



**Craighalbert Centre**

Enabling Children to Achieve

## Trustees Quarterly Report

**June 2025**

### Our Values



**KIND**



**INSPIRATIONAL**



**CHILD-CENTERED**



**COLLABORATIVE**



**AMBITIOUS**

## Chair's Statement



Welcome to our June 2025 Trustee Report.

As we reflect on the past few months, it is once again remarkable to see just how much has been achieved by the children and the team here at Craighalbert. The progress made in such a short time continues to be both inspiring and uplifting.

One of the highlights this term was our six senior pupils' residential visit to the Bendrigg Activity Centre. Children, families, and staff alike enjoyed a wonderful experience packed with adventure, from canoeing and wall climbing to abseiling and archery. The visit was a powerful reminder that with imagination and the right adaptations, anything is possible. Our team received glowing feedback from the Bendrigg staff, who praised their compassion, skill, and dedication, and the Board would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to every member of the team.

We are also proud to share some fantastic educational achievements. Three pupils successfully completed their SQA National 1 Awards, with two S6 pupils earning the Adult Learning and Transition Award at Gold Level, and an S5 pupil receiving the Personal Achievement Award at Silver Level. These milestones are a testament to each pupil's dedication and the creativity of our teaching staff in developing meaningful, individualised learning pathways.

"Switch" assistive technology skills continue to be a key area of progress for our pupils, and we are constantly impressed by the determination and breakthroughs we see each day.

As we approach the end of another school year, preparations are well underway for our end-of-year celebrations. Looking ahead to the new academic year, we are filled with excitement and optimism. None of what we do would be possible without the support and commitment of our children, families, staff, and supporters.

Thank you all, and we wish everyone a joyful and well-earned summer break.



### Term 3

The Children finished for the Easter break on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April and all staff finished on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April, with staff returning on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April and the children on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

The children and staff enjoyed a short break on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May and Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May for the May bank holidays with Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> March we hosted our Daffodil Tea, with families joining in with special activities including seed planting in recycled bottles, as part of our sustainability focus. Oak room wowed everyone with an interactive story they wrote themselves using AAC aids (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) and a little help from AI and everyone got moving in an MATP (Motor Activity Training Programme) session, using recycled materials throughout to keep things green.



Daffodil Tea Celebrations



Our Pupil Council continues to meet to discuss what is important to them, they have been discussing various things, including outings with popular requests including a hot air balloon trip and a visit to the beach, and they have been exploring how we can be kinder to the environment, talking about our warming planet and using blankets to understand what it feels like when things heat up. Our Pupil Council reps are now gathering ideas from their classmates on how they can help protect the environment, which we will explore further.

World Book Day became World Book *Week* this year, as we expanded our celebrations activities that ranged from story-themed outfits and reading sessions to a heartwarming family event. Parents joined their children in class to explore shared reading using AAC, gaining valuable insight into how stories can be made accessible and meaningful. Staff from across the Centre also took part in storytelling sessions, which delighted the children.





After a year of collaborative, careful preparation by our nursery and therapy teams, one young pupil entered the hydrotherapy pool for the first time. Her sheer delight was infectious. It marked a major milestone in her journey and a real testament to patient, child-led progress. In addition, the team have worked together to support two of our other children to be able to access the hydrotherapy pool, these sessions required lots of collaboration and planning, but it was great to see both pupils get in the pool and enjoy themselves.



Hydrotherapy sessions



Our Sustainability Fortnight inspired learners to think globally and act locally. In the Rowan Room, recycled materials were transformed into rain gauges and sound makers.

Three pupils successfully completed their SQA National 1 Awards. Two S6 pupils achieved the *Adult Learning and Transition Award at Gold Level*, and an S5 pupil received the *Personal Achievement Award at Silver Level*. These achievements reflect their dedication and the imagination of our teaching teams in crafting meaningful, individualised learning pathways.

We are celebrating an exciting next step for one senior pupil who has secured a place on a part-time Access Course at Motherwell College, beginning August 2025.

We have been making the most of the lovely weather with lots of Outdoor learning. Pupils have been out in the gardens planting, practicing basketball, enjoying the play park and exploring their environment.



