



Trustees Quarterly Report

March 2024

Our Values



KIND



INSPIRATIONAL



CHILD-CENTERED



COLLABORATIVE



AMBITIOUS

Chair's Statement



In this quarterly report, I am pleased to outline the notable events and achievements at The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments.

We would like to thank our former Head of Learning, Jennifer Baillie for her work, before taking a career break, and welcome Shona McMonagle to the role as Acting Head of Learning. We are working towards the substantive appointment of Head of Learning.

Term 3

The children finished for Christmas break on Thursday 21st December and all staff finished on Friday 22nd December, with Staff returning on Monday 8th January and the children on Tuesday 9th January.

Staffing/Staff Development

New Starts & Recruitment

Amy McKinnon (1.0 FTE) joined us as a Learning, Care and Therapy Practitioner on 4th December 2023. Amy has vast experience in care and third sector and has been getting to know the children and families.



Natalie Coulter (1.0 FTE) was internally promoted to the role of Learning, Care and Therapy Practitioner on 4th December 2023. Natalie started with us in 2022 as a Lunchtime Support Assistant.

Shona McMonagle (1.0 FTE) has been internally promoted to the post of Acting Head of Learning, from 12th February 2024. This is a temporary appointment until the end of June 2024, while we take forward the processes to appoint a permanent Head of Learning.





Tina McNicol (1.0 FTE) joined us as an Occupational Therapist on 14th February 2024. Tina is an experienced paediatric OT with a special interest in assistive tech.



Amelia Laurendet (0.8 FTE) joined us as a Speech and Language Therapist on 14th February 2024. Amelia has a special interest in Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and assistive tech. Amelia is with us on a short-term contract for 4 months.



Leavers

Head of Learning (1.0 FTE), left on 29th January 2024.

LCTP (1.0 FTE), left on 16th February 2024.

School Roll and Children

The school roll is currently 18 children. 17 children are full-time and 1 is part-time.

2 Placing request appeal tribunals are on-going; both adjourned during January and expected to be concluded in March. A further placing request tribunal will commence in March.

During this period one of our part-time pupils moved on to a full-time place at his local school and we had 1 full-time pupil join the school roll. We are also excited to note that one of our senior pupils is due to graduate in June, and this will be our first pupil to graduate from senior school, as historically children were only able to remain with us until the age of 14.

Parent Council

The parent council were involved in our Christmas activities with their attendance and support at the Christmas party, Christmas light switch on and Christmas show. They will also be involved in planning for our upcoming Daffodil Tea which will be held on Friday 22nd March and the theme will be sustainability.

Our Chief Executive Officer, Bob Fraser will be meeting with The Parent Council to discuss service improvement and will arrange quarterly themed meetings.

Chair of the Parent Council, Kate McMaster met with the full parent council on Monday 11th March, and they aim to set parent council meeting dates for the full year ahead.

Activities

In December the children enjoyed a wide variety of **Christmas themed activities** which included a visit to MacRobert Arts Centre to watch a live performance of Eric the Elf, participating in our Santa's search for Kindness video, attending our Christmas light spectacular, showcasing their musical talents in the Christmas show, taking part in our Christmas party with friends and family and a special visit from Santa.



A visit to MacRobert Arts Centre to watch Eric the Elf.



A special visit from Santa.



Christmas party games.



A live musical performance from all the pupils at our Christmas show.



A spectacular night at our Christmas light switch on event.

Our secondary pupils continue working towards a variety of **SQA Awards** which include: Communication, Creative Arts, Health and Wellbeing, Independent Living Skills, Information and Communication Technology, Science in the Environment and Photography.



Our secondary pupils working towards their SQA awards.

Several of the children had an opportunity to trial the **Drive Deck**, which is a mobility device for wheelchair users that can be operated by a switch and can be adapted to meet the individual needs of each user. You may remember we trialled this previously however did not advance purchase and development of this as the recurrent cost/ benefit case was unclear. This is now being explored further.



Trialing the Drivedeck.

Several of our pupils have been working towards their **Rockhopper Level 2 swimming certificate** and they continue to develop their swimming skills.

To celebrate **Burns Night** the children explored different ways to design their own tartan, including using large paint rollers and moving sand across a backlit, coloured background.



Using different techniques to design our own tartan.

10th February was **Chinese New Year**, the year of the Dragon, and there were opportunities for the children to learn about Chinese customs and traditions. The children made their own Chinese lanterns, experienced the soft breeze from fans and explored traditional textiles and garments.



