

# **Annual Report and Financial Statements** for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013



Supporting the promotion of excellence throughout Northern Ireland and Ireland in the education of children and young people with autism.

Registered Number: NI 063661





# CENTRE FOR AUTISM

# **ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2013

Presented to the Northern Ireland Assembly in October 2013





# ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013

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The annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013 have been prepared in accordance with the North/South Implementation Bodies Annual Reports and Accounts Guidance, other guidance which either Finance Departments may issue from time to time in respect of accounts and any other specific disclosures required by sponsoring Departments.

The annual accounts have been prepared so as to give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the state of affairs at the year-end except where agreed otherwise with Finance Departments, in which case the exception shall be described in the notes to the accounts.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY & STATUTORY BACKGROUND

Middletown Centre for Autism began offering services to children and young people with autism, their parents and the education professionals who work with them in 2007 following the completion of a detailed Memorandum of Understanding agreed between the Department of Education (Northern Ireland) and the Department of Education and Skills (Ireland) in 2004 and the appointment of the Centre's first Board of Directors and Chief Executive in 2007.

The Centre is established as a company limited by guarantee.

The Board of Directors comprises of 5 Department of Education and Skills nominees and 5 Department of Education appointees. The Centre is a cross-border facility jointly funded by the Department of Education in Northern Ireland and the Department of Education and Skills (DES) in Ireland. In April 2012 it was announced that the Centre would become a non-departmental public body in Northern Ireland.

The original plans for the Centre's development have been reviewed by officials from both departments and staff from the Centre. At the North South Ministerial Council education meeting of 15 June 2012, the Council announced that there would be "a limited expansion of services delivered by the Middletown Centre for Autism and the focus on ensuring a sustainable future for the Centre". The Board and staff of the Centre are now planning for the expansion of the new services to be offered by the Centre.

#### THE CENTRE'S REMIT

The Centre has been given the remit to improve and enrich the educational opportunities for children and young people with autism, to provide support, advice, guidance and training to their parents and the professionals who work with them throughout the island of Ireland.

The Centre offers specialist, second level, autism support services that are currently providing school and home based support in all five Education and Library Boards in Northern Ireland as well as an extensive training programme aimed at parents and school staff in both jurisdictions. This work is underpinned by the latest research and the Centre's own Research Department undertakes studies and disseminates information on evidence based educational developments in autism.



Established as an all-Ireland Centre of Excellence, Middletown Centre has engaged key professionals, experienced in working with children and young people with autism, to deliver a range of specialist services not previously available in Ireland.

#### RESULTS

The financial results for the year are set out on page 39 - 42.

The non financial results for the year are set out in the Chief Executive's Statement and Report for the Year on pages 19 - 30.

#### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the Centre are the establishment, development and management of the Centre for which the purpose shall be supporting the promotion of excellence in the development and co-ordination of education and allied services to children and young people with Autism throughout Ireland.

#### FINANCIAL POSITION

At 31 March 2013 the Centre had cash at bank of £51,623 and reserves of £12,077.

#### FIXED ASSETS

The Centre's original plans to redevelop the estate have been paused while the Centre and the Departments agree the details of their phased multi-annual plans for the future. During the past year the Centre and Departments agreed a programme of work to complete the refurbishment of part of the estate to meet the requirements identified in the Joint Inspection Report and to support the expansion of services agreed with the Departments following the North South Ministerial meeting in June 2012. This refurbishment work will be completed in May 2013.

Details of fixed assets are set out in note 6 to the accounts.

#### PENSION SCHEME

The valuation of the company's NILGOSC pension scheme at 31 March 2013, for the purposes of FRS 17, showed a funding deficit of £376k.

