



**PLAYBOARD NI**  
**39<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 10am**  
**NICVA Conference Room, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB**

**A G E N D A**

- 1.** 9.30am – 10am Registration
- 2.** 10am Welcome and Opening Remarks – Chairperson
- 3.** Apologies
- 4.** Minutes of Previous AGM held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023
- 5.** CEO's Annual Review.
- 6.** Statement of Accounts. – Resolution (RO24/1)
- 7.** Re-election of Board of Directors. – Resolution (RO24/2)
- 8.** Election to Board of Directors. – Resolution (RO24/3)
- 9.** Election of Honorary Officers. – Resolution (RO24/4)
- 10.** Appointment of Auditors. – Resolution (RO24/5)
- 11.** Any Other Business.
- 12.** Date of Next Meeting – November 2025.
- 13.** State of the Sector Survey 2024 – School-Age Childcare

**MINUTES OF THE 38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PLAYBOARD**  
**Held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**  
**PlayBoard online zoom webinar**

**Present: PlayBoard Board of Directors**

Stuart Buchanan	-	Chairperson
Roger Winter	-	Vice Chair
Neil Galway		Executive Member
Sinead Kelly		Executive Member
Fey Cole		Executive Member
Alan Herron	-	CEO
Jimmy Gillen		Company Secretary

**Attendance**

Amanda Grimes  
Richard McMeekin  
Iris Warnock  
Laura McGurk  
Sarah Ferguson  
Julie McElduff  
Charlene Harris  
Dee Edwards  
Clare Wilson  
Tracy Dougan  
Ruth Pritchard  
Roberta Johnston  
Jean Garry  
Damien Sparks  
Katherine Lindsay Dunlop

**PlayBoard Staff**

Angela Stallard  
Ciara McKenna  
Maeve McLaughlin  
Mairead McLaughlin  
Maria McBride  
Michelle McGee

**1. Apologies**

Joy Hadden, Israel Hontavilla Abascal, Pam Lowry, Alix Crawford, Stephanie Gray, Diane Koplewsky, Clair Wilson, Dr Martin McMullan, Peter McCartney, and Frances Walsh.

## **2. Welcome and opening remarks**

SB welcomed members to PlayBoard's 38<sup>th</sup> AGM and thanked everyone for attending. PlayBoard have lost its CEO Jacqueline O'Loughlin to retirement, and I would like to thank Jacqueline for all her dedication and devotion to PlayBoard and the play sector. I would also like to congratulate Alan Herron on taking up the post of PlayBoard's CEO and I wish him many years of success in the role.

PLM thanked all the members for their commitment to PlayBoard, the Board for their good work throughout what was a successful but very challenging year. The last 24 months has been a very difficult time due to the pandemic, the economic downturn, the absence of an Executive and local Assembly has proved challenging especially when trying to negotiate funding and policy matters and PlayBoard like all other charities found themselves in a difficult position in delivering their services.

Financially we are slowly continuing to grow through the services we provide to all sectors and we hope that this will last. We have continued to work in partnership with organisations to provide a strategic single voice with Officials in delivering the childcare strategy.

This will be my last AGM as I am stepping down as Chairperson, so I would like to thank both Board Members, CEO, Senior Management Team and all PlayBoard staff for the success of what PlayBoard has achieved through continuing to deliver a vital service that many relied on during the last year.

## **3. Minutes of previous AGM**

Due to the Annual General Meeting being online, the Members agreed the minutes were for presentation only and if any Member notices any inaccuracies, to inform Jimmy Gillen.

## **4. CEO's Review**

AH updated Members with an overview of the organisation's diverse activity over the last year during the reporting period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

As PlayBoard entered the year, Covid-19 and the social restrictions put into place by government to curtail its spread continued to impact on society as a whole, and on PlayBoard staff as they continued to deliver against a range of contractual obligations.

PlayBoard is delighted to report that once again, the team stepped up to the plate showing creativity and applying innovative approaches to play delivery, ensuring we were able to deliver against, and indeed exceed our funding obligations.

