



**Craighalbert Centre**  
Enabling Children to Achieve

# Trustees Quarterly Report

## March 2025

### Our Values



**KIND**



**INSPIRATIONAL**



**CHILD-CENTERED**



**COLLABORATIVE**



**AMBITIOUS**

## Chair's Statement



Welcome to our March 2025 Trustee Report. As we reflect on the past few months, it is heartening to see the energy, creativity, and progress that has been made this term.

December was filled with festive celebrations, starting with our annual Christmas Extravaganza, a wonderful Christmas show and a Christmas party, where children enjoyed arts and crafts, sensory stories, and a special visit from Santa.

As we stepped into the new year, we embraced Scotland's cultural heritage with lively Burns celebrations. Pupils practiced Gaelic counting, enjoyed ceilidh dancing, and immersed themselves in Scottish traditions.

Meanwhile, the progress in assistive technology has been remarkable, with many of the children developing new skills in using switch devices to increase their independence and communication.

Therapy-led sessions in the pool continue to be a vital part of our children's learning and development, supporting physiotherapy goals and water confidence.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for Easter with lots of fun activities planned.

### **News Flash!**

Our CEO, Bob Fraser, has announced his retirement and will be stepping down at the end of August 2025. While we are sad to see him go, we wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.

Recruitment for our new CEO will begin in March, and we look forward to appointing a successor who will continue to lead Craighalbert with vision and dedication.

### Term 3

The Children finished for the Christmas break on Thursday 19th December and all staff finished on Friday 20th December, with staff returning on Monday 6th January and the children on Tuesday 7th January.

The children and staff enjoyed their half term break, Children 17th – 19th February and staff 17th and 18th February with 19th being an in-service day.

### School Roll and Children

The school roll is currently 18 (17.4 FTE) children. 17 children are full time and 1 is part time.

### Activities

On 6th December, we hosted our annual Christmas Extravaganza, a magical evening attended by over 170 people. This year, our event transported visitors into the enchanting world of Narnia, bringing the story to life through a carefully crafted story trail. Families were greeted by iconic characters, including Mr. Tumnus, Mr. and Mrs. Beaver, and the formidable Snow Queen. Children and families delighted in exploring the immersive experience together.



A wonderful night at our Christmas extravaganza event.

The festive excitement continued with a visit to Santa and his helpers, creating unforgettable memories for our young guests. Over at the Arts and Crafts station, creativity flourished, with children enthusiastically engaging in festive-themed activities throughout the evening. A special thank you goes to Sound Play for their captivating light installations, and to Real Reindeer Scotland for bringing along Bruno and Bell, the reindeer, and The City of Glasgow Chorus provided a stunning musical backdrop, adding an extra touch of magic to the night.

On the 16th and 17th of December, our pupils took to the stage to host their **Christmas show**, performing in front of proud parents, families, and friends. With musical support from Reuben of Nordoff and Robbins, the children delivered a wonderful performance filled with festive spirit.



**Friends and family enjoying the children's Christmas Show.**

The celebrations continued on 19th December with our **Christmas party**, where we were joined by families and friends for a day of Christmas-themed activities. Children participated in arts and crafts, sensory stories, and a Christmas dance, with the day concluding in the best possible way, a special visit from Santa himself.

As January arrived, we embraced Scottish culture with our Burns celebrations. During assembly, pupils practiced counting in Gaelic and participated in lively ceilidh dancing, immersing themselves in the traditions of Scotland.



**Ceilidh dancing and counting in Gaelic.**

Several of our pupils have been making remarkable progress in using assistive technology to support their independence and choice-making. Notably, we have seen significant advancements in the use of switch devices, allowing children to access 'Alexa' and choose their own music. This achievement represents an important step in fostering autonomy and enhancing communication opportunities for our young people.



**One of our pupils using their head switch to choose songs through Alexa.**

The children continue to benefit from regular sessions in the pool, with each session tailored to meet the individual needs of the child. Some pupils participate in therapy-led sessions focusing on communication and/or physiotherapy goals, while others are working towards their Rockhopper Swim Awards, celebrating their progress in water confidence and mobility.



