



**Craighalbert Centre**  
Enabling Children to Achieve

# Annual Report And Accounts

**2022-23**

**Enabling children to achieve**

# Chair's Statement

As we gather to reflect upon the past year, it is my honour as the chair of The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments to express my heartfelt gratitude for the unwavering support we have received. This annual report not only marks a moment of reflection but also serves as a testament to the determined spirit that defines the Centre.



The year has been an extraordinary challenge for many. The global pandemic tested our resilience and commitment like never before, and now the weight of the ongoing cost of living crisis, with its escalating costs and uncertainty, has further exacerbated the difficulties many are facing. In the face of such adversity, it is deeply heartening to see how we have rallied together.

Our children have shown incredible strength and courage in the face of adversity. Our staff, with their unwavering dedication, have been a beacon of hope and support. Our community of supporters, both old and new, have continued to support us to achieve our mission.

In these challenging times, we have come together as a community to ensure that the children and families we support receive the best possible learning, therapy and care, regardless of the challenges we face.

As we look forward, let us not forget the impact we have had on the lives of those we support. Our ambitions remain high, driven by a shared vision to support children, young people, their families and the team around them so that children with neurological conditions attain and maintain the highest level of holistic well-being possible. We are resolved to press forward with unwavering determination, knowing that together, we can achieve great things.

Lesley Anne Vannan

Chair, The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments

# CEO's Report

As we look back on the past year, it is with immense pride and gratitude that I can confidently say, it has been a year of great success for The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments.

Our commitment to supporting the enablement of children with neurological conditions to achieve their full potential remains at the core of our work, and I'm delighted to report that we have not only sustained but enhanced our services. We continue to develop our existing programmes while pushing the boundaries to introduce new innovative initiatives.



Our school and nursery, for children aged 3-19 years, with profound and multiple complex health conditions, remains an inspiring place for, learning, therapy, and care. While our Early Intervention Programme (EIP) for children aged 0-3 years empowers parents to integrate learning and therapeutic activities into their daily lives, facilitating their child's development in all areas.

The collaborative efforts of our dedicated team, ensure that we are relentless in our pursuit of new and innovative practices, always looking for ways to enhance the lives of the children and families that we support. From the development of our emergent literacy programme to the introduction of Innowalk Pro's and Molli suit assessments, we continue to explore and embrace cutting-edge solutions to better support our children and their families.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our donors, partners, and the dedication of our exceptional staff. As we celebrate our achievements, we also acknowledge the challenges that remain ahead. But with your continued support, we are confident in our ability to overcome them and continue our journey of creating brighter, more inclusive futures for the children and families we support.

Thank you for standing with us on this incredible journey. Together, we are changing lives and making a difference that resonates far beyond the pages of this report.

Bob Fraser

CEO, The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments

# Unique Working Methods

At the Craighalbert Centre, as is the case in many organisations, the concept of the multi-disciplinary team around the child is established. However, we have taken this concept much further. All activities are designed to be outcome-focused improving holistic wellbeing. To do this in the most effective, person-centred, and enjoyable way often requires creative approaches that in turn require flexible, integrated, collaborative 'professional' working when planning and delivering learning, care, and therapy.

Collaborative professional work involves a team of professionals from various fields, such as teachers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, and early years practitioners, working together in a coordinated manner. This offers a collective and cohesive approach to learning and therapy that employs specialist knowledge when required. The objective of delivering services in a holistic manner to individual children and groups of children allows us to blur the edges between the professions; ensuring that the whole of the SCCMI's workforce is greater than the sum of the individual parts.



## Our Values



The child's will and wellbeing are at the heart of everything we do.



We are not afraid to set challenging goals.



We are compassionate, generous, and friendly.



We seek to stimulate and influence others to improve outcomes for children, young people and adults, and their families



We work together to achieve the highest possible wellbeing for all.



## Our Team

Our greatest asset is our people, the driving force behind our high-quality services and impressive outcomes. Our current headcount is 47, compared to 38 in 2021, and our full-time equivalent staffing has risen to 39.1 from 34.6. This growth aligns with our goal to meet the evolving demands of our expanding operations.

A significant organisational development has been the addition of three new Therapy Team Lead roles. These roles empower competence, capacity, and capabilities within our team, offering structured personal development and leadership opportunities, contributing to SCCMI's growth and success.

In the year ahead, our primary focus remains increasing and nurturing our most valuable asset - our team. We are dedicated to increasing capacity, competence, and capability to meet the diverse needs of the children we support as we expand our activities and services.

