REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 04102880 (England and Wales) REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1095582

Report of the Trustees and

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

for

Acorns Early Years Centre

Latham Lambourne Ltd 18 Woodlands Park Bexley Kent DA5 2EL

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Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The company's main activities are to advance the education of children in Bexley, Kent and the surrounding areas by providing safe and satisfying facilities for play; and to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for these children in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving their conditions of life, The company has the following statement of purpose:

Statement of Purpose

1 The provision of high quality affordable day care facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of pre-school children.

2 The development and support of initiatives which enhance the life skills and abilities of pre-school children.

3 The development of out of school and holiday provision for school age children.

4 Training and employment opportunities of persons providing such care, education and recreation facilities.

The company is registered with Ofsted and all appropriate policies are in place.

Significant activities

The company provides day care facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of pre-school children, and provides out of school and holiday provision for school age children up to the age of 11.

Public benefit

The charity has had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and considers that it fully complies.

Volunteers

The company makes use of volunteers where possible, particularly in fund raising events.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance Charitable activities

The centre is fully subscribed, with a waiting list for places.

Fundraising activities

Whilst the majority of funding arises from fees and grants, the trustees are grateful for the assistance given in other fundraising activities in the year. These included Christmas fundraising.

Internal and external factors

Whilst there is some competition from other pre school facilities the trustees are confident that there will be a need for the full use of the company's facilities for the foreseeable future.

The trustees are acutely aware of the need to recruit and retain suitable qualified and motivated staff and are taking active steps to ensure job satisfaction.

Grants are applied for for specific projects which have included the building costs and the provision of equipment. The building is relatively new and it is not anticipated that any major costs will arise in this regard in the near future.

The premises are owned by Kent County Council (KCC). The outcome of the rent review at at 2013 has resulted in a significant increase in the rent payable, backdated to the date of the rent review. An instalment plan has been agreed to clear the arrears by August 2025. The outcome of the rent review at 2023 is still under negotiation. Rent review are every five years.

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Financial position

After making full provision for an increase in rent costs, the charity has made a surplus for the year. The final outcome of the rent negotiations remains uncertain.

The charity's balance sheet remains strong.

Principal funding sources

The majority of the funding for the company comes through fees for places. Some of this is government funded. It is anticipated that this will continue in the future. Additionally grants are requested for major projects.

Investment policy and objectives

Surplus funds are retained in bank deposits until used. The trustees seek to maximise the interest gained without subjecting the funds to any risk.

Reserves policy

The trustees have forecast the level of free reserves (that is those funds not tied up in fixed assets and designated or restricted funds). The trustees consider that the most appropriate level of free reserves at 31st March 2023 would be equivalent to three months expenditure. Whilst the current level of reserves may prove sufficient, it is the trustees view that it is prudent to ensure that there are sufficient free reserves to provide financial flexibility.

A financial summary is presented to the Trustees for information and review. Financial arrangements are also reviewed as necessary..

Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks continue to be the filling of the available nursery places. The latter is being mitigated by the employment of good staff and good training leading to the enhanced reputation of the centre. The latest Ofsted report (October 2021) concluded that the nursery was good in all areas,

Future plans

AEYC is the link nursery for Maypole Childrens' Centre. Our planned occupancy is 80% capacity in all rooms.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

New trustees are requested at each AGM, and by advertisement if vacancies arise sooner. Trustees are voted in at the AGM. Trustees are selected for the skills that can be brought to the charity.

The trustees exercise responsibilities at arms length with day to day activities delegated to the Management Committee and Management team. Trustees meet a minimum of three times a year and are joined by the Manager, Treasurer, and a representative from the Management Committee.

Training for the role has been given. The trustees are all from professional backgrounds with no business interests that conflict with their roles as trustees. They are keen to see the development and progress of AEYC and do not claim expenses.

Expressions of interest in the post are always welcome.

Organisational structure

The centre is run on a day to day basis under the control of the Manager together with her senior management team comprising a deputy and a business manager. The trustees are legally responsible for the overall management and control of the centre and trustees meet a minimum of three times a year.

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Key management remuneration

Key management are paid at competitive rates to similar nurseries.

Wider network

The charity is not affiliated with any other charity.

Related parties

There are no related parties.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The trustees have carried out a detailed review and produced a strategic plan setting out the major opportunities available to the charity and the risks to which it is exposed. The trustees monitor progress against the strategic objectives set out in the plan, As part of this process the trustees have implemented a risk management strategy that comprises:

- An annual review of the risks that the charity may face.

- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan; and

- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should any of those risks materialise

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS Registered Company number 04102880 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number 1095582

Registered office Joy House Franklin Road Dartford Kent DA2 7UZ

Trustees

Ms R Barter C Reid S Webber Ms H E Clark (appointed 19.7.22)

Company Secretary Mrs A Hemsley

Independent Examiner

Latham Lambourne Ltd 18 Woodlands Park Bexley Kent DA5 2EL

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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C Reid - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Acorns Early Years Centre

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Acorns Early Years Centre ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

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 your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, 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 the examination giving me cause to believe:

- 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; 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.

John Lambourne

Latham Lambourne Ltd 18 Woodlands Park Bexley Kent DA5 2EL

Date:

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31.3.23 Total funds	31.3.22 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Charitable activities	4				
Fees for places		690,959	-	690,959	643,623
Nursery costs		-	-	-	7,840
Collaborative training		-		-	2,677
Other trading activities	2	3,598	-	3,598	1,830
Investment income	3	529	-	529	19
Total		695,086		695,086	655,989
EXPENDITURE ON Raising funds	5	-	-		298
Charitable activities	6				
Fees for places		690,994		690,994	-
Nursery costs		-	-		635,009
Total		690,994		690,994	635,307
NET INCOME		4,092		4,092	20,682
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		196,643	-	196,643	175,961
		· <u> </u>	-		
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		200,735	-	200,735	196,643

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS	12	64,233		64,233	76,006
Tangible assets	. 12	04,233	-	04,233	70,000
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	27,811	-	27,811	26,112
Cash at bank and in hand		209,817	-	209,817	212,514
		237,628	-	237,628	238,626
CREDITORS					(115.000)
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(101,126)	-	(101,126)	(117,989)
			-		
NET CURRENT ASSETS		136,502	-	136,502	120,637
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT					
LIABILITIES		200,735	-	200,735	196,643
NET ASSETS		200,735	-	200,735	196,643
FUNDS	16				
Unrestricted funds				200,735	196,643
TOTAL FUNDS				200,735	196,643

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on and were signed on its behalf by:

C Reid - Trustee

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Notes	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash generated from operations 1	(1,726)	(19,274)
Net cash used in operating activities	(1,726)	(19,274)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,500)	-
Interest received	529	19
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities	(971)	19
Change in cash and cash equivalents in		
the reporting period	(2,697)	(19,255)
Cash and cash equivalents at the		
beginning of the reporting period	212,514	231,769
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of		
the reporting period	209,817	212,514

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVIT			VITIES
		31.3.23	31.3.22
		£	£
	Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial		
	Activities)	4,092	20,682
	Adjustments for:		
	Depreciation charges	13,273	13,232
	Interest received	(529)	(19)
	Increase in debtors	(1,699)	(8,531)
	Decrease in creditors	(16,863)	(44,638)
	Net cash used in operations	(1,726)	(19,274)

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.22 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.23 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	212,514	(2,697)	209,817
	212,514	(2,697)	209,817
Total	212,514	(2,697)	209,817

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

These accounts are prepared under the Charities Act 2006 on the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the Statement of Recommended Practices on Accounting and Reporting by Charities: the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The charitable company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirement of paragraph 3.17(d);
- the requirements of paragraphs 11.42, 11.44, 11.45, 11.47, 11.48(a)(iii), 11.48(a)(iv), 11.48(b) and 11.48(c);
- the requirement of paragraph 33.7.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

All funds expended are related to nursery running costs. There are no restricted funds.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Long leasehold	-	in accordance with the property
Fixtures and fittings	-	25% on reducing balance

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Fundraising events		31.3.23 £ 3,598	31.3.22 £ 1,830
3.	INVESTMENT INCOM	Ε		
	Deposit account interest		31.3.23 £ 529	31.3.22 £
4.	INCOME FROM CHAR	ITABLE ACTIVITIES		
			31.3.23	31.3.22
		Activity	£	£
	Fees	Fees for places	689,129	643,623
	Collaboration funding	Fees for places	1,830	-
	Grants	Nursery costs	-	7,840
	Collaboration funding	Collaborative training	-	2,677
			690,959	654,140
	Grants received, included i	n the above, are as follows:		
			31.3.23	31.3.22
			£	£
	Coronavirus Job Retention	Scheme	-	1,391
	Apprenticeship levy		-	1,500
	KCC Outside space		-	4,949
				7,840

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Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

5. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Sundries		298

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

		Support	
	Direct	costs (see	
	Costs	note 7)	Totals
	£	£	£
Fees for places	689,804	1,190	690,994

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance
	costs
	£
Fees for places	1,190

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Depreciation - owned assets	13,273	13,232
Other operating leases	39,534	38,614

