



**Craighalbert Centre**  
Enabling Children to Achieve

# Trustees Quarterly Report September 2025

## Our Values



**KIND**



**INSPIRATIONAL**



**CHILD-CENTERED**



**COLLABORATIVE**



**AMBITIOUS**

## Chair's Statement



Welcome to our September 2025 Trustee Report. This quarter has been one of celebration and reflection for everyone connected with Craighalbert.

In June, we were delighted to welcome the Care Inspectorate for an unannounced inspection. To achieve one Excellent and three Very Good ratings is an outcome we can all be proud of, and it is a direct reflection of the commitment, professionalism and care shown by our dedicated staff team every single day.

We also closed the academic year with our annual Celebration of Achievement and Graduation event. It was a joy to see families, friends, and staff come together to mark the progress and milestones of our pupils. From nursery children moving on to Primary 1, Primary children moving up to secondary, and one of our senior pupils taking the exciting next step into college, every achievement was recognised and celebrated.

Another highlight was receiving the Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award. This is a significant achievement, underlining our commitment to embedding children's rights into everything we do, and it sets us firmly on the path towards Gold over the coming years.

This quarter also brought an important moment of change for Craighalbert, as we said a very fond farewell to our CEO, Bob Fraser, on his retirement. On behalf of the Board, I want to thank Bob for everything he has given to the Centre. His leadership, particularly during the Covid pandemic when the Centre continued to provide vital support to children and families despite extraordinary challenges, is something we will always remember with pride. Bob leaves a lasting legacy and our warmest wishes go with him.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Alison Philipps as our Interim CEO. Alison brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and commitment, and we are confident that she will provide strong leadership and continuity as we move forward with the recruitment of a permanent CEO.

## Term 4

The Children finished for the summer break on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June and staff finished on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June, with staff returning on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July.

The Children attended summer club from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July to Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August.

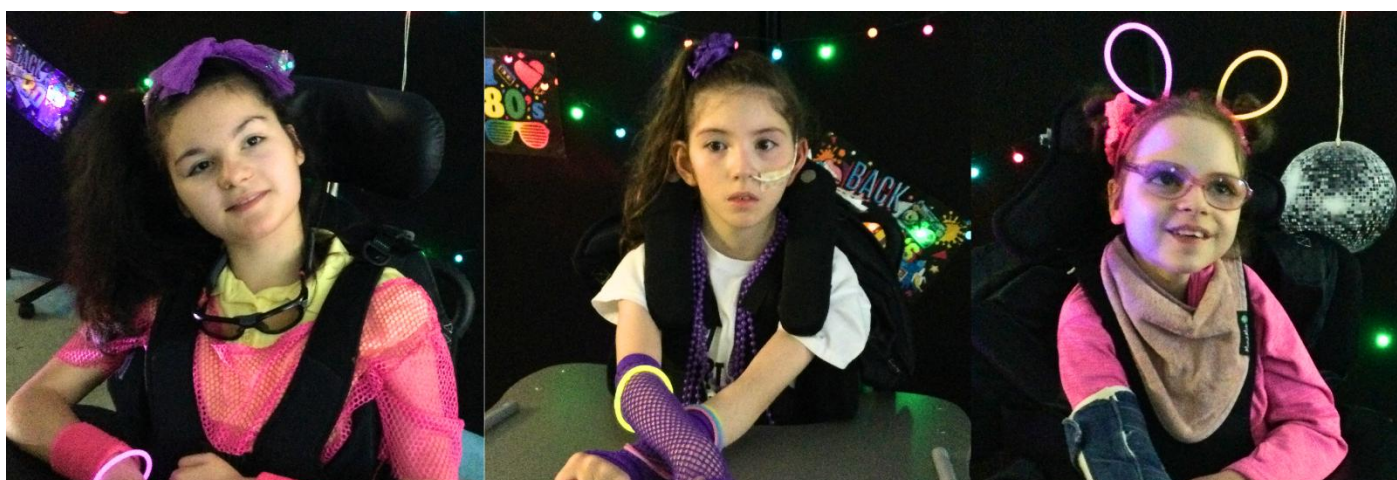
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August was an in-service day, and children returned to school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August.

## School Roll and Children

The school roll is currently 16 (16 FTE) children. 16 children are full time and 0 are part time.

## Activities

The Rowan Room stepped back in time with a vibrant 1980s-themed party, part of this term's topic "*Stepping Back in Time: Music Through the Decades.*" From neon colours to iconic tunes, the room was bursting with fun, energy, and rich opportunities for learning.



**Stepping Back in Time – Rowan Room's 1980s-themed party**

Some of our primary and nursery pupils enjoyed an exciting trip to the Science Centre, where they took part in an IMAX presentation about the solar system. This sensory-rich experience sparked lots of curiosity and gave pupils the chance to use their AAC devices to share their thoughts and ideas.

Our Senior Class rounded off the term with a bowling trip that was as educational as it was fun. Beyond celebrating the end of term, the outing supported pupils in generalising key skills, such as using AAC in a busy public space. It also provided great practice for motor skills, from aiming the ball to celebrating those strikes.

