



High quality out-of-school care in  
A rural setting

# **Trustee Report**

## **2023-2024**

## Our purpose

Heriot Country Kids was set up in 2019 by a group of parents, with the aim of providing the best out of school care for the children in the Heriot community, and surrounding communities. We do this by:

- providing a safe, caring and stimulating environment for the children attending the group
- ensuring that a wide variety of activities are available
- employing staff and supporting them in their training and development
- raising the profile of the group within the community and surrounding area
- encouraging other charitable activities through which local families can support the development of children and raise money for Heriot Country Kids

## Who we help

We currently have 18 children attending afterschool club on a regular basis, with additional ad hoc bookings.

Regular booked sessions are currently at around 28 per week.

We employ 2 permanent staff members and have 4 who can support on a casual basis.

Through 2023/24 we have been extremely fortunate to be running Easter and summer holiday with the license allowing us to operate outside term time. 14 children attended our one-week Easter club with 21 attending our summer holiday club over the course of three weeks.

We have been granted a variance license from the care inspectorate and now all conditions are removed. This now enables the service to operate on bank/local holidays, strike days etc to meet the needs of the families who use Heriot Country Kids.

We continue to promote Heriot Country Kids via email, social media and the school parents WhatsApp group.

Families in Heriot and Fountainhall predominantly use the club, along with a few children from Stow and Middleton- connecting our children across these neighbouring villages.

## Feedback from families we help

"I am so thankful to have access to Heriot after school club and the opportunities it provides. After school club is the highlight of my sons week, giving him the opportunities to play with his friends in a safe and caring environment. My son is disabled and I feel relaxed leaving my son in the care of the staff team as they have gone above and beyond to ensure they know my sons needs, adapted to any changes and give great feedback at the end of sessions. The staff team are always attentive to his needs during sessions, which is so important so that he can feel included with his peers and be able to socialise and have fun. My son asks everyday if it's 'after School club day' and is very excited about attending his first holiday club over the Easter."

"My son loves attending after-school club at Heriot. The staff are friendly and welcoming and provide interesting and engaging activities to keep the kids occupied, happy and settled whenever they attend."

"We rely heavily on the Heriot Country Kids Afterschool Club and Holiday Clubs, as it offers top quality, affordable childcare with a helpful number of hours provision, in a rural area. Other options are not convenient to get to, more expensive, and hours offered are limited, therefore not fitting with most people's working patterns."

"The team running the club are real professionals, putting together engaging activities while always ensuring safety. They have personal knowledge of all the children attending. Our child has a serious food allergy and this club is one of few places we can feel comfortable sending him, thanks to the dedication of the staff team."

## What we did in 2023-2024

A new committee was elected in August 2023 with all the previous committee standing down.

In December 2023 we recruited for the manager position and successfully promoted one of your current playworks to this position. [REDACTED] took on this role after completing her national qualification. [REDACTED] moved on from us in February 2024 and we again recruited locally for a new playworker. [REDACTED] joined our team in April 2024.

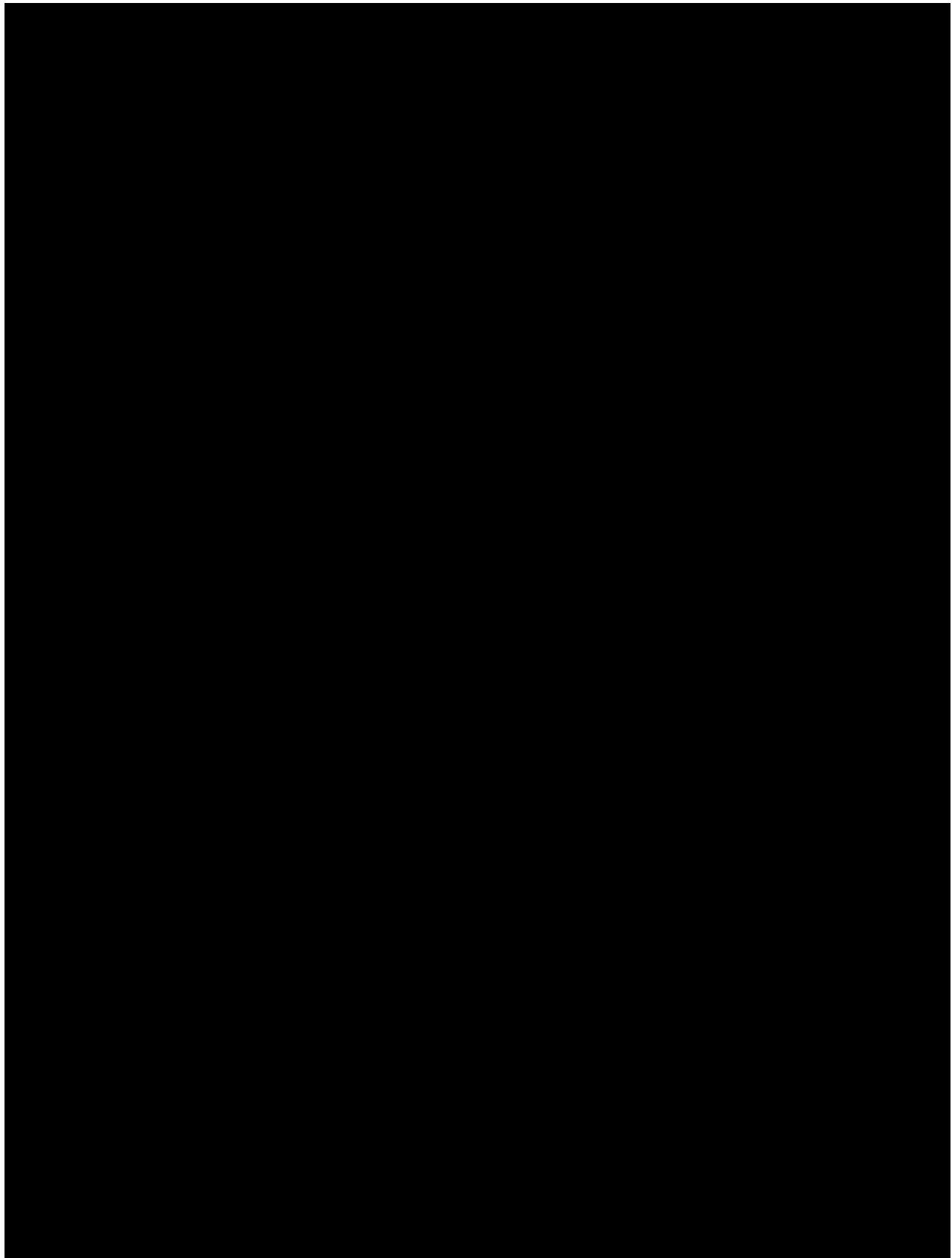
With the appointment of a new manager, [REDACTED] was relieved from her role as peripatetic manager.