In terms of delivery, PlayBoard's work is based around an Outcomes Framework within 4 key areas:

Enhancing the opportunity to play by increasing access to and developing the quality of local play. Enhancing the profile of play and playwork with a view to driving quality delivery. Developing relationships with others from across the statutory, community and voluntary sectors. Growing the evidence base for play through research and advocacy work.

AH provided a breakdown on the successful delivery of activities that met all parts of the framework successfully, highlighting the impact PlayBoard had, and continues to have across Northern Ireland.

PlayBoard's strategic partnerships continue to grow and flourish both north and south of the border in leading the play agenda and PlayBoard's international work continues through the International Play Association Northern Ireland branch. During the year PlayBoard's communications output continued to increase through social media, growing PlayBoard's reach to countries throughout the world.

AH thanked PlayBoard's many partners for their continued support – whether that be contractual, funding, or strategic. From the Department of Education to the Education Authority, from our partners in the School-Age Childcare Sector to our council colleagues, and from schools to the communities with whom we work.

AH thanked his Board Members and especially the Chair for the strategic counsel she has provided. I want to thank staff for all the hard work throughout the year, which PlayBoard would not have gotten to where we are today without that commitment.

In terms of the future, the work we are engaged in has never been so important. Covid-19 shone a light on the critical importance of play in children and young people's lives.

As we seek to move on from the pandemic, we do however face a new and equally as serious challenge in the shape of a cost of living crisis which is unapparelled. Tomorrow the Chancellor will announce an Autumn statement which is likely to present even greater challenges for families, pushing many further into financial difficulty. Alongside this we will see significant cuts to public services which will place pressure on essential health, education and social services.

Be in no doubt that the cost of living crisis we face will impact on children, young people and families at all levels of society and in all areas both now and well into the future.

Given the challenges we face, the need for play has never been greater, and over the coming year/s we within the PlayBoard team alongside you, our membership will continue to support our children, young people and families as we strive to deliver the Right to Play for all.

**5. RO23/1 Receiving of Statement of Accounts for 2022/23**

JG presented the Accounts giving a breakdown of income and expenditure for the year. Full copies of the Accounts were provided.

A poll was taken on the proposal that the Audited Accounts for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 be adopted. 100% voted For – No votes Against

**6. RO23/2 Re-election of Board of Directors**

SB acknowledged the work of the Board of Directors for their commitment, involvement on sub-committees, guidance and strategic direction of PlayBoard throughout the year.

The following were re-elected on PlayBoard Board of Directors by the Members:

- Stuart Buchanan
- Roger Winter
- Joy Hadden
- Pam Lowry
- Sinead Kelly
- Neil Galway
- Israel Hontavilla Abascal

A poll was taken on the proposal that the Board Members are re-elected for a further term of office. 100% voted For – No votes Against

SB thanked the current Trustees of PlayBoard for their work and support through challenging circumstances both in PlayBoard and in their own organisations, bringing their own time, energy and expertise to Playboard, and reflecting experience and needs of their own sector in Board decision-making

SB thanked Alix Crawford, who is standing down from the Board of Directors. Alix has shown her passion and expertise in advocating for the Right to Play for all children, focusing PlayBoard's thinking on inclusive play, her work on the UK Statement 'Including Disabled Children in Play Provision' which refocused play industry on inclusive play at a national level.

**7. RO23/3 Election to the Board of Directors**

It was agreed that the following Member be adopted onto PlayBoard Board of Directors as a Trustee.

- Fey Cole

A poll was taken on the proposal that the Member be adopted onto PlayBoard Board of Directors as Trustee: 100% voted For – No votes Against

**8. RO23/4 Election of Honorary Officers**

It was agreed that the following be adopted as Honorary Officers

- Stuart Buchanan	Chairperson
- Roger Winter	Vice Chairperson
- Joy Hadden	Treasurer

A poll was taken on the proposal that the Members are elected as PlayBoard's Honorary Officers. 100% voted For – No votes Against

**9. RO23/5 Election of Auditors for 2023/24**

It was decided that FPM Accountants will remain PlayBoard Auditors for the 2023/24 financial year.