We continue to invest in staff development through training programs and educational initiatives, empowering employees with skills needed to excel in their roles and adapt to organisational changes.

# Our Activities

The past year has been busy, packed full of adventures and experiences for the children, that provided opportunities for learning, personal development and making connections.

The children participated in several outings, including visits to the Transport Museum, the Falkirk Wheel, and canal boat rides with the Seagull Trust. These trips opened new doors to their imaginations, allowing them to discover the wonders of transportation and engineering.



The children were engaged in a multitude of activities, from participating in Jubilee celebrations to enjoying the diverse range of activities offered as part of Theraplay. This included designing their own neon dark room, finding serenity in yoga sessions, showing off their competitive spirit during bowling, and enjoying a beach party, creating memories along the way.

There were lots of opportunities for exposure to the animal kingdom with a visit from Obama the Horse, Shetland ponies, a trip to Rings Farm in Cupar to help feed the newborn lambs along with a mini zoo experience featuring cockroaches, chickens, spiders, and rabbits, our children have connected with nature in its diverse forms, fostering compassion and curiosity.



As the children continue to grow, so do their independence skills, with regular trips to the local supermarket, engaging in baking activities using adapted equipment, and experimenting with new walkers to enhance their mobility and autonomy. They also enjoyed a trip to the Glasgow Christmas Market.

As part of our dedication to outdoor learning, the children have had the opportunity to explore the natural world. They've ventured into the forest, visited the local community gardens and participated in a range of activities including making bird feeders and wildflower bombs as part of their ECO School Green Flag award and Learning About Forests, gaining a deeper understanding of the environment developing an appreciation for nature.

# Early Intervention Programme (EIP)

In January 2022 we launched our revamped Early Intervention Programme (EIP), supporting more than 40 families.

EIP was designed to provide vital support for children, aged 0-3, with various neurological conditions, along with their families. Our core objective was to empower parents and family members with the knowledge, tools, and strategies they needed to seamlessly integrate learning and therapeutic activities into their daily family routines. This approach was aimed at fostering the acquisition of functional skills across all facets of their child's development, ensuring a well-rounded and holistic approach to early intervention.

To bring this program to life, we provided a collaborative effort, bringing together a highly specialised team of professionals, including occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, and early years practitioners. This multidisciplinary team worked together to deliver the program through a combination of personalized 1:1 sessions and interactive small group activities. This approach provided valuable learning and practice opportunities in a supportive and engaging environment.

As we firmly believe that learning through play is one of the most effective methods, various play activities were thoughtfully incorporated into the program. Furthermore, we provided access to our hydrotherapy pool, sensory room, and an accessible outdoor playground to ensure that the children had a diverse and stimulating environment in which to learn and grow. These additional resources allowed us to create a holistic experience that catered to the various developmental needs of each child.

Moreover, to enrich the scope of the program, we established valuable partnerships. Our collaboration with Nordoff and Robbins brought specialised support through music therapy, enhancing the therapeutic offerings of the program. Additionally, our partnership with SIBS (Supporting brothers and sisters of disabled children and adults) provided parallel sessions, ensuring that the brothers and sisters of children experiencing disability were equally supported and had a space to address their unique needs and concerns. This comprehensive approach aimed to create a nurturing and inclusive environment for the entire family, ensuring that each child and their siblings received the care and support they deserve.





## Events

Throughout the year we had the pleasure of hosting a variety of events and special activities for the children, families and community to enjoy. We started the year with our Easter Parade where the children paraded their Easter bonnets around the garden trail, met with the Easter bunny and received a special treat.

World Book Day was an opportunity for everyone, young and old to dress up as their favourite characters and to enjoy the magic of stories. Our parent council arranged a spooktacular Halloween party, with the children and families participating in lots of fun party games and yummy treats. There was then time to visit the ghostly trail and pumpkin picking fun.

This year's Christmas Light Extravagancy was the highlight of the year with over 150 attendees at the light switch on, which included a guided tour of the Christmas story trail from our elves, a meet and greet with Santa, festive trishaw rides, music provided by City of Glasgow Chorus, Christmas stalls, craft activities, a photobooth, food and drinks and more.

And after what felt like a long wait, due to Covid restrictions, we were thrilled to bring back our live Christmas show. Families, friends, supporters and community members came together to enjoy the children's performance of "White Christmas." Live music from Reuben from Nordoff and Robbins, added an extra layer of enchantment to the show.