On April 18th, 2024 we had an unexpected Care Inspectorate visit. Our staff did an excellent job of showcasing our day to day running of the club even though our new member of staff had only started that week. We received an overall score of Good with a Very Good in Nurturing Care & Support. The Care Inspectorate was also able to offer helpful advice for the staff moving forward.

### **Funding**

As a small rural facility, our setting is not self-sustaining via user fees. 2023/2024 was year 2 of the Greencoat Carcant Community Fund, a three year funding agreement. We were also granted several small community micro grants for various outings throughout the year including mini bus transport and snack funding during holiday clubs. Asda also kindly supplied us with food for snacks.

We continued to be supported in kind by Heriot Primary School and Scottish Borders Council, who again permitted us to use their facility for afterschool club - our continued thanks go to them.



## **What we achieved**

- We continue to get positive feedback from club users, retaining our staff team and providing a stable, nurturing environment for our children.
- In a challenging time for childcare services, when many settings are struggling amid the cost-of-living crisis, we've performed well this year and maintained our position.
- Both playworkers finished their Level 7 training at the end of 2023, funded via the local council at Borders College.
- We hosted our annual Heriot Community Bonfire Night again which raised much needed funds for Heriot Country Kids. This is always a very successful event and is well attended by the local communities.
- We were fortunate to have a local karate instructor volunteer his time to offer some karate sessions, these were well received by both children and parents.

## **The difference we made**

Our club is important to the children themselves - it's a place where they spend time with friends and make new ones, have fun and have time to relax in a space where they feel safe and nurtured.

It's crucial to families, in a location where there is no viable alternative wraparound care - and ever more so as we enter a cost-of-living crisis which means that families need to keep being able to do their jobs.

It contributes to the viability of Heriot Primary School, and the sustainability of the wider Heriot community.

**Thank you for reading our Trustee Report for the year 2023-2024 and for your support of Heriot Country Kids.**



Date 21.04.2025

## Heriot Country Kids

Statement of Receipts and Payments for period 13 August 2023 to 31 July 2024  
and Statement of Balances as at 31 July 2024

<b>Opening Balances @ 13 August 2023</b>	
Current Account	27,668.97
Savings Account	30.09
<b>Balances in Bank @ 13 August 2023</b>	<b>27,699.06</b>
Less Payroll Liabilities	
<b>Net Assets Opening Balance @ 13/8/23</b>	<b>27,699.06</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
Fees	12,640.59
Fundraising/Donations/Grants	11,487.42
Bank Interest	0.43
Other Income	37.47
<b>Total Income during the Financial Year</b>	<b>24,165.91</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	
Staff Costs	27,665.38
Other Professional Services	3,545.00
Activities/Equipment	765.12
Office / General Admin	421.50
Fundraising	386.01
Snack	743.71
Phone/Media	117.28
Insurances	803.20
Subscriptions	673.48
Travel & Accommodation	
<b>Total Expenditure during Financial Year</b>	<b>35,120.68</b>
<b>Surplus / (deficit) during the Financial Year</b>	<b>(10,954.77)</b>
<b>Calculated Closing Balance @ 31 July 2024</b>	<b>16,744.29</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>	
Current Account Balance @ July 2024	16,713.77
Savings Account Balance @ 31 July 2024	30.52
<b>Total at Bank</b>	<b>16,744.29</b>
Payroll Liabilities @ 31 July 2024	(1,810.74)
<b>Net Assets @ 31 July 2024</b>	<b>14,933.55</b>

Heriot Country Kids was formed as an SCIO on the 19th November 2013.