Outdoor Learning



Our pupils continue to demonstrate their phenomenal progress in switch skills. One of our pupils took great joy in showcasing her abilities on the Drivedeck, knocking over a member of CLT (thankfully just a cardboard skittle!). Another pupil demonstrated her AAC skills by using her Eyegaze to sneakily play music during class, a cheeky but delightful moment that reminded us just how much personality comes through with increased communication opportunities.



Switch and AAC Skills in Action



From 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May, our senior pupils took part in our residential trip to Bendrigg Trust in the Lake District. The trip was packed with adventure with our pupils taking on a variety of challenges including zip lining, abseiling, canoeing, and rock climbing. With beautiful weather and a packed schedule, including woodland walks, archery, the sensory swing, and campfire singalongs. The pupils truly thrived. Many showed improved sleep and reduced seizures during the trip, highlighting just how powerful and positive the experience was.

A special thank you must go to our outstanding staff team, who not only ensured every child felt safe and supported but also impressed the Bendrigg staff with their warmth, professionalism, and dedication. It was a proud moment for our whole team.





Issue 5 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. Following the successful electronic school diary trial, all school diaries have now switched to electronic format, which appears to be working well.

Following the power outage earlier in the year, the parent council requested a 'lessons learned' survey. This was sent to all parents and feedback has been gathered and is now being collated.

Parents of secondary aged pupils were invited to our first Transition Coffee Morning, aimed to support parents as their child prepares to leave school. We had representatives from the Assistive Tech Team, Social Work Transition Teams, Sensory Support and Equal Say Advocacy. Our aim is to make this an annual event.

Parents were invited to a training session, delivered by our Physiotherapy team, focused on postural management, with a particular emphasis on sleeping positions. The session was followed by demonstrations from a range of representatives from companies that supply sleep systems, giving parents the opportunity to explore various options and ask any questions relevant to their child's needs.

## **Key Updates**

Through our Early Intervention Programme (EIP), we have received two placing requests and three more enquiries from parents who have shown an interest in their child attending Craighalbert nursery.

We have carried out an assessment for a potential new pupil, initially for a primary placement in August 2025, moving into a secondary placement the following academic year. We have confirmed that we will have a place available and await an update once a placement request is submitted.

We have secured a trial of the NeuroNode, which is a cutting-edge device that enables engagement and access to technology for individuals with significant physical challenges.

A routine review of our children's attendance pattern during the last term confirmed again, that despite the multiple and complex health care needs of our pupils a significant majority exceed 75% attendance. With 7 out of 18 of our current pupils attendance between 92% and 98%.



## Professional Development and Representation

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

- 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.
- 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March Alison & Alicia represented the Centre at Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health (RCPCH) conference at the SECC.
- Shona delivered a presentation on Differentiation to the National Complex Forum.
- Rhona attended the BES Healthcare Clinical Seating Seminar, focusing on "Next Generation Wheelchair Ergonomics".
- Joanna attended postural care and specialist seating event, exploring some of the newest products on the market.
- The Cerebral Palsy Integrated Pathway Scotland (CPIPS) lead from NHS Lanarkshire visited the Centre to work with our physiotherapy team.
- Our Physiotherapy team welcomed representatives from Blatchford in Sheffield, specialists in orthotic equipment, who visited to provide on-site demonstration of the Turtlebrace.
- 21<sup>st</sup> April all classroom staff attended a joint INSET day at the Royal School for the Blind. Focussing on section 2.2 and 2.3 of "How Good is our School".
- 19<sup>th</sup> May one of our teachers and a LCTP carried out an exchange with two colleagues from the Royal School for the Blind to participate in a learning walk.
- 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May three of our LCTPs participated in Manual Handling Training, which will enable them to train our staff internally in Manual Handling.



Joint Inservice Day with Royal School for the Blind



## Staffing/Staff Development

### New Starts & Recruitment

In April Kathryn and Olivia joined us as Lunchtime Support Assistants. They bring great energy, warmth, and enthusiasm to their roles, and are already making a positive contribution to the children's experience during the school day.

In April, we also welcomed Dearbhla to the team as our new Speech and Language Therapist. Dearbhla brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in supporting children with complex communication needs. We are thrilled to have her expertise as part of our interdisciplinary team.