**Enjoying time in the hydrotherapy pool.**

At the start of February, Stirling Castle hosted its Renaissance Project Exhibition, a collaborative initiative with Historic Environment Scotland. Our young people were proud contributors to this exhibition, working alongside an artist to reimagine the castle's history with a focus on accessibility and learning opportunities.

The artwork showcased in the exhibition was created by our pupils and other local groups, combining their own interpretation of historical elements of the castle. This initiative was part of a broader effort to transform Stirling Castle into a vibrant and inclusive learning hub, making it more accessible for future generations. Our pupils were invited to visit Stirling Castle to see their work displayed and celebrate their contributions to this meaningful project.

Our pupil council made the significant decision to move their discussions to the conference room, marking the importance of their gatherings.

Additionally, one of our senior pupils, who is preparing to leave school at the end of the academic year, has been actively exploring post-school options. She has visited several colleges to assess which environment and courses will best support her transition, helping her plan for the next stage of her journey.



**One of our senior pupils visiting Motherwell College.**

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for an expanded World Book Day celebration. The children have been working on preparations, including creating a special Craighalbert video to promote the upcoming event. Exciting activities are planned to encourage a love of reading and storytelling, ensuring a memorable experience for all.

Issue 4 of the Craighalbert Courier, is now available to view on our website [www.craighalbert.org.uk/schoolnewsletter](http://www.craighalbert.org.uk/schoolnewsletter) this is a termly newsletter providing an overview of the children's achievements over the term, showcasing what they have been doing and what is planned for the upcoming term.

## **Parent Council**

We continue to actively engage with the Parent Council and have gathered feedback from parents on the introduction of the new Home-School Electronic Diary Trial and School Performance. The electronic diary trial survey received unanimously positive feedback with 100% of participants satisfied and recommended its continued use, while requesting some additions. The school performance survey provided valuable parental insights into key aspects of school life. High satisfaction was reported in areas such as child well-being, safety, respect, and communication. Areas identified for enhancement include clarifying assessment methods, expanding parental engagement, and strengthening home learning support.

We are working on a website refresh and marketing aimed at parents of Early years and Early Primary children, we have been consulting with parents to gain their views on style and content.

Parents attended an information session about Partners in Advocacy, explaining what advocacy is, what they can and cannot do and how to access their support.

## **Professional Development and Representation**

Staff have actively participated in a variety of conferences, events and training including:

- CEO, Bob represented the Centre at the Scottish Government's Additional Support for Learning Project Board in January.
- CEO, Bob participated in the Children and Families National Leadership Group; GIRFEC Advisory Group; Disabled Children Child Protection Network, Social Work Scotland Child Protection Subgroup; and Children's Health Scotland Care Experienced Children and Young People's Service (CECYPS) Professional Advisory Group.
- Head of Learning, Shona is working with Education Scotland's National Planning Subgroup to explore ways to make the curriculum more representative of learners in the complex needs sector.
- Head of Health, Barbara-Ann attended the Children with Exceptional Health Care Needs Strategic Planning Day.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> January staff attended an information session about Partners in Advocacy.



- 31st January, Capital Training delivered the final session on Managing Difficult Epilepsy, equipping staff to work independently with children.
- All teachers are now registered with the National Complex Needs Network at Education Scotland, providing access to valuable training and opportunities to contribute to the Curriculum Review.
- Most learning staff have engaged with the CVI recorded webinar training provided by The Bridge School.
- 19th February was an In-service day for all staff focused on strategic priorities and values, with a session delivered by Tree of Hope on high-performing teams.
- On 4th & 5th February, Head of Quality, Innovation and Partnerships, Alison and Business Development Manager, Alicia represented the Centre at the annual SCVO conference, where they hosted an exhibition stand and we were selected for a visit from MP Kirsty McNeill. The event was attended by over 3,000 attendees.
- 14th February, SQA visited with classroom staff.
- On 24th February, Occupational Therapy held their Development Day.
- 26th February, Business Development Manager, Alicia attended the Corra Annual Conference.
- 5 March, we had our HMIE Annual Engagement visit.



All staff In-Service day.