# Community Engagement & Partnerships

Engagement with the community and developing partnerships has played a pivotal role in extending the reach and impact of our services. The following highlights reflect our continued commitment to fostering strong community ties and establishing meaningful partnerships:

**Conference and Exhibition Participation:** To promote our services and raise awareness about the invaluable work we do, we actively participated in multiple conferences and exhibitions. This included our presence at the CP Scotland Conference, Kidz to Adultz Scotland Exhibition, Contact - By Your Side Parents Info Day, and the Rett UK Annual Conference. These platforms provided us with the opportunity to engage with a diverse audience, share our expertise, and learn from other professionals in the field.

**Indigo Childcare Group:** Our collaboration with Indigo Childcare Group has been instrumental in exploring the development of an inclusive nursery provision. Together, we aim to create an environment that welcomes children of all abilities, ensuring that early childhood education is accessible and enriching for everyone.

**Nordoff & Robbins Music Therapy:** The collaboration with Nordoff & Robbins has brought the profound benefits of music therapy to our children. Through the healing power of music, our young participants have had the opportunity to express themselves, enhance their emotional well-being, and enjoy music.



**Watch Us Grow:** Our partnership with Watch Us Grow has provided essential gardening support. Engaging in horticultural activities has not only enriched the lives of our children but has also allowed them to connect with nature, learn valuable life skills, and experience the therapeutic benefits of gardening.

**CACE:** Our partnership with CACE has provided wheelchair-accessible transport, ensuring that our children have the mobility required to engage in enriching experiences. Furthermore, this collaboration has paved the way for exploring intergenerational opportunities, bridging gaps between generations and fostering valuable connections.

**Therapet:** Therapet has introduced the children to the joy of interacting with therapy dogs. These furry friends have brought comfort and companionship, offering therapeutic benefits that extend beyond the immediate interaction, creating a sense of emotional well-being.



**Carrickstone Care Home:** Our collaboration with Carrickstone Care Home has been centred on the development of an outdoor quiet area, providing a serene and harmonious space for intergenerational activities. This initiative aims to bridge generations, allowing our children to connect with and learn from the elderly residents, fostering mutual respect and understanding.

**Remotion Partnership:** Our partnership with Remotion has been vital in providing Mollii suit assessments.



**Artlink Central Art Therapy:** We have been delighted to work with Artlink Central, offering art therapy sessions that involve the children in the creative process. These sessions have provided a platform for self-expression, emotional growth, and artistic exploration, nurturing their creativity and self-confidence.

**NHS Forth Valley:** Our partnership with NHS Forth Valley has provide an opportunity for service development. This collaboration brings together the talents of Nordoff and Robbins music therapists and our Therapy team. Together, we are embarking on an innovative project offering joint therapy sessions in the neonate ward, creating a unique opportunity to provide specialised support to the most vulnerable. This partnership exemplifies our commitment to innovative and holistic care, focusing on the wellbeing and development of infants during their formative stages and providing families with opportunities to have fun, enjoy being together and interact in different ways.

These collaborations and community engagements reflect our unwavering commitment to providing comprehensive and enriching services, driven by the strength of our partnerships and the support of our community. We look forward to building upon these relationships and continuing to create positive and transformative experiences for all involved.

# Funding & Fundraising

As a Grant Aided Special School, we receive block funding from Scottish Government and placement fees from local authorities, however we rely on donations and grants for many of our vital and innovative services, such as our Early Intervention Programme and Innowalk Pro's.

Even in these difficult times, our amazing supporters and fundraisers have continued to show their generosity. Your donations have helped us raise an amazing £79,906.

This included over £4,500 raised by our amazing supporters who took part in the Kiltwalk and ADW Architecture Doors & windows who donated £12,000, enabling us to purchase interactive TV's.



## Special Thanks To

Scottish Government  
North Lanarkshire Council  
Corra Foundation – CYPFEIF & ALEC Fund  
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Carruthers Curdie Sturrock & Co  
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Arnold Clark Community Fund  
Glasgow University  
ADW Architecture Doors & Windows  
Geof Smirthwaite Foundation  
Miss A M Pilkington Charitable Trust



# Stay Connected

The Craighalbert Centre uses its website and social media to promote what we do, share information and engage with others.

There are many ways that you can stay connected, engage with us online and promote what we do.

- **Follow** – Follow us on social media and visit our website for regular updates.
- **Like** – Like our social media pages, to increase visibility and engagement.
- **Share** – Share links to our website and posts, with your contacts, to raise awareness and reach a wider audience.
- **Feedback** – Provide feedback on our content, to help us improve.



[www.craighalbert.org.uk](http://www.craighalbert.org.uk)



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