

Upstart Scotland

Scottish Charity Number SC047775

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2023



Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the Independent Financial Examiner's Report for the above-mentioned period.

Reference & Administrative Information

Charity Name: Upstart Scotland

Charity No: SC047775

Address of Principal Office: The Old Police Station, Isleornsay, Isle of Skye
IV43 8QR

Current Trustees:	Trustees who served in the period:
David Ashford (Treasurer)	David Ashford (Treasurer)
Tam Ballie	Tam Baillie
Dawn Ewan (Vice-Chair)	Carol Craig
John Frank	Dawn Ewan
Willie French (Chair)	John Frank
Kathleen Margaret Johnston	Willie French
Sue Palmer	Kathleen Margaret Johnston (Vice-Chair)
Lesley Young	Sue Palmer (Chair)

Structure Governance & Management

Constitution:

The Charity became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 26th September 2017. It is governed by its SCIO Constitution which was adopted on 13th September 2017.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board of Trustees, which normally meets at least thrice annually, consists of the charity's Trustees. They are elected at Annual General Meetings. Under the constitution, there must be a minimum of three and not more than nine elected Trustees. The Trustees may co-opt a further three Trustees if they consider it would be in the interests of the charity to do so. Membership of the Board is open to all Members of the charity.

Management:

The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the charity, whilst day-to-day running is delegated to the Secretary and the Chair's Assistant.

Board meetings were held in 2022 on 10th March, 7th May, 12th September and 12th October.

Objectives & Activities

Charitable purposes:

The advancement of children's education, health and well-being. In furtherance of the same are the following intentions:

- a) to advance awareness of the need for Scottish children - up to and including the age of seven - to benefit from a statutory play-based 'kindergarten stage' before beginning formal schooling.
- b) to promote the role of Early Years education in 'levelling the educational playing field' by ensuring all children have secure foundations for school-based learning underpinned by play - especially outdoors - as being vital for all aspects of children's physical, emotional and cognitive development including health and well-being and, where practicable, outdoor play in the natural environment.
- c) to disseminate information about the importance of supporting children's social, emotional and spoken language development as the foundation for successful educational achievement, having regard to the need for a well-qualified, highly-respected, child-centric workforce, well-informed about the principles of child development in the Early Years.

- d) to relieve stress engendered by premature schoolification and testing, which research now suggests is counterproductive to children's long-term well-being and educational success and therefore more likely to increase than decrease the achievement gap between rich and poor.

Activities:

International evidence shows that children under the age of seven benefit from an educational approach that supports their all-round physical, emotional, social and cognitive development, rather than pushing them towards early academic achievement. Therefore Upstart Scotland campaigns for a kindergarten stage for children aged three to seven believing that through play (especially outdoors and in natural environments), their inborn learning drive will flourish.

We have continued to support early years staff and students by providing online training sessions and in-person talks, and to keep our supporters up to date with current research, etc. through our monthly newsletter and social media. Our book 'Play is the Way' has continued to sell, providing welcome income for the campaign. This was needed in 2022, when we were contacted by the Scottish National Party Policy Convener with the news that a motion supporting a Scottish kindergarten stage would be presented at the party conference. This caused considerable media interest and publicity for Upstart. We organised a stand at the SNP Conference in October and were delighted that the motion was passed overwhelmingly.

Unfortunately, the Scottish government was unmoved by the conference vote, saying any changes to education policy would be decided on the basis of an official report to be produced by Professor Ken Muir. We gave evidence to Professor Muir and, when published, the report recommended attention to early years policy. It was, however, put to one side and the Cabinet Secretary for Education announced that there would instead be a 'National Discussion' on Scotland's education system. We therefore spent several months encouraging our supporters to respond to this online National Discussion, which they did in their hundreds. However, in 2023, shortly after the results of the Discussion were published, there was a sudden change of First Minister, the Cabinet was reshuffled and the new Cabinet Secretary for Education ignored the Discussion results, saying she would take some time to consider the best way forward. More than a year later, she is still considering.

More positively, as a result of the 2022 Conference vote Kaukab Stewart, an SNP MSP, offered to champion Upstart's cause in Parliament. We organised a number of briefing meetings for her and manned a stand in Parliament to hand out leaflets and explain our aims to MSPs. Kaukab prepared a Member's Bill which gained cross-party support which was scheduled for debate during the 2024 parliamentary session.

At our 2023 AGM, Upstart's Chair and Vice-Chair, who had served since the start of the campaign in 2015, stepped down and a new leadership team was elected to

deal with what has now become a highly politicised agenda, requiring much strategic thinking and campaigning activity.

