

**WISHING WELL FAMILY CENTRE
7-9 ALLIANCE CRESCENT
BELFAST
BT14 7PL
02890 740454**

**ANNUAL REPORT
NOVEMBER 2013 – OCTOBER 2014**

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION
2. WHO'S WHO IN WISHING WELL
3. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE
4. EXTENDING THE WISHING WELL
5. BABY ROOM REPORT
6. TODDLER ROOM REPORT
7. JUNIOR PLAYGROUP REPORT
8. SENIOR PLAYGROUP REPORT
9. PRE-SCHOOL REPORT
10. OUT-OF-SCHOOLS REPORT
11. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
12. ACCOUNTS

INTRODUCTION

Mission Statement

Wishing Well Family Centre, based in Alliance Crescent, was established in 1989 and is a locally based integrated community organisation that offers support to families, responding in a caring and open way to social, educational, economic and environmental needs within our community.

Our current services include our Day Nursery (49 places) which incorporates a baby and toddler unit, a junior playgroup and a senior playgroup, a pre-school group (16 places) and an out of schools group (24 places). Other activities include our volunteer environmental project where the team maintain the centre and its grounds as well as assisting with gardening in the local community, advice surgeries on a drop in basis, Sure Start services and courses, seasonal holiday schemes, a local bus service, a Mother and Toddler Group, volunteering and training opportunities as well as educational support to students and trainees.

Our main funders are DSD, BCC, DE, Belfast Trust and DHSS. We employ 31 local people and provide placements for students from schools and colleges throughout North Belfast and further. Future plans include a purpose built centre to the side of our current building which will provide a new home for our pre-school and out-of-schools groups.



Directors / Management Board	<u>Staff Continued</u>	<u>Students</u>
Kevin McGlennon Chairperson / Director	Charlene Skillen Childcare Assistant	Tierna Keenan Mercy College
Stephen Dobbin Director	Janine McKillion Childcare Assistant	Courtney Alexander Mercy College
Sam Burns Company Secretary / Director	Margaret Elder General Assistant	Tammy Donnelly Mercy College
Keith Johnston Vice Chairman / Director	Marcella Hutchinson General Assistant	Bethany Adlam Mercy College
Roy Brawley Committee Member	Fred Mooney Bus Driver	Rachel Whiteside Girls' Model
Tracey Hutchinson Manager	<u>Volunteers</u>	Jade Robinson Girls' Model
Catherine Ferguson Deputy Manager	Roy Brawley Environmental	Chantelle McNeilly Girls' Model
Sinead Maguire Committee Member	Sam Rooney Environmental	Lauren Massey Girls' Model
Janice Holmes Committee Member	Crawford Chambers Environmental	<u>Advisors</u>
<u>Staff</u>	Maeve McLroy	Finnegan Gibson Accounts
Tracey Hutchinson Manager	Kirsty Begley	Ann Marie Hartigan Social Services
Catherine Ferguson Deputy Manager	Mira Gruger-Volz Eirene	Ursula Maginn Early Years
Karen B Johnston Early Years Supervisor	Martha Gieselmann Eirene	Goody Solutions First Aid
Muriel Dalzell Senior Supervisor	Eva Lanko	<u>Tutors</u>
Lynsey McCormick Deputy Supervisor	Maureen Mallon	Workforce
Laura Burns Supervisor	<u>Placements</u>	Early Years
Louise Williams Childcare Assistant	Tammy Tully Ashton Centre	Paragon
Tracey Massey Senior Supervisor	Ashleigh McKenzie BMC	Ashton Centre
Nuala Heaney Supervisor	Lauren Wallace Stranmillis	
Megan Hale Supervisor	Patrice McGourty Work Force	
Michaela Simpson Childcare Assistant	Caoimhe McLarnon Bryson Future Skills	
Sharlene Foster Deputy Supervisor	Naomi Dalzell Workforce	
Anita Montgomery Childcare Assistant	Krista McCarley Paragon	
Carly Bingham Childcare Assistant	Laura McCabe Ashton	
Kerry Douglas Childcare Assistant	Lauren Barclay Stranmillis	

