



**Nunsmoor** Centre Trust  
a place for our community

**Nunsmoor Centre Trust  
Annual Report  
October 2015 – 2016**



Registered Charity No: 1148020

Company No: 07928591

## Trustees who have served on the Board for the past year

Chairperson:	Alyson Hampshire	
Board Members:	Wajid Hussain	Vice Chairperson (Oct 2015 - June 2016)
	Liz Turnbull	Vice Chairperson (June 2016 – Oct 2016)
	Simon McIntosh	Company Secretary
	Lukasz Goszkowski	Treasurer (Oct 2015 – Mar 31 <sup>st</sup> '16)
	Margaret Mabbutt	Treasurer (Apr 1 <sup>st</sup> – Oct 2016)
	Ann Byers Brian Graham	
Ward Committee Rep:	Cllr Nigel Todd	

***Many thanks to all the trustees for their input, hard work and commitment to the work of the Trust.***

Volunteers:	Robin Turnbull Susie Leech Neil Joyce Erin Emmerson Kyle Emmerson
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***Our thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers for their enthusiasm, help and support during the past year.***

***Sincere thanks to the Service Manager Early Help and Family Support, the Community Family Hub Lead (West), the Integrated Early Childhood Services Practice Leads and all of the Community Family Hub Team, the Administration staff and the Caretaker for working in partnership with us, within the centre, during the past year.***

# **Nunsmoor Centre Trust**

## **Annual Report**

### **October 2015 – 2016**

***“For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed”***  
**Kahlil Gibran – The Prophet.**

This quote, taken from ‘The Prophet’ by Kahlil Gibran, is a reminder that often what seem like quite small things, in our lives, can actually have hugely positive affects - the small acts of kindness we meet along the way, the warm welcome, the making of time to provide a listening ear, compassion, a smile. These are all examples of seemingly little things which make an enormous difference to each of us and our daily lives. The Trust believes wholeheartedly that the way we interact with children, young people, families, individuals, partners and organisations on a daily basis, and the difference that can make to each of them, is of paramount importance in its work.

It has been another busy and productive year for the Trust. As a team we have worked hard to meet the challenges of the year as they have arisen, listening to the views of the community we serve and making changes in line with the growing need.

The further enormous budget constraints upon Newcastle City Council have meant that those of us within the voluntary sector remain under pressure to increase the service that we offer. Funding to support our work is generally less abundant and decisions regarding what projects and activities we can provide have had to be carefully considered and difficult choices made.

As with many other organisations in these challenging financial times we strive to increase the amount of partnership work that we undertake, in this way providing a good service, meeting more of the identified community need and making the best use of limited finances. Activities this year have included:

- Managing the NCC’s ACCESS Fund for children with additional needs and disabilities
- English Conversation Classes with crèche provision (working with NUSU Go Volunteer and the Angelou Centre)
- Parent and Toddler Group
- Toy Library
- Environmental activities
- Summer and Winter festivals
- Partnership work to provide activities and projects (i.e. The Millin Centre)

- Work with Greening Wingrove
- Arts and Crafts Club (Working with NUSU Go Volunteer)
- Summer Weekend Play Area Project
- Activities, projects and events for children and families i.e. film nights
- Supporting other agencies booking the venue
- Consultations
- Fundraising
- Work to secure the longer term use of the centre for the local community

We continue to work, where possible, with our colleagues from the Community Family Hub Team who strive to deliver the Sure Start programme in line with the Council's amended approach to delivery within the city. We fully appreciate that the changes have been difficult both for the families who were entitled to access a full service, prior to April 2015, and for the staff who strive to deliver as full a service as is possible within the constraints placed upon them. We continue to have concern regarding the effects that the implemented changes have on the community and are monitoring ongoing issues which are highlighted and fed back to us through consultation.

The Trust firmly believes in a proactive approach to working with children and young people. One of the challenges of this past year has been to find new ways to provide activities and projects, identified through consultation with the community, for our children and young people.

The Trust continues to provide a Parent and Toddler Group every Thursday morning during term time. Two of the trustees, Margaret Mabbutt and Ann Byers, facilitate the group which is proving to be very successful. It now has 92 babies and children on the register. Parents are encouraged to take ownership of their group and to input into the activities. Sincere thanks to Margaret and Ann for their hard work and commitment. (See additional paper attached) Sincere thanks to NAPI for their ongoing support of this group.