For National School Sports Week (16th–22nd June), we shared highlights from a fantastic Motor Activity Training Programme (MATP) session. Pupils took part in parachute games, curling, bowling, throwing, catching and more, with every activity adapted to their needs and interests. MATP is all about participation, inclusion, and fun, helping children to develop physical skills, confidence, and friendships.



**National School Sports Week – Motor Activity Training Programme sessions**

To close another remarkable year at Craighalbert, we held our Celebration of Achievement and Graduation event, joined by family and friends. We marked the progress and achievements of every pupil, and celebrated important milestones, including three nursery pupils moving on to Primary 1, four primary pupils graduating to S1, and one senior pupil graduating to college.

It was especially meaningful to be joined by families and friends, whose support plays such an important role in each child's journey. Together, we were able to celebrate not only these key milestones but also the individual progress and achievements of every pupil, making the event a true celebration of the whole Craighalbert community.



**Craighalbert celebration of achievement and graduation event**

Our end-of-term music festival, Craighalbert Unplugged, was a huge success. Pupils took the lead in planning the event, using their AAC devices to choose the music, activities, and special guests. The day was filled with music, laughter, and community spirit, a fitting send-off for one of our senior pupils now moving on to college.

Our Summer Club launched with a wonderful week of Forest School sessions. Pupils explored the natural environment with their communication partners, looking up through the trees to see the light and patterns above, then turning their discoveries into beautiful artwork. Next, they will use their alternative pencils to write about their creations, combining communication, creativity, and nature.



**Forest School**

Summer Club ended on a high with a pink pony themed Summer Club celebration, chosen by Maple Room using AAC. Pupils came together in colourful clothes, cowboy hats, and big smiles for an afternoon of music, props, dancing, and joy.



**Summer club celebrations**

Meanwhile, the Rowan Room has been embracing the outdoors, using their senses to explore and their AAC devices to express feelings and opinions about the world around them. These sessions continue to strengthen communication, independence, and confidence in meaningful, playful ways.

Issue 6 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

Shona, Head of Learning, continues to actively engage with the Parent Council.

In May, the Parent Council initiated a survey to gather parental feedback on service quality. Data has been gathered from the survey and the Parent Council will explore the findings with the Centre.

On 30<sup>th</sup> May parents were invited to an Assistive Technology (AT) Introduction session with a total of nine attendees. We plan to offer regular AT information session throughout the year for parents. The aim is to further support families understanding and engaging with the technology their child uses in school.

## Key Updates

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June we had an unannounced inspection from the Care Inspectorate. We received one *Excellent* and three *Very Good* ratings, an outcome we are incredibly proud of. This result is a testament to the dedication of our staff team and the nurturing, inclusive environment we strive to provide every day. You can read the full report by clicking the following link: [Inspection Reports](#)

We have been awarded the Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award. This is a huge achievement and a real reflection of the commitment, passion and teamwork shown by everyone.

The Silver Award will be held for the next three years, during which time the expectation is that we will continue our journey and work towards achieving the Gold Award. This award is a real milestone and something we can all be proud of.

Our Showcase event will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 9:30am-12:30pm. Invitations have been sent to key stakeholders, and to date 31 attendees have registered, representing healthcare, education, and the third sector. The event theme is *“Breaking Barriers – A multidisciplinary approach to supporting children with complex communication, learning, health and care needs.”*

With funding from Children’s Aid, a new track hoist has been installed in the hydrotherapy pool area, along with wet walls and upgraded changing facilities. This now enables children to be hoisted directly from the changing area into the pool, reducing the need for additional transfers.



**New pool hoist in action**

Bob Fraser retired from his role as CEO, and children, parents, board members, and staff gathered to say a fond farewell. The event was a warm celebration of Bob’s many achievements during his time at the Centre. Staff and parents shared their memories and, in particular, expressed deep appreciation for his leadership during the COVID pandemic. This period, when the Centre continued to provide vital support to children and families despite extraordinary challenges, was spoken of with pride as one of our most significant collective achievements.



**Bob Fraser farewell**

We have reviewed and updated a wide range of policies, including the School Uniform Policy, Religious & Moral Education Policy, Numeracy Policy, Intimate Care Policy, Interdisciplinary Learning Policy, and the Child Protection Policy & Procedures. Alongside this, we have evaluated the School Improvement Plan 2024/25 and developed the School Improvement Plan for 2025/26. Our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy and Progress Report, as well as the Standards and Quality Report, have also been completed. In addition, we have produced a new School Handbook and updated the Annual Information and Consent Pack. All of these documents are available on our website and can be viewed here: [Information Hub](#).