WHO'S WHO CONTINUED

Sure Start Secondments		
Sinead Keenan Childcare Assistant	Briege Owens Childcare Assistant	
Kathleen Ingham Childcare Assistant	Marie McCullagh Childcare Assistant	
Bronagh McHugh Childcare Assistant	Aimee Watts Early Years Development Worker	
Caroline Donnelly Childcare Assistant		
Bronagh Donnelly Childcare Assistant		
Laura Brown Early Years Dev. Worker		
Janine Swindell Childcare Assistant		
Joy Graham Childcare Assistant		
Kirsty Begley Childcare Assistant		

Unity

I dreamt I stood in a studio,
And watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child's mind,
And they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher—the tools she used,
Were books, music, and art.
The other, a parent—working with a guiding hand,
And a gentle loving heart.
Day after day, the teacher toiled
With a touch that was deft and sure.
While the parent laboured by her side,
And polished and smoothed it o'er.
And when at last, their task was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought.
For the things they had moulded into the child,
Could neither be sold nor bought.
And each agreed they would have failed
If each had worked alone,
For behind the teacher stood the school,
And behind the parent, the home.

- Author Unknown

Achievements and Performance 2013 – 2014

- In March 2012, secured a grant from Department of Social Development for £148,737.48 to manage the centre through the Neighbourhood Renewal Implementation Project up to 31 March 2015.
- Successful in receiving grants from Belfast City Council, Department of Education, Belfast Health & Social Services Board and Department of Health & Social Services for a variety of capital ventures and revenue costs.
- Through out 2013 and 2014, we have be part of the AALAN group (Ardoyne, Alliance, Local Area Network) in conjunction with NBWisp, GRACE Women's Development and NIHE in developing programmes and events on a cross community basis such as "Meet the Neighbours" in the Everton Complex, trips away to Bangor and Newcastle and training for local residents.
- In March 2014 we had a very successful inspection from Social Services and we welcomed the World Forum on Early Care and Education to our centre with participants from all over the globe.
- All staff have completed training in 1st Aid, Child Protection, Autism and Special Needs. Individual staff have been trained in Designated Officer Training, Cluster Group Training and Play Training. Staffing difficult this year due to 4 on maternity leave.
- Links with Glenbrook Sure Start have resulted in Service Level Agreements for both the daycare and the secondment of staff. The centre has facilitated Sure Start in The Multicultural Breakfast, Speech and Language, and provided a room for their LAD Crèche.
- We have had a very successful summer programme with trips and activities every day for seven weeks. All rooms participated with over 100 children benefiting.
- A Mother and Toddler group has been set up with funding from IFI. Very successful.
- Open days and the Graduation Ceremony in June 2014 were well attended by parents and friends of the centre.
- The environmental team has continued to maintain the centre and its gardens as well as assisting in the community.
- All polices and procedures have been updated in January 2014 by the Early Years Supervisor.
- Constitution has been updated, adopted by the Committee and lodged with both Companies House and HMRC.
- The land at 1,3,5 Alliance Parade and 74 Deerpark Road has been purchased by the Centre and full planning permission for our proposed extension to our current build has been granted. The extension costing approx £660,00.00 will be funded by SIF and DSD in the near future.
- We offer congratulations to our staff members – Lynsey, Louise, Michaela and Sharlene on the births of their babies in 2014.

Tracey Hutchinson -Manager

Extending Wishing Well Family Centre



Current Facilities & Services offered by Wishing Well Family Centre include:

- **Community Garden Facility**
- **Community Day Nursery**
- **Multi-purpose rooms**
- **Office Space**
- **State of the Art Security System**
- **Pre-School Group**
- **Out of Schools**
- **Environmental Project**
- **Advice Surgeries**
- **Volunteer and Training opportunities**
- **Educational Support**
- **Sure Start Services and Surgeries**
- **Seasonal Holiday Schemes**
- **Bus Service**
- **Befriending / Drop in Services**
- **Mother and Toddler Group**

At present the key factor restraining the organisation in meeting the demand for its services is the lack of appropriate facilities to cater for this demand.

Proposed elements within the extension:

The following proposed elements have been included in the plans to date for the construction of the extension facility (The total floor area of the extension will be 326m²):

- **Additional office space**
- **Kitchen facilities**
- **Quiet Room**
- **Reading Area**
- **Preschool area (can accommodate 24 children 3-5 years old)**
- **Out of School Club (can accommodate 16 children 5-11 years old)**

BABY ROOM REPORT

This has been a very busy and exciting year in the baby room. The room is registered for four babies and throughout the year we have welcomed new babies as others have moved into the Toddler room.

