1,044</u>	<u>65,767</u>

8. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	43,495	43,495
Net current assets	88,758	110,856	199,614
	<u>88,758</u>	<u>154,351</u>	<u>243,109</u>
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	58,540	58,540
Net current assets	143,148	71,015	214,163
	<u>143,148</u>	<u>129,555</u>	<u>272,703</u>

**Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres
(Limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Year ended 31 March 2023**

9. Reserves policy

The directors have reviewed and renewed the reserves policy. The new total requirement for 4 months of net operating costs, redundancy and other costs would be £23,024 (2022 - £190,391). This would be covered by:

Unrestricted Funds	£23,024
Newbury Restricted Funds	-
Reading Restricted Funds	-
Wokingham Restricted Funds	-

10. Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2023 the company had future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as set out below:

	Land and buildings 2023 £	Land and buildings 2022 £
Within 1 year	15,952	15,952
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	7,800
Later than 5 years	-	-
	15,952	23,752

11. Pensions

The charitable company runs a defined contribution scheme. The costs for the year represents the charitable company's contributions to the scheme of £18,243 (2022 - £14,508). At the year end £4,914 (2022 - £2,516) was accrued in respect of contributions to this scheme.

12. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from Corporation Tax on its charitable activities. The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

**Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres
(Limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements *(continued)*
Year ended 31 March 2023**

13. Reconciliation of income/(expenditure) in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net (expenditure/ income	(29,594)	326
Add back depreciation charge	22,087	23,735
Deduct investment income shown in investing activities	(813)	(483)
(Increase) in debtors	(65,203)	(26,275)
Increase in creditors	123,561	18,613
	<u>50,038</u>	<u>15,916</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>50,038</u>	<u>15,916</u>

Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cashflows £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	260,372	43,808	304,180
	<u>260,372</u>	<u>43,808</u>	<u>304,180</u>

14. Related party transactions

During the year the charitable company paid equipment fees of £nil (2022: £1,104) to R J Morgan Fencing Ltd, a company which is owned by the spouse of Zora Morgan, the Wokingham Centre Manager.