Kathryn  
Lunchtime Support Assistant



Olivia  
Lunchtime Support Assistant



Dearbhla  
Speech & Language Therapist

## Funding

We received a donation of £1,000 from Airdrie Golf Club, following their successful Burns Supper fundraising event and were delighted to welcome three members of the golf club to the Centre, who all stated how impressed they were with the care that they witnessed on their visit.



Airdrie Golf Club Members Presenting Donation



We received £92.47 from Asda Cashpots for School, this was a national campaign run by Asda/Parent Kind, this campaign allowed shoppers to donate a percentage of their purchase price to their chosen school.

This years Glasgow Kiltwalk was held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April, we had 14 participants, including pupils, families and staff, taking part who raised a total of £2,625.40 for the Centre.



Fundraisers taking part in the Kiltwalk to raise funds for the Centre



Our Parent Council raised a fantastic £1,600 through their Easter Raffle and ongoing fundraising activities. The funds raised will go directly towards exciting outings and experiences for the children, helping us to offer opportunities that support their learning, development and enjoyment. These experiences are an important part of our holistic approach and are always a highlight for the children and families we support

A huge thank you to the parent council and everyone who contributed through donations and purchasing raffle tickets.



Parent Council members setting up their raffle display.

We have received a grant of £24,763 from Children's Aid for the installation of track and Hoist in our pool area. Installing a track and hoist system in our hydrotherapy pool area will allow seamless and safe transfer of children from the changing area directly into the pool, reducing the number of manual transfers required. This will enhance comfort, improve postural care, and provide a more dignified and enjoyable experience for the children.



## Website

We have consulted with parents and carried out a full re-design of our website, this has involved the production of videos to showcase our specialisms and new content from all departments to ensure that parents can easily find information about who we are, what we do, and how to get in touch with us. The new website is in the testing stage, where we will monitor how visitors interact with each page, and we will continue to improve the site based on analytics and feedback. [www.craighalbert.org.uk](http://www.craighalbert.org.uk)



Our new website.

## Partnerships

### Nordoff and Robbins

Our Music Space programme is currently fully booked, with a small but growing waiting list.



Music Space Programme



## Turtle Tots

Our Water Space programme, now has 18 families registered for sessions, with a small waiting list. Currently we are engaging with children from several local authority areas including Dunblane, Barrhead, Greenock, Musselburgh, Islay, Fife and Perth and Kinross, extending our national reach.



Water Space Programme

## North Lanarkshire Disability Forum

North Lanarkshire Disability Forum continue to provide Parent wellbeing sessions for parents and carers engaged with the Centre. These sessions run on Tuesday evenings from 6 – 7.30pm. One parent stated *“These sessions are hugely beneficial. I feel safe, not judged, and not alone. I’m learning to understand my emotions and feel better equipped to care for my daughter.”*

## Partners In Advocacy

Partners in Advocacy has been working with families as non-instructed advocates. Their findings will ensure that the children’s voices permeate their Child’s Plans.



## Pamis & Craighalbert Parent Council

Craighalbert Parent Council & PAMIS hosted a Q&A session with Education Law Specialist Ian Nisbett at Craighalbert, focusing on placing requests and ASN tribunal appeals. Feedback from the six families who attended was very positive, with participants feeling more confident about engaging with local authorities and learning from each other's experiences.

## **Feedback**

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

## **New Trustees**

We are delighted to welcome Derek Forsyth and Hannah Gray to the Board of Trustees.

Derek is a Chartered Accountant who brings over 25 years of experience. After being introduced to Craighalbert by a fellow board member, he was inspired to join the Board.

Derek is passionate about using his financial expertise to support the Centre in achieving its strategic goals and ensuring that the charity continues to deliver vital services to children with complex communication, learning, health, and care needs across Scotland.

Hannah joins the Board with a strong background in education and disability rights. She spent over eight years at Enquire, Scotland's national advice service for additional support for learning, and previously worked in Education Policy for the Scottish Government, as well as in direct support roles with disabled young adults.

Hannah brings a deep personal connection to the work of Craighalbert, having grown up with complex health conditions herself.



Derek Forsyth  
Trustee



Hannah Gray  
Trustee

*Lesley Anne Vannan*

Chair, The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments





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