This year we received some lovely new wooden toys for the babies and our treasure baskets are filled with natural materials. We also received a fantastic sensory tent which has lots of light up materials of different textures. These toys and equipment are ideal for sensory play and development. Our new black and white mat complete with pillows and a crawl through tunnel is a firm favourite with the babies and the bold colours are again ideal for sensory stimulation.



Our sleep room has been extended and now holds six cots. This provides a comfortable and quiet area for the children to rest.

We continue to have a routine for the day to day running of the room which can be seen on the noticeboard outside the room. Throughout the months we have had a variety of monthly themes –for example transport, animals, seasons, Easter Halloween, Christmas - during which we do lots of relevant activities.

Our favourite theme is “All About Me”. We make a fantastic display with photographs of the babies and their families along with hand and footprint pictures which always make great keepsakes for parents.

Throughout the year we have had various outings with babies – Funky Monkeys, Mookie World, the farm and the Zoo. These trips are great for their physical and social development. The babies all love travelling on the bus and get very excited. We made some wonderful displays with the photos taken at the Zoo – which was the babies' favourite outing! We also continue to take them on walks to the local park – weather permitting – and again everyone has a great time.

This year has been another very successful one in the baby room. The staff and babies' enjoyed every moment and we shall continue to build on our routines and introduce more fun-filled ideas and activities for our babies.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents for their continued support.

Laura Burns
Supervisor

TODDLER ROOM REPORT

I joined the Toddler Room in July as supervisor and thoroughly enjoy the role. The staff all work extremely well as a team and the children really enjoy their time with us. In the Toddler room there is a maximum of eight places on a daily basis. Throughout the year some of our toddlers have moved into the Junior Playgroup and at the same time we have welcomed new children into the room.



Our room is very bright and colourful with all our crafts and activities on display. We have received new toys and equipment which the children have really enjoyed and which also help in their various stages of development. Also, the room has been re-arranged to define each area – house and book corners, along with small world, construction, sensory and floor play areas. The children have adapted well to these changes.

The sleep room has been extended and now holds six new cots. We have continued sleep time within the daily routine – 11:30am to 1:00pm approximately. This routine is very beneficial especially for children who attend for a full day, however times can be changed to suit the individual needs of the children.

Each month we base our plans on a particular theme, shape and colour. For example in July our theme was 'summer', our colours were yellow and orange and the shape was a 'circle'. These plans are on display outside the room along with our daily routine timetable.

During the summer we had some super trips out to Funky Monkeys, Indianaland, the farm and the Zoo. The children really enjoyed these experiences and loved going on the bus.

Throughout the year when the weather is suitable, we make great use of our own outdoor area where the children can enjoy daily play in a safe and secure way.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, students, parents and of course the children for such a fun filled and rewarding year.

Megan Hale
Supervisor

JUNIOR PLAYGROUP REPORT

It has been a very busy and productive year in Junior Playgroup. We have welcomed new children into our room and everyone has settled in extremely well.

Our activities are based around the six areas of learning and our monthly plans and themes are all centred on these and are displayed outside our room on the noticeboard. Our daily routine is also displayed along with photos of the staff.

The children really enjoy all the activities on offer. For example, at Easter time our colour was yellow and our shape was oval. All our arts and crafts were centred around this theme, which were then displayed in the room. The children also love the various toys - jigsaws, construction, sand and water, and the house corner.

Physical play is very important both indoors and out and we make full use of our outdoor play area. We have a variety of outdoor equipment such as bikes, scooters, balls, climbing frames and play houses. Trips to the local park are very popular and in Autumn we gather leaves, twigs and acorns for our nature table.



During the summer we made great use of our nursery bus and had some super trips to various places for example– the zoo, cinema, library, farm, Mookie World, Funky Monkeys and IndianaLand. Children and staff all enjoyed these immensely!

The Junior Playgroup continues to provide a great environment for the children in which they can learn and interact with others. The staff have excellent relationships with parents, carers and family members and that helps to ensure that each child's individual needs are met.

I would like to thank all the staff for their continuous hard work and support throughout the year and also the parents / carers for their support also. We hope that next year will be as successful and enjoyable as this one.