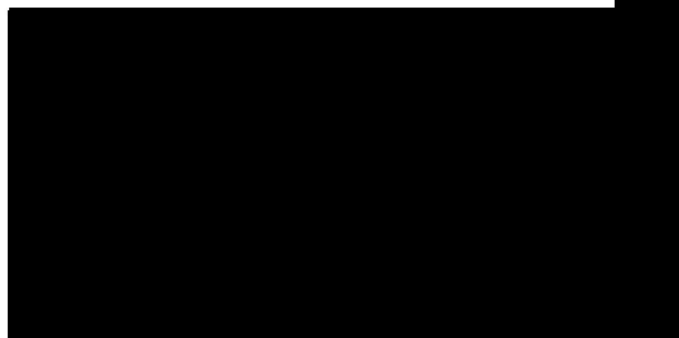
### Trustee Remuneration

No remuneration was paid to a Charity Trustee or anyone connected to a Charity Trustee.

### Transactions with Trustees and Connected Persons

During the year various payments were made by Trustees or Connected Persons and re-imbursed by bank transfer, these are detailed below;

1	14-Aug-2023	£13.05		snack 2022
2	14-Aug-2023	£227.69		equipment
3	14-Aug-2023	£26.48		equipment
4	9-Oct-2023	£95.27		bonfire supplies
5	18-Oct-2023	£60.11		bonfire supplies
6	3-Nov-2023	£212.95		bonfire supplies
7	3-Nov-2023	£12.00		stationary
8	27-Nov-2023	£17.68		bonfire supplies
9	27-Nov-2023	£9.50		staff gifts
10	27-Nov-2023	£33.47		activities
11	27-Dec-2023	£35.00		sssc registration
12	27-Dec-2023	£38.00		staff christmas gifts
13	26-Jan-2024	£80.00		staff christmas gifts
14	27-Mar-2024	£27.72		equipment
15	25-Jun-2024	£12.18		stationary
16	8-Jul-2024	£60.00		staff end of year gifts
17	8-Jul-2024	£105.00		staff training



**To whom it may concern the accounts were completed on: 04.05.2025**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Heriot Country Kids**

**I report on the accounts of the charity for the period 13 August 2023 to 31 July 2024.**

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

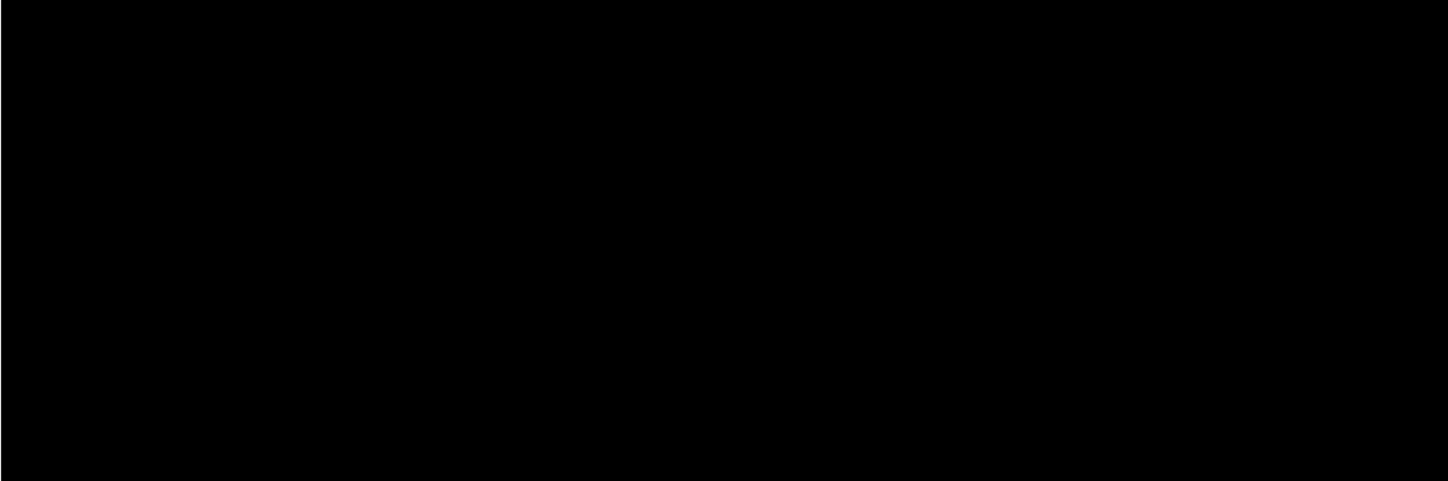
The charity trustees are responsible for preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulation 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44 (1) (c) of the Act and to state whether matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement**

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiners statement**

**During my examination, no matter has come to my attention that gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:**

- To keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 (1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations.
  - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met.
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### Trustee Expenses

No expenses were paid to Charity Trustees

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