We were extremely grateful to receive a substantial amount of new stock for our Toy Library, donated to us when Newcastle Toy Library (based at Hadrian School) closed after forty one years. The Trustees were both saddened and concerned to see the closure of this longstanding organisation. We have redoubled our efforts to ensure inclusive working and to welcome children of all abilities to access our services. The Toy Library has been run alongside the Parent and Toddler Group each week for families to access and enjoy. We hope that parents may volunteer to help with the Toy Library undertaking tasks

such as cleaning and checking toys and maintaining the loan service register as they become more involved.

The work to strengthen a longer term agreement with the council regarding joint use of the centre continues. A joint Working Group made up of both NCC officers and NCT trustees has met on a monthly basis. We have been joined by Graeme Williams from Centre West as a Consultant for the Trust and Councillor Joyce McCarty, Deputy leader of the Council who, as a Wingrove Ward Councillor has a keen interest in ensuring that the centre is fully accessible to the community and remains so in the longer term future.

The Joint Working Group has worked to find a suitable Booking System which works for both NCC day time bookings and NCT evening and weekend bookings. This has been achieved and is now working well. The group has also helped to ensure that WIFI is now available within the building which is beneficial to all organisations and groups booking the centre as well as the Trust for their day to day work. Two computers have now been provided in the reception area by NCC for community access.

The Group has also looked at ways to improve communication and to ensure that everyone working within the centre is kept '*in the loop*' Work is ongoing with Emily Sweetman to plan two half day 'Away Days' when staff and trustees will come together to share information of their work, and roles, and look at the future of the centre and ways of maximising its potential for the community. The possibility of working together to facilitate an event next summer to celebrate '*A Decade of Diversity*' is being explored.

It is hoped that the Trust will gain a license from Newcastle City Council as a step forward from the current Partnership Agreement. There is much work to do for the Trust but it may well be that at some time in the future, due to the City Council's budget constraints, the Trust may need to be in a position to take on the running of the building. At present we don't know what the future will hold but we need to be in a position to safeguard the future of the building for the community if that need arises.

The Trust increased the number of 'key holders' for the building which has given us more freedom around community bookings. We recruited two new key holders, Rachael Hales and Sunnie Mann, working on a self-employed basis. This has eased the burden on our two trustee key holders. Una Bradley has continued as our Bookings Officer. We sincerely thank her for her help, order and support. We hope that we will be able to increase community usage of the building which is an identified need, and a priority, for the Trust.

We are aware that there may be further changes in the months to come which, as yet, are not clear. April 2017 will see further budget cuts which the City Council will need to impose. As yet we do not know if they will further impact on the centre but the Trust will need to be ready to meet whatever challenges lie ahead.

It became obvious that the Trust's capacity to raise sufficient funding for all it was being asked to provide was restricted due to Trustees' limited available time to dedicate to submitting funding applications. A decision was eventually taken, by the Board, to engage the services of Steve Padden Consultancy to assist with the completion and submission of funding applications for identified activities and projects to further enable development of our work. A sincere thank you to the Schofield Trust for awarding the Trust a grant to provide outdoor play and sports equipment.

We have also begun work with the Cranfield Trust to ensure that we have a robust Business Plan in place, going forward, which takes into account the scenarios which may arise, regarding the future of the centre, and how we can rise to meet possible future challenges ahead. Alongside this we have planned a team workshop working with the facilitator, Emily Sweetman, to ensure that we have a very clear Trust vision regarding the way forward in the future.

The Trust has been keen to support the work of Greening Wingrove with a number of events and activities being delivered from Nunsmoor Centre. The Summer Food Festival was a particularly successful event which we were delighted to be part of. Hundreds of people supported the day which provided a wide range of activities, cuisine and information delivered by numerous organisations. Our vision for the future is that, amongst other things, the centre will be seen as a 'green hub' for the community.

We were delighted to welcome the Millin Centre to hold a Women's Enterprise Market at the centre again. This was another memorable event which was really successful. It was inspiring to see women developing their ideas, skills and crafts into businesses and to be a small part of helping the women reach their potential. We look forward to further planned partnership work.

Last December we were pleased to provide the film '*Minions*' for the children, and parents, prior to the Christmas holiday period. Everyone attending enjoyed the event. Many of the children arrived dressed as characters from the film. The hall was a buzz 'with excitement with lots of 'joining in!' This was again a change to earlier years of the Trust's work when we provided pantomimes. This was a difficult decision taken but the trustees felt that the very large cost of the pantomimes, on balance, could be used to facilitate

longer term projects and activities for the community. It was agreed that we needed to provide activities which demonstrated better value for money with longer term outcomes. It is never easy to take decisions which we know will disappoint some members of the community but, hopefully, by providing other activities which are able to be maintained over a longer period of time more benefits for the community will be realised.

We were delighted to be the lead organisation for the Winter Festival held at the centre. Parks and Countryside, Greening Wingrove CIC, The Time Exchange, The CHAT Trust, NUSU Go Volunteer, The Millin Centre, 'Artist in Residence' and FAR all joined us to provide a wonderful event. Jean Calvert, a local arts and crafts facilitator also joined us working with attendees to make beautiful fresh evergreen wreaths to adorn front doors over the festive season. The event was very well supported with the building reaching its maximum capacity and the marquee and outside space full. In all over three hundred people attended the event. We were pleased that MP Chi Onwurah, along with our local councillors, was able to join us and to support the event. To say that it was a privilege to be part of such a joyous event is an understatement. The day culminated in a visit from Santa and, in the fading late afternoon light, the switching on of the Christmas tree lights.

A decision was taken, by the Trust, to enable the opening of the Play Area at weekends during the three month summer period this year. This was in response to the six week Summer School Holiday Project undertaken last year and following the consultation and feedback regarding this project, from the community. This involved finding two self- employed Play Rangers to man the play area every weekend. In the end we needed to engage three Play Rangers to be able to cover the three month period with two Play Rangers on site at all time. The project was extremely successful. Children from over thirty different ethnic backgrounds attended. Numbers for the three month period topped eight hundred children of all abilities.

It was extremely rewarding to be able to welcome children with additional needs and to be able to ensure a positive and inclusive environment for children, young people and families to share time and a safe play space. Feedback and evaluation have both been very positive and will help to shape our forward planning. Sincere thanks to Mary Ashley, Berta Matillo and Joyce Watson for their hard work over the summer weekends. They did an absolutely excellent job. – Separate report attached.

The Trust is most grateful to Centre West and the staff for their help and support. We have been most grateful to Graeme Williams for his ongoing help and support in advising the Trust with regard to their Business Plan and future

working. The work and advice is ongoing. It is likely that the journey we are undertaking will see the Trust continuing to meet with Graeme, in an advisory capacity, in the forthcoming year.

Our work facilitating the distribution of the ACCESS Fund has continued. (£47,500 in the year October 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 – September 30<sup>th</sup> 2016) Brian Graham has again taken the post of Grants' Officer, undertaking a great deal of work and doing a wonderful job. I have again chaired the Access Fund Panel which has met regularly. Panel members are most conscientious and extremely committed to their role of distributing the fund. We are grateful for all their input and hard work. It is a huge privilege to be asked to undertake this work. We held a wonderful Celebration Event at the centre in September. Thanks to all the panel members, staff, organisations, trustees and volunteers who helped to make it the wonderful event it was.

The Trust's contract with the Council has been extended for a further six month period until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017. We are hopeful that despite the constraints on Newcastle City Council's budget that funding will be available for the financial year April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2018 in view of the fact that the ACCESS Fund has been so highly regarded by parents, and has produced good outputs to be able to feedback to Newcastle City Council. The Trust considers this work of high priority and would welcome a further contract to facilitate the Access Fund from April 2017 if offered it by Newcastle City Council. - A separate short report is attached and a full Access Fund Report 2015 - 16 is available upon request.

The Trust has continued to provide English Conversation Classes, in response to community need. We have worked, in partnership, again, with NUSU Go Volunteer to provide this service. Crèche workers from the Angelou Centre have provided good quality provision. The classes have been so well attended that a decision was taken to provide a second class each week on a Thursday, but without a crèche facility. The feedback has been again extremely positive. We will work in partnership, with NUSU Go Volunteer, to continue to provide this resource for the community. Our thanks to Phil Hays, Volunteer Coordinator, at NUSU Go Volunteer and to all the students who volunteer for this project. We are really pleased that the students won two Community Awards for their work on this project. Well done to them all.

We have also worked with NUSU – Go Volunteer to set up an Arts and Crafts Club for children in the 8 – 12 year age range each Friday after school. The children who have been involved thoroughly enjoy the activities which have been wide ranging and varied, using all types of materials and mediums. Sincere thanks to the students who support this club.

At present we are working with the Martin Donkin from NCC Children with Disabilities Team, Get Connected, NUSU Go Volunteer and the CHAT Trust to set up a series of 'Musical Instrument' making workshops, to commence early in January 2017. This will be a group of between ten and twelve children in the 8 – 12 year old age range. It is intended that this will be a mixed abilities group which will include about half of the children having additional needs. Musical instruments will be made from junk and donated materials. At the end of the eight weekly workshops the children will be invited to put on a performance for the community. We have identified a facilitator, Gary Bowden from Pool of Sound to work with the group supported by six students from NUSU Go Volunteer. We look forward to this exciting new project.

The Nunsmoor Centre is a fantastic facility. Promoting use of the centre is enormously important. As well as providing good quality services the centre has the capacity for other organisations to make use of the space. Room Hire is necessary as the income helps to provide extra activities and resources for the community. We work hard to promote the centre to other organisations. Wherever possible we help to facilitate organisations bringing good quality activities and projects to the venue.

Despite the challenges and changes of the past year much has been achieved. Good partnership working appears to be the key to future development. We are most grateful to all the organisations who have worked with us during the past year. A special mention to Katrina Jordison, from Greening Wingrove CIC, who has shared our office space during the year. Thanks also to our local Ward Councillors and Community Facilitators.

Huge thanks also go to all of the centre staff – the administration team, the caretaking staff, and the Community Family Hub Team. We are extremely grateful to them for their support, encouragement and help during the past year.

The Trust extends a most sincere thank you to the families, residents and diverse range of centre users who help to shape our work and support us with enthusiasm. We would welcome enquiries from anyone interested in joining the Board as a trustee, or anyone who would be interested in volunteering at the centre. We are also promoting membership of the Trust which is free.

As Chairperson can I take this opportunity to add a very personal, heartfelt, 'thank you' to all the trustees and volunteers who have worked extremely hard during the past year. They have all given a huge amount of their time and commitment to the work of the Trust, for the benefit of the community we

serve. Lukasz Gosztkowski sadly retired as our Treasurer and a trustee earlier this year having taken on a new job and moved. I thank him and wish him well. It has been my privilege to work with them all and I am most grateful to them for the support they have afforded me during what has been a challenging, but rewarding, year.

Having paused to evaluate and review the work and activities of the Trust, during the past twelve months, we now look forward to the year ahead with renewed commitment to the diverse community we serve.

Alyson. E. Hampshire

Chairperson

October 2016

## **Thanks to:**

The Community Family Hub Team (West)  
Una Bradley - Bookings Officer  
Play Rangers  
Key Holders  
The Access Panel Members  
The CWD Team  
Newcastle University Students Union – Go Volunteer  
The Angelou Centre  
CHAT Trust  
NAPI  
The Time Exchange  
Centre West  
Greening Wingrove Project Team  
Greening Wingrove CIC  
NEYouth  
FAR  
The Millin Centre  
WEA  
Parks & Countryside  
HealthWORKS  
Westgate and Moorside Schools  
NCVS  
Wingrove and Westgate Ward Committee Members  
Ward Community Facilitator  
Newcastle City Council  
The Community Foundation  
Footsteps to Ashfield  
The Angelou Centre  
AgeUK Newcastle  
Jean Calvert – Arts and Crafts Facilitator  
Colin and Louise Metcalfe Photography  
Steve Padden – Funding Consultant  
BBJA  
Al-Ihsan  
The Cranfield Trust  
Steve Padden Consultancy  
Emily Sweetman Consultancy  
The Lemington Centre

### **And most importantly:**

The parents, carers, children and members of the community for using, enjoying and supporting the Centre.

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