A poll was taken on the proposal that FPM Accountants will remain PlayBoard Auditors 2023/24 financial year. 100% voted For – No votes Against

**9. Any Other Business**

There was no other business discussed

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next AGM will be November 2024.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PLAYBOARD NORTHERN IRELAND**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**

**Statement of Financial Activities**

(incorporating an income and expenditure account)

**Year Ended 31 March 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Charitable Activities	2	139,438	446,874	586,312	932,656
Investments	3	3,385		3,385	636
<b>Total Income and endowments</b>		<b>142,823</b>	<b>446,874</b>	<b>589,697</b>	933,292
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable Activities	5	(220,568)	(474,949)	(695,517)	(965,335)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>(220,568)</b>	<b>(474,949)</b>	<b>(695,517)</b>	(965,335)
<b>Net expenditure for the year before transfers</b>		<b>(77,745)</b>	<b>(28,075)</b>	<b>(105,820)</b>	(32,043)
Transfers between funds		(28,075)	28,075		
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(105,820)</b>		<b>(105,820)</b>	(32,043)
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		1,560,353		1,560,353	1,592,396
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>	14/15	<b>1,454,533</b>		<b>1,454,533</b>	1,560,353

All income derives from continuing activities; therefore, no statement of recognised gains or losses is given.

**PLAYBOARD NORTHERN IRELAND**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**

**Balance Sheet**  
as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets	10	875,908	904,392
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	11	114,709	261,464
Cash at bank and in hand		— <u>474,010</u>	<u>410,906</u>
		588,719	672,370
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	12	10,094	16,409
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		578,625	655,961
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b><u>1,454,533</u></b>	<b><u>1,560,353</u></b>
Represented by:			
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	14	1,454,533	1,560,353
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	15		
		<b><u>1,454,533</u></b>	<b><u>1,560,353</u></b>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small company's regime.

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee and authorised for issue on the 26 / 6 / 24 and are signed on their behalf by:



Stuart Buchanan  
Trustee

Company Registration Number NI030225





## **39<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

- RO24/1** It is proposed that the Audited Accounts for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 be adopted.
- RO24/2** Re-election of Board of Directors = It is proposed that the following Board Members are re-elected for a further term of office:
- Stuart Buchanan
  - Roger Winter
  - Sinead Kelly
  - Fey Cole
- RO24/3** Election to the Board of Directors = It is proposed that the following Members are adopted onto PlayBoard Board of Directors as Trustees:
- Eileen Russell
  - Judith Winters
  - Kierna Corr
- RO24/4** Election of Honorary Officers = It is proposed that the following Members are elected as PlayBoard's Honorary Officers for 2024/25:
- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| - Stuart Buchanan | Chairperson      |
| - Roger Winter    | Vice Chairperson |
| - Sinead Kelly    | Treasurer        |
- RO24/5** Election of PlayBoard Accountants: It is proposed that PKF-FPM Accountants will remain PlayBoard Auditors 2024/25.

# **State of the Sector Survey 2024 – School-Age Childcare**

## **Launch of the findings**

Work is progressing on the development of the NI Executive’s Early learning and Childcare Strategy for Northern Ireland alongside a review of the Minimum Standards for childcare providers. This is a critical time for the School-Age Childcare and playwork sector.

Play-based School-Age Childcare services are uniquely placed to provide valuable opportunities for children, parents and families. They offer important play-based developmental opportunities for children whilst enabling parents to remain economically active. It is crucial that the value of School-Age Childcare is championed and supported.

To ensure that we have a clear understanding of both the opportunities and challenges facing School-Age Childcare providers, PlayBoard in partnership with the School-Age Childcare Forum undertook a State of the Sector survey.

The survey was an opportunity for School-Age Childcare providers to share a range of information about practice, workforce and quality within their setting alongside their views on the challenges facing the sector now and in the immediate future.

For parents/carers with a child/ren attending School-Age Childcare, the survey was an opportunity to have their say and help shape the future of play-based School-Age Childcare Services in Northern Ireland. The results of the survey will help inform and facilitate policy discussions with the Department of Education.

These findings will be launched by Alan Herron, PlayBoard’s Chief Executive Officer.