This deficit represents the difference between the liabilities of the pension fund and the value of its underlying assets; it does not represent an immediate commitment, as the cash flow required to meet the deficit relates to future pension contributions. Therefore, this liability is expected to arise over the long-term rather than the immediate future. The valuation of the pension schemes assets under FRS 17 is different from the triennial actuarial valuation which determines the contributions required to reduce the deficit. Current financial projections indicate that the Centre will be able to make these contributions as they fall due. In addition, a guarantee agreement dated 16 November 2007 is in place between NILGOSC, Department of Education for Northern Ireland and Department of Education and Skills in Republic of Ireland whereby the Departments guarantee payment in full of any pension liabilities of Middletown Centre for Autism Ltd if the Centre ceases to exist or is otherwise unable to discharge its pension liabilities.

#### RESEARCH

Much of the Centre's training and advice and guidance word is underpinned by extensive research work. Details of the research carried out by the Centre is included in the Chief Executive's statement.

#### PLANNED FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

At the North South Ministerial Council education meeting of 15 June 2012, the Council announced that there would be "*a limited expansion of services delivered by the Middletown Centre for Autism and the focus on ensuring a sustainable future for the Centre*".

Further details can be found in the Chief Executive's Statement and Report for the Year on pages 19 and 30.

#### POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There are no post balance sheet events requiring disclosure.

#### CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Middletown Centre for Autism Limited made no charitable donations during the year.

#### DIRECTORS

The directors of the company who have served at any time during the financial year are as listed below:

- Dr. Laurence Crowley CBE Chairman
- Prof. Mary Hanratty CBE Vice Chair
- Mr. Harry Mullan
- Mrs. Goretti Newell
- Mrs. Daphne O Kane
- Mrs. Ethel Ruddock
- Mr. Leo Kinsella
- Mr. James O'Grady
- Mr. Michael Travers
- Dr. Donal Flanagan OBE to 31 January 2013

Further information on the directors is included on pages 13 to 15.

#### STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors, to prepare the financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that year. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimated that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and all Regulations to be construed as one with that Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

# STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS So far as the directors are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditors in connection with preparing the auditors' report) of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- The directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

#### DISABLED EMPLOYEES

Middletown Centre for Autism Limited is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes disabled persons as employees.

#### EQUALITY

Middletown Centre for Autism Limited in carrying out its functions has a statutory responsibility, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity.

Its rules for the recruitment and management of staff create an inclusive culture in which diversity is fully valued; where appointment and advancement is based on merit; and where there is no discrimination on grounds of gender, marital status, domestic circumstances, sexual orientation, race, colour, ethnic status and membership of the travelling community, in order to comply with legislative requirements in Northern Ireland and Ireland.

#### EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT

Middletown Centre for Autism Limited implements its business strategy through its staff. In achieving business objectives, the involvement of staff in the planning and decision making process is key. Staff involvement is maximised through the combined use of appropriate access to expert advice and training opportunities in order to enable them to exercise the responsibilities effectively.

#### PAYMENT TO SUPPLIERS

Middletown Centre for Autism Limited is committed to the prompt payment of bills for goods and services received in accordance with the UK Late Payment Of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, as amended by the Late Payment Commercial Debts Regulations 2002 – Statutory Instrument 2002 No. 1674 and the Irish Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997, as amended by the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002. Unless otherwise stated in the contract, payment is due within 30 days of the receipt of the goods or services, or presentation of a valid invoice or similar demand, whichever is later.

#### HEALTH & SAFETY

The policy of the Board is to ensure the continued safety, health and welfare of the employees at work by maintaining a safe and healthy work environment based on compliance with the provisions of Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978.

#### DIRECTORS' REGISTER OF INTERESTS

None of the Board Members, members of the key management staff or other related parties has undertaken any material transactions with the Centre during the year other than those disclosed in emoluments of senior post holders and remuneration report. A register of members' interests is available and can be inspected on application to the Chief Executive's office.

#### **AUDITORS**

In accordance with article 392 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution proposing that FPM Accountants LLP be reappointed as auditors of the company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ACCOUNTABLE PERSON

The responsibilities of the Chief Executive, as the Accountable Person for Middletown Centre for Autism Limited, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances and for the keeping of proper records, are set out in the Management Statement and Financial Memorandum of the Company.