Celebrating Chinese New Year.

For **Valentine's Day** the children used "alternative pencils" to write messages to their loved ones.

The children have also been learning about **Scottish Media and Culture**, which included choosing and listening to Scottish artists, creating comic characters - taking inspiration from "OOR Wullie", and starting their own radio station.



Creating our own comic characters.

Communication and Literacy continues to be part of everyday learning for the children. This includes the use of Eyegaze, PODD and switches, to communicate with others and we have seen continued development in literacy skills.



Communication and literacy in action.

We continue to provide a variety of experiences to the children through our external partners including music therapy and Yoga.

Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland

Nicola Killean from Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland and her team visited the Centre and spent time with the Children, to learn what is important to our children and their families. Nicola, Elaine, and Megan spent time in the classrooms with the children and joined in with activities, seeing how we champion communication and empower children's voices.



A visit from the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland Team

We look forward to hosting a group for parents/guardians to talk with the commissioner's office about their hopes and concerns for their children, around topics such as: education, mental health, and discrimination.

The information gathered will help identify the issues important to children and young people and develop a Strategic Plan that will shape their work.

Tobii Dynavox

On 23rd January, Tobii Dynavox attended the centre to deliver TD Pilot training to our Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and classroom staff, along with 12 external attendees. TD Pilot is an eye-controlled communication device for iPad. It enables

communication and full use of iPad apps for people with disabilities, via eye control and other access methods.



This partnership offers opportunities for us to learn about new technology at the early stages of release and to ensure we are at the forefront of introducing new technologies.

Finance

We have submitted our Scotland Excel Fee Review, and our Annual Business plan has been submitted to Scottish Government.

Funding

We have received £11,610 as a 15% uplift from Bank of Scotland Foundation, who funded our accessible / Changing Places toilet.

We have received £1,000 from Noble Resolve Gospel and Temperance Mission Auxiliary, towards sensory soft play items.

We have received £500 from Millar Homes Community Fund, towards costs for our Christmas Light Spectacular.

We have received an unrestricted donation of £500 from The James Inglis Testamentary Trust.

We have received an unrestricted donation of £50 from Kildrum and St Mungo's Parish Church.

We have received an unrestricted donation of £1,000 from Miss AM Pilkington Charitable Trust.

We have received an unrestricted donation of £700 from St Josephs AFC.

We have received an unrestricted donation of £6,000 from ADW Architectural Doors & windows.

We currently have 24 participants registered to participate in the Glasgow Kiltwalk which will take place on 28th April 2024.

We received an in-kind donation of a playmat valued at £160 from Totter & Tumble, the playmat will be used in our parents' lounge.

Through donations, grants and fundraising we are able to support the enablement of children affected by motor impairments to achieve their potential and fulfil their ambitions.

Strategic Planning

In the 1st year of the launch of the re-modelled Early Intervention Programme for 0-3 year olds, there was a 150% increase in the number of children attending. In June 2023 there were 31 families engaging with EIP, and to sustain their engagement we have been developing a joint music therapy programme with Nordoff and Robbins.

The development of the early intervention service is important as part of our regional and national offer; the challenges with securing funding for the service, while maintaining equity of access, meaning it required to be free from family financial burden; and the challenge of developing a high quality and sustainable workforce to support the service, as although compatible with the nursery and school service it is a different population of children.

It is evident that providing an early intervention programme on Saturdays works well in terms of access for working parents and participation of siblings. Despite these challenges the establishment of a sustainable Early Intervention Programme is a key objective for 2024/25.



Our Early Intervention, Music therapy programme.

Inclusive Nursery

Architecture Design Scotland funded a feasibility study and concept drawings provided by Fraser Livingston Architects, for the development of an inclusive Early Learning Childcare facility on site. The design is ambitious and costs are estimated at approximately £2.2m. All the capital funding would be required to be raised by the Centre. The design and key elements will be considered by CLT as part of the wider Capital Programme and when considering priorities for a targeted fundraising campaign.

Feedback

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

Board Recruitment

In early spring we will be launching a campaign to recruit a Trustee with financial experience. This is a great opportunity to join our committed and ambitious Board and we are keen to hear from anyone who has skills and experience in finance. Further details will be available on our website www.craighalbert.org.uk/boardvacancies

AGM

We have provisionally booked the 24th October for our AGM which will incorporate a showcase event of the impactful work we do, and celebrate our achievements.

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



Craighalbert Centre

Enabling Children to Achieve

Our Values



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