## Funding

We have received a donation of £6,000 from Architectural Doors and Windows (ADW). This funding along with donations raised from 2024 Kiltwalk allowed us to purchase a Drivedeck, which is a unique training and assessment device which allows wheelchair users to remain in the comfort of their personal seating to train in using switches and control use.



**Our CEO, Bob Fraser, receiving donation from ADW.**

Moodiesburn Library generously donation a Tabletop Paletto Sound Board to the Centre. This incredible resource is perfect for cause-and-effect activities, as well as developing listening skills, concentration, and recognition.

We currently have 14 individuals registered to participate in this year's Glasgow Kiltwalk, this includes 3 of our pupils, their families and staff.

## Partnerships

### Nordoff and Robbins

In partnership with Nordoff and Robbins we continue to provide integrated music therapy and occupational therapy for children aged 0-5 years as part of our Early Intervention (**Music Space**) Programme (6 x weekly 1-to-1 sessions on a Friday). Music Space uses music to promote bonding, positive interactions, communication, curiosity, posture and movement skills and emotional wellbeing.

### Turtle Tots

Our **Water Space** programme, delivered in partnership with Turtle Tots is established and we have received positive feedback from parents. Water Space is delivered by one of our physiotherapists and LCTP, working very closely with a Turtle Tot swimming instructor, using the properties of the hydrotherapy pool to further develop positive parent-child interactions, communication, posture and movement skills and confidence.



**Families enjoying taking part in Water Space.**

### North Lanarkshire Disability Forum

North Lanarkshire Disability Forum continue to provide **Parent wellbeing** sessions for parents and carers engaged with the Centre, offering a supportive space for parents to connect, recharge, and learn.

Activities include: Therapeutic art, meditation & sound bath, guest speakers sharing helpful resources and open discussions & networking. These sessions run on Tuesday evenings from 6 – 7.30pm.

### Partners In Advocacy

We have launched a pilot partnership with Partners in **Advocacy** to independently obtain the views of the children at the Centre.

### North Lanarkshire Disability Forum & Home Start

We are delighted to welcome North Lanarkshire Disability Forum and Home-Start Glasgow North and North Lanarkshire to Craighalbert for their **Stay and Play toddler group**. This new playgroup is specially designed for North Lanarkshire families with children aged 0-5 years who have complex medical needs. Sessions will start on Thursday 27th February.

### PAMIS & Craighalbert Parent Council

Craighalbert Parent Council & PAMIS are hosting a **Q&A session** with Education Law Specialist Iain Nisbett at Craighalbert. Sessions are for parents of children with complex communication, learning, health and care needs due to a known (or suspected) neurological condition, The session will cover parental rights around selecting a school, placing requests process, appealing the decision through an ASN tribunal system and associated paperwork and evidence.

### Watch us Grow

Watch us Grow continue to provide weekly gardening support and they have been busy planting **hedgerow plug plants in our gardens**. These will provide natural habitat for local wildlife and add to the look of the garden area for everyone to enjoy.

## Trustee Farewell

After 17 years of dedicated involvement with The Craighalbert Centre, including the past 10 years as a valued trustee, Greg Callan, has retired from the Board. Throughout his tenure, Greg has made a significant contribution to the governance and strategic direction of the Centre, demonstrating unwavering commitment to our mission of enabling children to achieve their full potential.

To mark this occasion, children, staff, trustees, and families gathered to express their gratitude and bid Greg a fond farewell. As a token of appreciation, the children created a beautiful canvas painting, presented to Greg as a keepsake in recognition of his service. We extend our sincere thanks to Greg for his invaluable support over the years and wish him all the best in his retirement and future endeavours.



**Bidding farewell to our Trustee, Greg Callan.**

## Feedback

The Team continues to receive strong informal positive feedback from parents and partners. There were no complaints or grievances received.

Thank you for taking the time to read our quarterly report and for your continued support.

*Lesley Anne Vannan*

Chair, The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments



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The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments

Craighalbert Centre, 1 Craighalbert Way, Cumbernauld, G68 0LS

T: 01236 456100 E: [admin@craighalbert.org.uk](mailto:admin@craighalbert.org.uk) W: [www.craighalbert.org.uk](http://www.craighalbert.org.uk)

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