This report was approved by the Board on 26 June 2013.

GCooper

Mr JG Cooper Chief Executive

3 September 2013

Date

# CHAIRMAN'S Statement

I have pleasure in presenting Middletown Centre for Autism's annual report for the year ended 31 March 2013.

The Centre, now in its sixth year, has continued to grow and to develop its services which it offers throughout Ireland to children and young people with autism, their parents, carers and professionals who work with them. It has through the work and the expertise of its staff gained recognition as a provider of high quality specialist services. The Centre is one of the first cross border iniatives and is funded by the two governments. It works on an all Ireland basis and the principal objectives are:

- the provision of a Training Service
- the provision of a Learning Support and Assessment Service
- the provision of a Research and Information Service

This year has been one of significant progress and development and some of the matters I would like to highlight are:

- The announcement by Ministers O Dowd and Quinn at the North South Ministerial Council meeting of 15 June 2012 of an expansion of services delivered by the Centre and the focus on ensuring a sustainable future for it.
- The joint Education and Training Inspectorate report completed in April 2012 which described the *"quality of the provision for educational assessment, training and research in the Centre as outstanding"*.
- The development and delivery of a comprehensive programme of specialist training for some 5,355 professionals from the education and health sectors in Ireland, both North and South during the year.
- The delivery of a comprehensive training programme for 2,858 parents throughout Ireland during the year.
- The provision of a trans-disciplinary Learning Support and Assessment service in Northern Ireland dealing directly with children and young people with autism, the professionals who support them and their parents and agreement to pilot a similar service in Ireland.
- The publication of comprehensive research bulletins and the continuing work on innovative research projects which involve schools throughout Ireland and international higher education partners.

2012 - 13 has been a successful year of quality service delivery for the Board and staff of the Centre. Our financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2013 upon which our

auditors FPM Accountants LLP have reported on without reservation, are set out in pages 39 to 42; The accounts are maintained in pounds sterling and are also reported upon in Euros. Our income for the year amounted to £1,364,246 (€1,627,368) virtually all of which has been in the form of grants from the two administrations. Our expenditure of £1,356,341 (€1,617,987) closely matches our income and can be apportioned as follows:

| - | Service delivery                   | £1,183,150 | €1,411,381 |
|---|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| - | Overheads and infrastructure costs | £173,191   | €206,600   |

The Board is committed to building on the joint Ministerial agreement for the future development of the Centre and will work closely with the Department of Education NI and the Department of Education and Skills, Ireland to ensure that appropriate plans are in place to meet the needs of children and young people with autism throughout Ireland.

At the time of writing this Report, the two Departments of Education have just reappointed the existing Board members to serve for a further three years on the Centre's Board of Directors. I have been delighted to accept Minister Quinn's invitation to continue to chair the Board and I look forward to working with my fellow Directors and the staff of the Centre for the next three years.

I would like to acknowledge the valuable work and contribution of my fellow members of the Board, who through their broad backgrounds in education, public service and administration in the UK and Ireland have provided enthusiastic support and wise counsel throughout the year.

I also wish to pay tribute to the support and work of the dedicated staff under the excellent leadership of our Chief Executive Officer Mr Gary Cooper for their great commitment to the work at the Centre.

The Centre, in its work this year, is ensuring that it is well placed to meet the challenges and expectations of delivering new, leading edge educational services to children and young people with autism over the coming years.

bearly

3 September 2013

Dr Laurence Crowley Chairman

Date

# BOARD MEMBERS AND ADVISERS



# CHAIRMAN

**Dr Laurence Crowley CBE** Dr Laurence Crowley CBE is Chairman. He is a former Governor of the Bank of Ireland and the founding Executive Chairman of the UCD Michael Smurfit Business School. He is the

former Chairman of Gaisce the President's Award and Chairman of a number of Irish companies. He also serves as Chairman of the Centre's Finance and Personnel Committee.