## **Professional Development and Representation**

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

- 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> May Alison & Alicia represented Craighalbert at Children in Scotland Annual Conference, a valuable opportunity to share our work and connect with partners like CYPSC, Enquire, Family Fund, Inspire Scotland and Sleep Scotland.
- 6<sup>th</sup> June various staff participated in Epilepsy training.
- Shona joined Lucy Chetty at the Royal Blind School on 17<sup>th</sup> June for a learning walk. Insight was used to shape the joint INSET day at Craighalbert on 15<sup>th</sup> August.
- 11<sup>th</sup> June, Katie, Dearbhla and Tina represented Craighalbert at the CALL Scotland Additional Support for Learning and Technology Conference.
- 14<sup>th</sup> June, Leah represented Craighalbert at the Disability Sport Scotland Exhibition.
- 17<sup>th</sup> June, Jenni and Rhona represented Craighalbert at the Scottish Postural Care Forum.
- All staff participated in PODD training on 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> July.
- 3 Learning Care and Therapy Practitioners attended EDGE manual handling training. They will work with the physiotherapists to ensure learning is shared with all staff.
- Barbara-Ann is undertaking the NHS Leading for the Future Programme.
- Rhona represented Craighalbert at the AHP CYP Public Health (Early Intervention and Prevention) Network Event.

## Staffing/Staff Development



**Katie**

**Complex Additional Needs Nurse**

### New Starts & Recruitment

In August we were delighted to welcome Katie to the team as our new Complex Additional Needs Nurse. Katie brings with her a wealth of experience in supporting children with complex healthcare needs. Her expertise will be a fantastic addition to our multidisciplinary team.



## Funding

We received a donation of £1,047.79 from Mrs Jean Colthart and her family, who chose to support the Centre in memory of her husband, Archie. In lieu of flowers.

We were delighted to welcome the Colthart family to the Centre, where Archie's great-great-niece proudly accepted the cheque on our behalf.



**Mrs Colthart and family visiting Craighalbert**

6 members of QinetiQ Rosyth took part in Tough Mudder, raising £668.75 for the Centre. We are so grateful to the group for choosing to support us, their efforts will make a real difference to the children and families we work with every day.



**QinetiQ Rosyth Team participating in Tough Mudder**

Every donation we receive makes a real difference to the Centre. The generosity of our supporters helps us to continue providing vital early intervention programmes for children aged 0-5 years, while also enabling us to deliver additional activities and opportunities that enrich the lives of our pupils.

Donations also allow us to open our doors to the wider community, supporting events such as our Christmas Extravaganza and other family-focused activities that bring people together. We are truly grateful for every penny raised, as it directly supports our work with children and families, helping us to create meaningful experiences and lasting impact.

## Early Intervention

Enquiries for our Early Intervention Programme continue to rise, with five recent requests from families of children aged 5-16 months. While not all will meet our admissions criteria, waiting lists are growing, and some of these children may join the nursery or school in the future.

### Music Space

A family from the Music Space programme spoke at the Nordoff and Robbins awards ceremony in June. This was a great opportunity to showcase Laura, OT and Janet, music therapist's innovative work.

### Water Space

Both morning and afternoon sessions are fully booked, prompting the consideration of adding more Saturday sessions.

### Play Space

On Saturday 16th August, we launched our new Play Space Programme. Initially, the programme is being offered to families already attending Water Space, extending their Saturday visits to include a Play Space session either before or after their swim.

Sessions are planned by the relevant therapy or education specialists leading the block and delivered by two of our Learning, Care and Therapy Practitioners. The programme is designed to give parents practical knowledge and strategies on how to support their child's development through play.



**Early Intervention at Craighalbert**

## Partnerships

### Partners in Advocacy

Partners in Advocacy continue to provide independent advocacy support to our families, with priority given to those currently involved in, or at risk of, tribunal proceedings or starting their transition to adult services.

### Ian Nisbet

Ian Nisbet, a specialist lawyer in education law, is delivering a series of information and learning sessions for parents and staff. The first session, held on 28th August for staff, focused on learning from tribunal decisions. The next session will be for parents and will explain the placing request and appeal process.

### Scottish Water

Scottish Water regularly hire our facilities for team meetings and, for the past four years, have also chosen Craighalbert for their volunteer day. This year 30 volunteers from their team supported us by clearing the garden area, painting, and installing new disabled parking signs.



**Scottish Water Volunteer Day**

## AAC Scotland Network

AAC Scotland Network will be hosting their Family Fun Day at Craighalbert on Saturday 4th October. Families are invited to a fun and informative day exploring communication supports and assistive technology. Run by specialist staff from CALL Scotland, FAACT, AAC Lothian, SCTCI and others, this free event offers hands-on activities and practical advice.

## **Feedback**

The Team continues to receive strong informal positive feedback from parents and partners.

## **New Trustees**

We are delighted to welcome Steven Leonard to our Board of Trustees.

Steven brings extensive experience in Information Technology, with a strong background in digital transformation and strategic leadership.

Steven has a personal connection to Craighalbert through his nephew, who attended the Centre as a child, an experience which led to him selecting to write about the potential benefits of computer aided learning for children with Cerebral Palsy for his final dissertation at university.

Speaking about his appointment, Steven said:

*“I have first-hand experience of the fundamental and important work that’s being done at Craighalbert... I’m very proud to be able to play even a small part in supporting the Centre.”*

We look forward to working with Steven and the expertise he brings.



**Steven Leonard  
Trustee**

*Lesley Anne Vannan*

Chair, The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments



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