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**REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1167972**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31.03.17**

# Current Trustees

James Hempsall – Chair

Jo Chapman – Treasurer

Ros Moseley – Secretary

# Organisational structure, governance and management

Children’s Centre Leader is Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by a foundation constitution. Our trustees are selected by individual skills, knowledge and experience needed for effective administration of the CIO. Every trustee is appointed for a term of three years, by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the trustees

**Objectives**

The objects of the Charity are:

* Promoting Education
* Promoting parental involvement in Children’s Centres
* Promoting health, wellbeing and safety in Children’s Centres
* Providing services to support Children’s Centre leaders, families and carers who access services
* Supporting and education those in poverty or suffering economic or social disadvantage

Our trustees have regard for the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

# Achievements and Performance

During the time up to 31st March 2017 we have produced two on line journals, with 10 professionals voluntarily contributing written articles to these journals including:

* Sarah Cousins from Warwick University,
* Professor Tony Bertrum from the Centre for Research in Early Childhood
* Dr Caroline Jones from Warwick University
* Pauline Hoare from Tower Hamlets local authority

Articles during the period ending 31st March 2017 have included:

* Is Love Important in the Early Years?,
* High Achieving White Working Class Boys,
* Reflective Practices for Early Years and In Partnership for Families.

One example of a key article was produced in February 2017, when our journal included an article on Think Family 2020 – Waltham Forest discussed how they have embarked on a major transformation with children’s centres to offer more services for families and have changed the name to Children and Family Centres. The new look Children and Family Centres are part of the ‘Think Family 2020’ vision which is about helping residents to help themselves and each other by building resilience, independence and strengthening relationships with families in the wider community.

All the articles are topical and supportive for the ongoing continuous professional development of children’s centre workers, giving them access to range of early years professionals, information, knowledge and practical ideas at their fingertips through our on line journal, thus leading to a better quality future for children and families by promoting education, parental involvement, health, wellbeing, safety, providing support to children’s centre leaders and the families and carers who access them.

In March 2017 our journal had 2032 subscribers and we are anticipating this will increase by 50% or more by March 2018.

In September 2016 we started the application for a bank account and was approved for a Co-operative Community account in January 2017.

**Future plans**

During 2017 - 8, we will be:

* Undertaking the development of policies and procedures for Children’s Centre Leader.
* Apply for funding to support the development of the on-line journal and developing the website
* We will continue to source volunteers to write suitable articles for our journal

# Financial review

The trustees have set a reserves policy which requires:

* Reserves be maintained at a level which ensures that Children’s Centre Leader’s core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty.
* A proportion of reserves be maintained in a readily realisable form.

The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the organisation's planning, budget and forecast cycle.

It takes into account:

* Risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted
* Planned activity level
* Organisation's commitments