#### Mr Harry Mullan

Mr Harry Mullan has served as a Non Executive Director and Chairman in Health and Social Services and Education Boards in Northern Ireland. He has experience of addressing the needs of children with special needs

through his work in education and health. He is Chairman of the Centre's Audit and Governance Committee.



#### VICE-CHAIRPERSON Professor Mary Hanratty CBE

Professor Mary Hanratty CBE has worked as Director of Nursing and Midwifery Education for the Southern and Eastern Health and Social Services Boards, where she was

involved in developing education programmes for nurses involved in the care of children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders. She is a Non Executive Director with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Trust and serves on the Centre's Finance and Personnel Committee, Service Development Committee.



#### Mr Leo Kinsella

Mr Leo Kinsella is the Local Health Manager with the Health Service Executive for the Cavan/Monaghan area and is responsible for all primary, community and continuing care services in the two counties. He has held

a number of senior managerial appointments in the Health Sector and serves on the Centre's Planning and Buildings and Audit and Governance Committees.



# Mr Michael Travers

Mr Travers is a retired School Inspector. He joined the Inspectorate in 1998 and retired at the end of September 2010. Prior to this he was principal of St. Michael's House Special School, Raheny, a

special school for children with moderate general learning disability. He was widely recognised for his knowledge and expertise in Special Education and was assigned to the Special Education Business Unit of the Inspectorate for most of his career. As well as Inspection work in schools, Michael provided information and advice to Special Education Sections of the Department in relation to litigation issues and Special Education policy. Michael was a member of the Inspection Team that produced the report An Evaluation of Education Provision for Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders 2006. He also served on the NCCA committee on Special Education and contributed to a number of international projects that were organised by the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education. He is currently undertaking doctoral studies in Special Education at St Patrick's College, Dublin 9. Mr Travers serves on the Centre's Service Development Committee and Audit and Governance Committee.



Mrs Goretti Newell

Mrs Goretti Newell is the former principal of St Patrick's Boys National School, Hollypark, Co Dublin and Schools Programme Manager with Special Olympics Ireland. She is a Board member of Willow Park School, Blackrock

Co Dublin and Ballyowen Meadows Special School, which is under the auspices of Beechpark Services for children with Autism. She serves on the Centre's Planning and Buildings Committee and is Chair of the Service Development Committee.



#### Mrs Daphne O'Kane

Mrs Daphne O'Kane has extensive experience of working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders as a School Principal and when she was Head of Pre-School Services for Children with Special Education Needs

in Bromley Education Department and through her membership of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal. She serves on the Centre's Planning and Buildings Committee, the Service Development and Audit and Governance Committees.



#### Mr James O' Grady

Mr James O'Grady is a Policy Advisor within the Department of Health and Children. He is a former Director of Disability Services with the Mid Western Health Board, from 2000-2003 and was Assistant Chief

Executive with the same Board from 2003-2004. On the establishment of the HSE in January 2005 he was appointed National Manager, Disability. Within his current post Mr O'Grady has chaired a number of working groups set up to develop a number of national policies and strategies on various disability services. He has also led a number of crossdepartmental groups tasked with developing joint strategies in relation to early intervention services for children with developmental delay, including children with autism. Mr O'Grady has worked collaboratively with the Department of Education and Skills in developing both the competencies and strategies to support children with special needs in the education system and he has also worked with the Department of the Environment in developing a Housing strategy for persons with a disability. He serves on the Centre's Planning and Buildings and Finance and Personnel Committees.



### **Mrs Ethel Ruddock**

Mrs Ethel Ruddock has a background in education and she was responsible for training and support for new Principals, Vice Principals, Beginning Teachers, School Senior Management Teams and Board of Governors in

the South Eastern Education and Library Board area. