

**WISHING WELL FAMILY CENTRE
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**ANNUAL REPORT
NOVEMBER 2015 – OCTOBER 2016**

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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, 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 Dept For Communities, Belfast City Council, Education Authority, and the Belfast Trust. We employ 32 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.



WHO'S WHO

Directors / Management Board	Staff Continued	Students
Kevin McGlennon Chairperson / Director	Charlene Skillen Childcare Assistant	Rachel McCann Girls' Model
Stephen Dobbin Director	Nicole Hallam Childcare Assistant	Laura McCalmont Girls' Model
Sam Burns Company Secretary / Director	Kirsty Begley Childcare Assistant	Jodie McDowell Girls' Model
Keith Johnston Vice Chairman / Director		Annie Acheson Girls' Model
Roy Brawley Committee Member		Courtney Magee Little Flower
Tracey Hutchinson Manager	Volunteers	Lynsey Hamilton Little Flower
Catherine Ferguson Deputy Manager	Roy Brawley Environmental	Maureen Gouldie Mercy College
Sinead Maguire Committee Member	Sam Rooney Environmental	Serena Engeien Mercy College
	Crawford Chambers Environmental	Emma Donnelly Mercy College
Staff	Andrew Stewart Environmental	
Tracey Hutchinson Manager	Kirsty Begley Childcare	
Catherine Ferguson Deputy Manager	Placements	
Karen B Johnston Early Years Supervisor	Paula Finn Workforce	
Muriel Dalzell Senior Supervisor	Anna Lee McAleenan Bryson	Advisors
Lynsey McCormick Natasha Gibson Deputy Supervisor	Erin McCrudden Stranmillis	Finnegan Gibson Accounts
Laura Burns Supervisor	Leah McNeice Stranmillis	Ann Marie Hartigan Social Services
Louise Williams Childcare Assistant	Leanne Allsopp Jordanstown	Ursula Maginn Early Years
Tracey Massey Senior Supervisor		Goody Solutions First Aid
Sharlene Foster Deputy Supervisor		Tutors
Megan Hale Supervisor		Workforce
Sinead Keenan Supervisor		Early Years
Nuala Heaney Supervisor		Tutorcare
Anita Montgomery Childcare Assistant		Ashton Centre
Carly Bingham Deputy Supervisor		
Kerry Douglas Deputy Supervisor		

WHO'S WHO CONTINUED

<u>Sure Start Secondments</u>		
Sinead Keenan Childcare Assistant	Aimee Watts Early Years Development Worker	
Kathleen Ingham Childcare Assistant	Joy Graham Childcare Assistant	
Caroline Donnelly Childcare Assistant	Tracey Toal Childcare Assistant	
Bronagh Donnelly Childcare Assistant	Lisa McCormick Childcare Assistant	
Janine Swindell Childcare Assistant	Paula Morrow Childcare Assistant	
Brieger Owens Childcare Assistant		
Anne Curley Childcare Assistant		
Mairead McGuire Childcare Assistant		
Elizabeth Davey Childcare Assistant		

Achievements and Performance

- In March 2016, secured a grant from Department of Social Development for £49,351.45 to manage the centre through the Neighbourhood Renewal Implementation Project for one year.
- Successful in receiving grants from Belfast City Council, Department of Education, Northern Ireland Health & Social Services Board and Department of Health & Social Services for a variety of capital ventures and revenue costs.
- In March 2016 we had a very successful inspection from Social Services on Quality of Care.
- All staff have completed training in 1st Aid, Child Protection, Risk Assessment, Health & Safety, Fire Warden and Food Hygiene.
- Links with Glenbrook Sure Start, Smile and Outer West Sure Start have resulted in Service Level Agreements for both the day care and the secondment of staff. The centre has facilitated Sure Start in Multicultural Breakfast, Speech and Language, Weaning in the First Year, Baby Yoga and provided a room for their LAD Crèche.
- The centre has had a very successful summer programme with trips and activities every day for nine weeks over July and August.
- A mother and toddler group has been set up with funding from IFI. Very successful to date.
- Open days and the Graduation Ceremony in June 2016 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 policies and procedures are updated continually in collaboration with staff and management.
- Our Constitution has been updated and adopted by the Committee.
- Extension work has begun and construction is due to start November 2016.
- Employ 32 local people and manage numerous students and volunteers.

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**
- **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**
- **Sensory Room**
- **Garden Area**
- **Preschool area (can accommodate 24 children 3-5 years old)**
- **Out of School Club (can accommodate 24 children 5-11 years old)**

BABY ROOM REPORT

This has been yet another busy and exciting year in the baby room. The room is registered for four babies (six weeks to one year) and throughout the year we have welcomed new babies as others have moved into the Toddler room. Two of our colleagues – Nicole and Louise also joined us and everyone has settled in really well!

Our room is very colourful and bright with lots of wooden toys and our treasure baskets are full of natural materials which the babies love to play with. In the room we also have a black and white themed corner which is very popular. All our toys and equipment are ideal for sensory play and development.



We continue to have a routine for the day to day running of the room whilst catering for each child's individual needs. Throughout the months we have had a variety of themes – for example transport, animals, the seasons, Easter, Halloween and Christmas. Our favourite theme however was 'All About Me'. We displayed photos and self portraits along with hand and footprint pictures. Messy play and water play are also very popular in the room and this year we tried some new ideas for example using shaving foam and spaghetti. The spaghetti was a firm favourite as it is very baby friendly with a great texture. We then used the results of this to make super pictures and displays. All our daily routines and plans can be seen on our noticeboard outside the room.

We had several exciting trips out over the year - Funky Monkeys, the farm and the Zoo – the favourite being the farm. These trips are very beneficial for the babies in their physical and social development. The babies all love travelling on the bus and get very excited.

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

It has been yet another exciting year in the toddler room. There is a maximum of eight places on a daily basis in the room and the age range is twelve to twenty two months. 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 lots of our crafts and artwork on display. The children enjoy craft activities – especially if using paint! All our toys and equipment help the children in their various stages of development. Our treasure baskets are full of natural materials and we have added some sensory bottles - these are all ideal for sensory play. Our the room is also arranged in such a way to define each area – house and book corners, along with small world, construction, sensory and floor play areas. Our book corner is very cosy with a duvet, pillows and teddies where the children can enjoy some ‘me time’.



We have 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 the month of October our theme would be ‘Halloween/Autumn’, our colours orange/black and the shape a crescent. All our arts and crafts are displayed around the room and all link into our daily routine. The monthly plans and daily timetable are on display outside the room.

During the summer we had some super trips out to the farm, the Zoo, Stormont Park and Funky Monkeys. The children really enjoyed these experiences especially the farm.

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. We also enjoy nature walks around our garden especially in Autumn to collect leaves for our Autumn display.

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 another very busy and productive year in Junior Playgroup. All the children including new starts have settled in extremely well. We have sixteen places available on a daily basis with children aged between 1 year 10 months and 2 years 10 months.

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.

Our room is very bright and colourful with lots on offer for the children to do. They love arts and crafts and these are displayed around the room for all to see. The children also enjoy table top toys, as well as jigsaws, sand and water, the house corner and construction.



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

During the summer we had some super trips to various places for example– the zoo, cinema, library, farm, Funky Monkeys and Indiana Land. Children and staff all enjoyed these immensely!

On special occasions such as Christmas and Easter the children had great fun making and decorating shortbread, buns and treats. Cooking activities are always very popular.

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 and students for their continuous hard work and support throughout the year and the parents / carers for their support also. We hope that next year will be as successful and rewarding as this one.

**Nuala Heaney
Supervisor**

SENIOR PLAYGROUP

This room continues to be used as a stepping stone for the Pre-School. We do this 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 are always very busy and continue to work hard at all the activities on offer. The staff and children take great pleasure in displaying their beautiful arts and crafts around the room and showing them to parents and carers. Our daily and monthly plans are displayed on our noticeboard outside the room.

As usual we made great use of our beautiful garden for picnics, storytelling and gathering leaves in autumn for our autumn display. Our outside play area also has an excellent range of equipment such as a playhouse, climbing frames, see saw and beams. The children are able to have great fun using this equipment as well as having lots of outdoor exercise.



During the summer, we had some super trips to Stormont Park, the Zoo, W5, the cinema and the farm. Both children and staff thoroughly enjoyed these outings! We were also delighted to take part in several sessions of Jo Jingles and enjoyed a visit from Zoolab.

We have continued to partake in the 1-2-3 dental programme. The children 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 our parents for their continued support.

Tracey Massey
Senior Supervisor

PRE-SCHOOL REPORT

The Pre-school setting prepares the children for their transition to primary school. We have sixteen places and these are all filled.

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, and the farm. We were also very fortunate to have been invited to Christmas shows which were held in local primary schools. This year we have enjoyed 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 McGlenon for presenting the children with their certificates.

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
Supervisor**

OUT OF SCHOOLS REPORT

Out of Schools is a fun exciting place for the children to attend after school. It provides fun, relaxation and learning through a variety of activities and play. These activities include arts and crafts, cookery, physical play, games and trips out. These are all designed to help the children in their development, promote creativity and build social skills. We also allow the children the opportunity to do their homework and help them by offering guidance, encouragement and support.



We are very lucky to have separate rooms for each of these activities and each room is very well used. The children have great fun creating wonderful works of art which are displayed around the rooms. This creates a happy and colourful environment. They also love our outside play area which has a great selection of equipment.

During our nine week summer programme we had some great trips out to the Zoo, Superbowl, W5, Funworks, Museum and Aunt Sandra's Factory. The scheme was extremely well attended and everyone had a wonderful time.



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.

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

**Sinead Keenan
Supervisor**

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The volunteer 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 August, myself, Sammy and Andy cut 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, Crawford and Andy work tirelessly in completing the many jobs that need done, such as fixing fences, growing vegetables, power hosing, unblocking sinks, clearing gutters, repairing and putting up furniture, driving our mini bus - 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

Roy Brawley
Environmental Supervisor