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

10. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Wages and salaries	487,299	442,452
Social security costs	25,688	26,434
Other pension costs	8,402	4,246
	521,389	473,132

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.23	31.3.22
Full & part time staff	34	33

Governance

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

10. STAFF COSTS - continued

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Charitable activities			
Fees for places	643,623	-	643,623
Nursery costs	7,840	-	7,840
Collaborative training	2,677	17.4	2,677
Other trading activities	1,830	-	1,830
Investment income	19	-	19
Total	655,989		655,989
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	298	-	298
Charitable activities			
Nursery costs	635,009		635,009
Total	635,307		635,307
NET INCOME	20,682		20,682
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	175,961	-	175,961
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	196,643		196,643
I OTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	190,043	-	190,043

13.

14.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
		Fixtures	
	Long	and	
	leasehold	fittings	Totals
	£	£	£
COST			
At 1 April 2022	266,811	77,975	344,786
Additions	-	1,500	1,500
At 31 March 2023	266,811	79,475	346,286
REPRESE			
DEPRECIATION	104 505	5 4 055	3/9 500
At 1 April 2022	194,705	74,075	268,780
Charge for year	12,016	1,257	13,273
At 31 March 2023	206,721	75,332	282,053
At 51 March 2025	200,721	13,332	202,035
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2023	60,090	4,143	64,233
At 31 March 2022	72,106	3,900	76,006
DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	R		
		31.3.23	31.3.22
		£	£
Fees receivable		13,942	9,358
Prepayments		13,869	16,754
			-
		27,811	26,112
			-
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YE	AD		
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE TE	AK	31.3.23	31.3.22
		51.5.25 £	51.5.22 £
Trade creditors		2,570	L
		2,370 9,351	12,158
Fees paid in advance		24,329	12,138
Deposits received		5,911	5,962
Social security and other taxes Other creditors		13,380	20,658
			59,565
Accrued expenses		45,585	
		101,126	117,989

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

15. LEASING AGREEMENTS

The lease for the charity's premises with KCC was for 25 years from 2004. The current negotiated rent is £41,200pa from the last review date in 2018, Reviews are five yearly.

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.22	Net movement in funds	At 31.3.23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	~	~	~
General fund	187,566	4,092	191,658
Fixed Assets Fund	9,077	-	9,077
	196,643	4,092	200,735
TOTAL FUNDS	196,643	4,092	200,735
	the second se		-

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds General fund	695,086	(690,994)	4,092
TOTAL FUNDS	695,086	(690,994)	4,092

Comparatives for movement in funds

		Net	
	At 1.4.21 £	movement in funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds	2	-	-
General fund	166,884	20,682	187,566
Fixed Assets Fund	9,077	-	9,077
	175,961	20,682	196,643
TOTAL FUNDS	175,961	20,682	196,643

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds General fund	655,989	(635,307)	20,682
TOTAL FUNDS	655,989	(635,307)	20,682

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.21	Net movement in funds	At 31.3.23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	~		
General fund	166,884	24,774	191,658
Fixed Assets Fund	9,077		9,077
	175,961	24,774	200,735
TOTAL FUNDS	175,961	24,774	200,735

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds General fund	1,351,075	(1,326,301)	24,774
TOTAL FUNDS	1,351,075	(1,326,301)	24,774

17. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities		
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	3,598	1,830
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	529	19
Charitable activities		
Fees	689,129	643,623
Collaboration funding	1,830	2,677
Grants	-	7,840
	690,959	654,140
Total incoming resources	695,086	655,989
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies Sundries		298
Charitable activities		
Wages	487,299	442,452
Social security	25,688	26,434
Pensions	8,402	4,246
Rent	39,534	38,614
Rates and water Insurance	5,060	1,683
Light and heat	8,074 14,973	5,941 6,596
Telephone	1,296	1,431
Postage and stationery	2,848	3,366
Advertising	396	455
Sundries	4,068	2,838
Activity supplies	9,058	14,001
Training	2,064	2,690
Catering	38,133	38,980
Cleaning	20,843	21,628
Repairs & maintenance Subscriptions	2,599 1,485	4,902
Software support	4,711	1,820 2,785
Long leasehold	12,016	12,016
Fixtures and fittings	1,257	1,216
	689,804	634,094
Support costs		
Coverner en este		
Governance costs Accountancy fees	840	840
Carried forward	840	840 840
CHARTER FOR THERE	040	040

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023		
	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Governance costs		
Brought forward	840	840
Bank charges	126	75
Professional fees	224	-
	1,190	915
Total resources expended	690,994	635,307
Net income	4,092	20,682
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This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements