



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

## Nunsmoor Centre Trust Annual Report October 2017 – November 2018



Registered Charity No: 1148020

Company No: 07928591

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

Board Members:  
A Hampshire (Chair)  
B Graham (Vice-Chair)  
A Byers  
A Adeniyi (Secretary)  
C Udechukwu  
MD Hague  
S Leech  
M Mabbutt (Treasurer)  
(Deceased 27 February 2018)  
S Jamil  
(Appointed 08 October 2018)

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:

Liz and Robin Turnbull  
Nathan Topping  
Neil Joyce  
Wajid Hussain  
Stephen Douglas  
Steve Padden  
Becky Wilson  
Charlie Philip  
NUSU Volunteers – Go Volunteer

***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 2017 – November 2018**

***“You can start changing our world for the better daily, no matter how small the action.” Nelson Mandela***

This quote, from Nelson Mandela, reminds us that we can all make a difference for the better in this world. Sometimes seemingly small acts can have a ripple affect and be the cause of positive change. As trustees we strive constantly to make a difference and to bring about real change, for the better, in the life of the community we serve.

It is important that we, as trustees, engage with all members of the community no matter what their age, ethnicity, religious beliefs, cultural background, gender, sexual orientation, ability or disability, or need, with respect, kindness and compassion. Much of our work centres around wellbeing, inclusion and diversity. We work daily to listen to the views of the community striving to make changes to our work to meet the growing need. The Trust believes wholeheartedly that the way we interact with children, young people, families, individuals, partners and other organisations is hugely important.

It has been a year of challenges for the Trust. There have been real achievements which we have been able to celebrate. Sadly, we have also experienced loss and sadness. I pause to pay tribute to Margaret Mabbutt, our Treasurer, who died very unexpectedly and suddenly at the end of February 2018. Margaret served the community in the West end of Newcastle for many years and was well known and respected in the wider community. We have lost not only our treasurer but a trusted colleague, community champion and friend. We are grateful to have known Margaret, for all her commitment and input to the work of the Trust, her commitment to the community and for her friendship. We miss her enormously and dedicate this year's report to her memory.

The considerable constraints upon Newcastle City Council's budget 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 remains generally less abundant and decisions regarding what projects and activities we can provide have continued to be carefully considered and difficult choices have had to be made.

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
- Facilitating the NCC's 'Get Connected' Sports Inclusion contract
- English Conversation Classes with crèche provision (working with NUSU Go Volunteer, N.E.S.T. and the Angelou Centre)
- The Parent and Toddler Group
- A Toy Library
- Environmental activities
- Summer and Winter festivals including the Community Diversity Celebration Event
- Partnership work to provide activities and projects
- Work with Greening Wingrove CIC
- An Arts and Crafts Club (Working with NUSU Go Volunteer)
- Summer Weekend Play Area Project covering the three months' Summer period
- The Junk Music Project
- The Well Being Project for the Over 50s. (working with AgeUK)
- Activities, projects and events for children and families i.e. discos
- Supporting other agencies and groups booking the venue 'out of hours'
- Consultations
- Fundraising
- Work to secure the longer term use of the centre for the local community.

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.

We were delighted to be the lead organisation for the Winter Festival hosted at the centre in the run up to Christmas. We welcomed partners, including Greening Wingrove, the Parks and Countryside department and the Time Exchange. Attendees made beautiful, fresh, evergreen wreaths to adorn front doors over the festive season. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming. The event was very well supported by the community with capacity numbers. There were lots of seasonal activities provided for all age groups: 'hand print' calendars, the decorating of fire cones, lots of children's arts and crafts activities, decorating gingerbread men, making book marks and cards.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the delicious homemade soup, provided with bread, which was made by our trustee Susie Leech. A big thank you to the SHE Choir who serenaded us beautifully. The excitement grew as the event culminated in the eagerly anticipated visit from Santa (a huge thank you to Santa) and, in the fading afternoon light, the switching on of the festive outdoor Christmas Tree lights accompanied by happy children singing as they clutched their Christmas selection boxes given to them by Santa. It is always a privilege to witness the wonder on the faces of small children at such times and to be part of such a joyous occasion.

We held a Christmas Disco night for our children and young people. It was a very snowy, wintery evening and we wondered just how many families would make it to the centre on such a very poor evening to be out and about. We need not have worried! Ninety of the hundred ticket holders arrived and a wonderful time was had by all. Children and young people from all ethnic backgrounds and abilities took part and parents, grandparents and carers joined in too. D.J. James Bell facilitated the disco and games supported by trustees and volunteers in festive hats. Satsumas and water were provided and the children and young people took small gifts of Christmas chocolate home with them. A huge 'thank you' to the Schofield Trust for the grant to support the activity and to James Bell for his fantastic facilitation of the disco. It was a wonderful evening and a real pleasure to wish smiling families a very 'happy holiday' as they set out for home in the snowy winter weather.

The Trust continues to provide a Parent and Toddler Group every Thursday morning during term time. Margaret Mabbutt had facilitated this activity with Ann Byers. It was extremely important that despite the shock and sadness of Margaret's death the group should keep running and the Trust pulled together, as a team, to support Ann to continue. We are hugely grateful to Stephen Douglas who stepped in as a volunteer to work alongside Ann to take the group forward. The Parent and Toddler Group continues to thrive. Parents are encouraged to take ownership of their group and to input into the activities. Sincere thanks to Ann and Stephen for their hard work and commitment and to NAPI for their ongoing support of this group. (separate report attached)

A decision was taken, by the trustees to separate the Toy Library provision from the Parent and Toddler Group. Trustee Susie Leech took on the lead to deliver the service. It was agreed that by running the Toy Library facility immediately after the Parent and Toddler Group this would allow not only those families from the PATG to benefit but would also enable families accessing FOOTSTEPS nursery to use the facility and members of the community, who might just want to use the Toy Library, to attend. After the restock and rearrangement of the Toy Library we relaunched the loan

sessions at the new time. Membership has steadily increased and the Toy Library is thriving, so much so that we need further stock to meet the demand. In addition to toys and games the Toy Library also has a stock of story sacks to loan out and sensory equipment for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities. We strive to ensure inclusive working and to welcome children of all abilities to access this service. We have been pleased to support colleagues working with refugee and asylum seeker families by loaning toys out through the worker engaged with the families. We were extremely grateful to have received funding from the Hadrian Trust and the Rothley Trust to extend the stock of our Toy Library. We have recently received further funding to replace the storage cupboards to house the stock of toys, games and equipment and a grant from the Rye Hill Trust to further increase stock levels. (separate report attached)

The Trust has continued to meet with officers from Newcastle City Council on a regular basis to undertake joint working group meetings. The group has worked together to improve partnership work and shared use of the building. It is now working to look at the longer term life, and use, of the building and how this can best be secured in view of the anticipated further financial constraints on the NCC budget expected from 2020. We are grateful to the officers involved in this joint working group as we are fully aware that the budget reduction will impact on jobs and services. The choices are not easy and the Trust is aware that it needs to achieve a position in which it can increase its financial input in to the upkeep and maintenance of the building. At this point in time it is unclear as to whether the Trust will look to work with another partner to be able to ensure the future of the building as a community facility.

We are extremely grateful to Councillor Joyce McCarty, Wingrove Ward Councillor, for her ongoing support with this work. Councillor McCarty has a keen interest in ensuring that the centre is fully accessible to the community and remains so in the longer term future. In May 2018 the Ward boundaries in the city changed and the centre is now within the Arthur's Hill Ward. The councillors for the Arthur's Hill ward are Nick Forbes, Joanne Kingsland and Nigel Todd all of whom have shown their support for the work undertaken by the Trust. We look forward to future working with them.

The joint working group has continued to make great strides and real progress over the year. We are grateful to Rachel Baillie, Assistant Director Commissioning and Procurement, Wellbeing, Care and Learning, for her input over the months and enormously grateful to Alison Priestly, Service Manager Early Help and Family Support, for her time, input and commitment to the work of the group and her belief in finding a way forward.

We are grateful to all the staff for their patience and support as we have worked together to reach a better understanding of what is required from the building and how we might achieve the best use of the facility. We are now at a point where we can see that huge progress has been made and we have a real partnership. This is, in no small part, due to a great deal of commitment to ensure that there is a good day to day working relationship which has resulted from a genuine desire to ensure that we work together and that we have respect and understanding of each other's work. Sincere thanks to Di Robertson, Intensive Family Support lead, for her part in addressing any day to day issues which might have occurred, with regard to the building, prior to her secondment to another post and to Theresa Lovegreen who has taken over the post from Di and is equally as supportive to our work and the use of the building as a community hub.

The Trust continues to oversee the out of hours bookings for the centre. Una Bradley has continued to work as our freelance bookings officer. We are most grateful to her for all her hard work, support and input. Helping to facilitate community use of the building is a need identified through consultation and is seen as a high priority by the Trust. 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 it 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 in bringing good quality activities and projects to the building, for the community.

To ensure that we can support bookings we continue to work with self employed key holders who support all of our out of hours bookings. Sincere thanks to Mary Ashley, Rachel Richman, Sarah Harrington and Eric Sequeiros for working with us to facilitate bookings. A very big thank you to Wajid Hussain, a former trustee, who continues to act as a volunteer keyholder. We are grateful for his continued volunteering and support. We hope that we will be able to increase community usage and are looking to increase our pool of key holders from the local community both volunteers and freelance workers.

We are grateful to Steve Padden for his continued work as our Funding Consultant. In these uncertain times, when further budget cuts may well impact upon centre provision, the Trust need to keep abreast of the situation, plan ahead and be ready to meet the challenges which arise. Steve has a breadth of knowledge regarding funding for the voluntary sector which is both helpful and informative. Steve has enabled us to obtain considerable funding for activities and projects and is working with us with a view to securing

funding to pay a Community Development Worker to broaden and develop our remit. Steve very kindly offered to help ratify the 2017–18 accounts, on a voluntary basis, after Margaret Mabbutt's sudden death. We are deeply grateful for all his help and support.

The Trust has spent considerable time updating our Data Protection Policy and Privacy Statement in line with GDPR and ensuring that we are compliant with legislation. We have worked to ensure that we have a 'clear desk' policy within the office and that any data we hold is held for a reason and that it is disposed of in a timely and appropriate manner. We remain committed to treating all information we hold about individuals in the strictest confidence. This year has seen us complete a review and update of all Nuns Moor Centre Trust policies and procedures.

We are always looking to recruit new trustees and volunteers to enhance our skill base and allow us to support more activities and projects. We were pleased to welcome Nathan Topping to our team of volunteers. Nathan has additional needs and comes each week to the centre with his support worker. His duties have included support work for the Arts and Crafts group, the Parent and Toddler Group and the Toy Library by sorting and cleaning equipment as needed. He has also volunteered with Stephen Douglas, our freelance Sports Connect worker, helping with football sessions as a coach. He has provided a hugely positive influence for the young people. We are delighted that Nathan has been nominated for, and has achieved, an award for his volunteering with the Trust, from NEYouth, which is richly deserved. A huge thank you to Stephen Douglas and Ann Byers for their weekly support of Nathan when he undertakes his volunteering duties.

Following the success of last year's Summer Weekend Play Project the Trust secured further funding to enable the opening of the Play Area at weekends during the three month summer period this year. This was in response to the feedback from the Summer Weekend Working Project undertaken last year and following the consultation and feedback regarding this project, from the community. This involved retaining two self - employed Play Rangers to man the play area every weekend. In the end we were fortunate to be able to retain Mary Ashley, one of the Play Rangers from last year. Ateea Riaz joined Mary as the second Play Worker to cover the Summer Weekend Play Project. The project was well used and appreciated. Numbers were again high, almost six hundred children and young people attended, and the project attracted children of all abilities and ethnicities.

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 in 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 and Ateea Riaz for their hard work over the summer weekends. (Separate report attached.)

In July we hosted a Community Diversity Celebration Event following the success of last year's large community event at the centre to celebrate '*A Decade of Diversity*' This year's event again welcomed our wonderfully diverse community. A big thank you to Steve Padden for helping to secure the funding to facilitate this event which was a great success and a glorious day enjoyed by everyone. We were delighted by the number of local organisations and agencies that took part. These included:

- FOOTSTEPS
- Vertical Veg
- Greening Wingrove CIC
- The Time Exchange
- The Angelou Centre
- Environment Agency
- The MILLIN Charity
- AgeUK Gateshead
- FAR
- The Children with Disabilities Team (NCC)
- The ACCESS Fund
- The Community Policing Team and Police Cadets
- Sports Connect
- Moorside Allotment Society
- PLAYinNewcastle
- The ACCESS Panel
- The Intensive Family Support Team (NCC)
- Wunderbar
- Reviving the Heart of the West End
- LGBT North East
- The Credit Union
- GoodGym
- Karbon Homes
- PLAYinNewcastle

What a fantastic celebration of diversity. Sincere thanks to the Community Foundation for funding this event. We are extremely grateful to all the

organisations who took part. They brought with them information and activities to share. Activities were numerous with ‘something for everyone’ ranging from face painting right through to environmental activities and freebies! We were grateful for the delicious and varied cuisines from various parts of the world which were on offer. It was altogether a glorious day. The young people loved the drumming. People of all ages enjoyed the ‘Bollywood dancing’. Friendships were formed and closer working partnerships forged. In the words of Jo Cox, *‘There is more that unites us than divides us’*

Our local MP Chi Onwurah spoke about the importance of diversity and community and Catherine Graham, local poet, read her beautiful poem ‘Community’ which she had written as part of the ‘Well being’ Arts and Crafts Project at the centre. The diverse and wonderful community, together in the summer sunshine, enjoying time spent in each other’s company – babies, children, young, old, diverse ethnicities, disabled and ‘non disabled’ just content to be celebrating together. Thank you to our local councillors and to everyone who attended this celebration and for making it a day to remember.

Our work facilitating the distribution of the ACCESS Fund has continued. 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 extended the number of Panel numbers by three this year. Two members of the Intensive Family Support Team joined the panel and a parent of a young person with additional needs. This was done to create a larger pool of members to call upon and helps to ensure that enough panel members are available for each meeting. We are grateful for all their input and hard work. It is a huge privilege to be asked to undertake this work. Thanks to all the panel members, staff, organisations, trustees and volunteers who help to make the ACCESS Fund the success it is in helping children and young people in Newcastle experience new activities, become more involved in their communities, and reach their potential.

The Trust’s contract with the Council has been extended until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 and provisionally through until March 31st 2020 dependant on the financial situation. We are hopeful that despite the constraints on Newcastle City Council’s budget that funding will be available as the ACCESS Fund has been so highly regarded by parents and has produced good outcomes, and outputs, to be able to feedback to Newcastle City Council. The Trust considers this work of high priority. It is a privilege to support children, young people and their families in this way. - A full Access Fund Report 2017-18 is available upon request. (separate short report attached)

Our contract with Newcastle City Council to facilitate the ‘Get Connected’ Sports Inclusion work continues. Funding is guaranteed until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 with a view to the funding continuing through until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. Stephen Douglas continues to work with us as a freelance Sports Inclusion Worker. Each child or young person with additional needs or disabilities that Stephen works with is supported to access a mainstream sport, or healthy living activity, within their local community. The work is extremely rewarding with positive outcomes for the children and young people that Stephen engages with. It is a real privilege to play our part in the facilitation of this work and we look forward to it continuing in the year ahead. (separate report attached)

The Trust has continued to provide English Conversation Classes, in response to community need. We have worked, in partnership, again, with NUSU Go Volunteer (under the umbrella of N.E.S.T.) to provide this service. Crèche workers from the Angelou Centre have provided good quality creche provision. The classes have been well attended. We have provided a Thursday class, without crèche provision, as well as the original Friday class with a creche facility. The feedback has again been extremely positive. We will work in partnership, with NUSU Go Volunteer, to continue to provide this resource for the community. Our thanks to Phil Hay, Volunteer Coordinator, at NUSU Go Volunteer and to all the students who volunteer for this project. We are grateful to Awards for All for funding the project for the academic year. NUSU set up the larger project called N.E.S.T. which provides classes for refugees across the city.

We have also worked with NUSU – Go Volunteer to provide an Arts and Crafts Club for children in the 8 – 12 year age range. The students call it the ‘Cookie Club’ The children who have been involved thoroughly enjoyed the activities which have been wide ranging and varied. They have used all types of materials and mediums. Sincere thanks to the students who have organised and supported the club. The project is due to restart in the new year.

A highlight of this year’s work has been the continuation of the Junk Music Workshops. This has involved a group of ten children in the 8 – 12 year old age range. It is a mixed abilities group which has included about half of the children having additional needs. Musical instruments have been made from junk and donated materials. Gary Bowden from Pool of Sound has worked with the group supported by volunteers Becky Wilson and Charlie Philip. The workshops have been really successful and the feedback extremely positive. The project has been a total joy! On the strength of the feedback we were fortunate to secure funding from the Community Foundation to continue the project.

A decision was taken by the Trust, alongside Gary Bowden and with the help of Steve Padden (Funding Consultant) to submit an application to Youth Music to fund a larger accredited project. This funding would enable us to deliver six eight week sessions over a two year period. I am delighted to say that the application was successful and we were awarded over £21,000.00 from Youth Music to deliver this work. We continue to be excited to be part of this wonderful project. Each group of children and young people gain so much in the way of confidence. They learn new skills and they build friendships. The joy on their faces each week says it all!. Thank you to Youth Music for funding the project and to Gary, Charlie and Becky for all their hard work and commitment to the project. Sincere thanks also go to NEYouth for providing an Arts Worker to undertake the accreditations.

The ‘Wellbeing’ Project working, in conjunction with AgeUK, for our senior residents continued. The idea behind the project was to help reduce isolation and loneliness amongst older people. It hoped to empower people to take more responsibility for their own health and wellbeing and to lead to a longer term project where those attending would take ownership of the group and develop what they would like to do going forward. The group decided that they would like to undertake an Arts Project around the theme of community. Sally Southern, an art’s facilitator, specialising in working with textiles, was engaged to work with the group. Together they designed and produced a wall hanging in silk which was to welcome the community to the Nuns Moor Centre. The word ‘welcome’ in many languages was included on the leaves of a tree. Catherine Graham, a local poet, worked alongside the group to write her poem ‘Community’ which now sits proudly alongside the finished silk work in the reception area within the centre. A big thank you to Linda Williams from AgeUK for her partnership work on this project, to Sally Southern for facilitating the art work and to Catherine Graham for her wonderful poem.

We have been awarded funding from the Northumberland Police Commissioner’s Community fund to work with young people from the Slovakian community in the coming months. This will be a new piece of targeted work which we look forward to and will report back on in our next report.

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. We look forward to future working with all of the organisations we have worked with during this period. Special thanks to Footsteps nursery who are also based within the Nuns Moor Centre and who have been generous with their support of our work.

Huge thanks must go to all of the centre staff – the administration team, the caretaker, 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 to the 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 with the Trust. We are currently also looking to engage more keyholders to support our facilitation of the ‘out of hours’ room bookings, within the centre, for the community.

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 which we serve. One of our trustees, Cheslava Udechukwu, is standing down due to other commitments. I thank her most sincerely for all of her input to the work of the Trust and wish her well in the future. The Trust has welcomed new trustee Shamim Jamil in recent months. We have two nominations to become trustees for the coming year Stephen Douglas and Kay Hattam. I look forward to working with them in the year ahead. It has been my privilege to work with all of the trustees 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

November 2018

## **Thanks to:**

The Community Family Hub Team (West)  
Una Bradley - Bookings Officer  
Play Rangers  
Key Holders  
The Access Panel Members  
The NCC Children with Disabilities Team  
Newcastle University Students Union – Go Volunteer  
The Angelou Centre  
FOOTSTEPS  
CHAT Trust  
NAPI  
The Time Exchange  
Centre West  
Greening Wingrove Project Team and Greening Wingrove CIC  
NEYouth  
FAR  
The Millin Charity  
WEA  
NCC Parks & Countryside Dept  
HealthWORKS  
Westgate and Moorside Schools  
NCVS  
Wingrove and Westgate Ward Committee Members  
Ward Community Facilitator  
Newcastle City Council  
Steve Padden Funding Consultant  
The Community Foundation  
Awards for All  
Dockray House  
Joicey Trust  
RW Mann  
Sir James Knott  
Hadrian Trust  
Schofield Trust  
Comic Relief  
The GREGGS Foundation  
The Rothley Trust  
Gary Bowden Music facilitator  
AgeUK Newcastle  
Colin and Louise Metcalfe Photography  
BBJA  
Al-Ihsan  
The Cranfield Trust  
JET  
Emily Sweetman Consultancy  
Ellison Services

## **And most importantly:**

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

Nunsmoor Centre Trust  
Nunsmoor Centre  
Studley Terrace  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE4 5AH  
Tel: 0191 2261006