Upstart Scotland continues to win respect and praise from parents/guardians, early years practitioners, teachers, playworkers and health & social work professionals throughout the country (and, increasingly, worldwide). We also have many dedicated supporters from the arts, environmental sustainability and mental health, since children's experiences during their early years have long-term implications for their disciplines. The Upstart blog continues to attract articles from experts in these varied fields and is another way in which the word can be spread. Many supporters have also contributed generously with donations which kept the charity achievable.

Approved by the Trustees prior to the 21st day of March 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ashford', written in a cursive style.

David Ashford

Treasurer

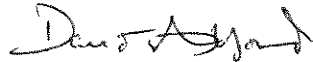
Upstart Scotland
 Receipts and Payments Accounts
 For the year ended 31st December 2023
 Scottish Charity Number SC047775

		Year to 2023 Unrestricted £	Year to 2023 Restricted £	Year to 2023 Total £	Year to 2022 Total £
Receipts					
Grants and Donations					
Grants	4	-	-	-	-
Donations	5	1,817	-	1,817	7,547
Fundraising Activities					
Kym Scott Event		17,225	-	17,225	-
Other Fundraising Activities		-	-	-	5,250
Bank interest received		-	-	-	-
Total Receipts		<u>19,041</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,041</u>	<u>12,797</u>
Payments					
Charitable Activities					
Kym Scott Event		978	-	978	7,546
Admin / Staff Services		4,800	-	4,800	3,600
Hall Hire / Zoom		720	-	720	720
Website & Video		1,205	-	1,205	940
Misc		95	-	95	70
Preparation of Annual Accounts		-	-	-	56
Governance Costs					
Independent Examination	7	-	-	-	-
Total Payments		<u>7,798</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,798</u>	<u>12,931</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year before transfers		11,244	-	11,244	(134)
Transfers between funds	6	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		<u>11,244</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,244</u>	<u>(134)</u>

Upstart Scotland
 Receipts and Payments Accounts
 For the year ended 31st December 2023
 Scottish Charity Number SC047775

	Year to 2023 Unrestricted	Year to 2023 Restricted	Year to 2023 Total	Year to 2022 Total
Statement of Balances as at 31st December 2023				
Opening cash at bank and in hand	12,802	-	12,802	12,936
Add Income	19,041	-	19,041	12,797
	31,844	-	31,844	25,733
Less Expenditure	7,798	-	7,798	12,931
Transfers	6	-	-	-
Closing cash at bank and in hand	24,046	-	24,046	12,802
Bank and Cash Balances				
Community Directplus Account	24,036	-	24,036	12,802
Outstanding lodgements	-	-	-	-
Outstanding cheques	-	-	-	-
PayPal Account	9	-	9	-
Petty cash	-	-	-	-
9 & 10	24,046	-	24,046	12,802

Signed on behalf of all Trustees:



Name: DAVID ASHFORD

Date: 20/9/2024

The notes on the following 2 pages form part of these financial statements

Upstart Scotland
Scottish Charity Number SC047775
Notes to the accounts
For the year ended 31st December 2023

1 Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2 Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the SCIO.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

3 Related party transactions

No remuneration was paid to the trustees or any connected persons during the year (2022: £NIL).

4 Grants

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Grants	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

5 Donations

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Misc Donations	1,817	-	1,817	7,547
	1,817	-	1,817	7,547

6 Transfers between funds

There were no transfers between funds during the year (2022: £NIL).

7 Governance Costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Independent Examination	-	-	-	-
Accounting Services	-	-	-	56
	-	-	-	56

8 Volunteers

The trustees would like to record their thanks to all the volunteers who dedicate a significant amount of time for no remuneration to the charity.

9 Restricted Funds

	At 1st January 2023	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	At 31st December 2023
Restricted Funds	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

10 Unrestricted Funds

	At 1st January 2023	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	At 31st December 2023
Unrestricted Funds	12,802	19,041	(7,798)	-	24,046
	12,802	19,041	(7,798)	-	24,046

Upstart Scotland
Scottish Charity Number SC047775

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees on the unaudited accounts of Upstart Scotland.

I report on the accounts of the SCIO for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on the previous 4 pages.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and independent examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 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 particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1 which 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, and
- * to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Marie McMillan

Marie McMillan Cert Acct (Open)
Date: - 20/9 2024
Senior Finance Officer
Voluntary Action Lochaber
An Drochaid, Claggan Road
Fort William
PH33 6PH