Nuala Heaney
Supervisor

SENIOR PLAYGROUP

It has been another busy year for the Senior Playgroup with the numbers growing steadily over the months. This room is used as a stepping stone for the Pre-School by encouraging independence, introducing rules and routines, personal choices and involvement in all areas of play. We have observed that the transition to Pre-School is easier for the children who have been in our room.



We base our activities around the six areas of learning and each child can progress through play at their own level of development. The children have continued to work hard at all the activities on offer and take great pleasure in displaying their work around the room. We were fortunate to have a great summer this year and we really enjoyed our wonderful garden for picnics and story telling. Our outside play area has lots of equipment such as a playhouse, climbing frames, see saw and beams.



Also during the summer, we had some super trips to Mookie World, Indiana Land, the Zoo, W5, the cinema and the farm. Both children and staff thoroughly enjoyed these outings! We also enjoyed a cross community fun day at The Pitch & Mitch play park.

The children continue to partake in the 1-2-3 dental programme. They really love the stories and the puppets which the dentist brings along.

We had another great Social Services inspection this year and we continue to receive good reports and feedback from parents.

I would like to say thanks to all the staff for their continued hard work throughout the year, and also to the parents for their support.

**Tracey Massey
Senior Supervisor**

PRE-SCHOOL REPORT

There are sixteen children in Pre-school along with myself Muriel Dalzell Senior Supervisor, Lynsey McCormick Deputy Supervisor (who has just returned from maternity leave) and Janine McKillion childcare assistant. We also had the assistance of a German volunteer Martha, who was with us until July 2014.

Every day our activities are based around the six areas of the pre-school curriculum. These are:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Language development
- Early mathematical experiences
- Physical development and movement
- The world around us
- The arts

The children are regularly monitored on their development and parents are kept up to date on their child's progress. We do this through three written reports during the year, open days and of course parents are welcome to have a chat at any time.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed lots of outings and fun-filled activities. For example we have been to W5, Indiana Land, the museum, Mookie World and the farm. We were also very fortunate to have been invited to Christmas shows which were held in local primary schools. Throughout the year we had some very exciting visits to our Pre school from the Fire Brigade the PSNI and the dentist.

Our Graduation Day was held in June and was very successful. The children and their parents had a great time! We would like to thank Mr Kevin McGlennon for presenting the children with their certificates.



The annual Social Services inspection took place in April. This went extremely well and we received an excellent follow up report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work and the parents for their continued support throughout the year.

Muriel Dalzell
Senior Supervisor

OUT OF SCHOOLS REPORT

The Out of School staff consists of myself Muriel Dalzell Senior Supervisor, Lynsey McCormick Deputy Supervisor and Janine McKillion childcare assistant. Throughout the year we have had the assistance of students and also a german volunteer.

Every year some of our older children leave and move on to secondary school and we wish all of them the very best for the future. New children have joined our group and have all settled really well.

Out of Schools offers a variety of activities such as arts and crafts, cookery, games and trips out. We also help with homework and provide the children with a healthy snack. We are lucky to have separate rooms for homework, arts and crafts and games.

Each room is very well used. The children have great fun creating wonderful works of art which are displayed around the rooms. They also love our outside play area which has a great selection of equipment.

During our seven week summer programme we had some great trips out to the zoo, Superbowl, W5, Funworks, Museum and Botanic Gardens. The scheme was extremely well attended and everyone had a wonderful time.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work and support throughout the year.

**Muriel Dalzell
Senior Supervisor**

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The environmental team has worked very hard this year in maintaining the centre and its grounds to a very high standard as well as working out in the community grass cutting.



Gardens to the rear of the centre and car park to the side have been well tended to through-out the year. Play areas for the various age groups have been fenced off and during the summer months, the children spent many happy hours in the gardens.



From May through to October, myself and Sammy cut in excess of 50 gardens within our local community for a nominal charge to cover the cost of petrol for the lawnmowers and some small repair jobs.

We have carried out painting jobs in the centre and helped put together various pieces of furniture and equipment.

Sammy and Crawford both work tirelessly in completely the many jobs that need done, such as fixing fences, growing vegetables, power hosing, unblocking sinks, clearing gutters, repairing and putting up furniture, the list is endless.... I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and dedication in helping to make this a very successful year for our team. I also wish the team every success in their recent application to Belfast City Council for an environmental award for our garden.

Roy Brawley
Environmental Supervisor

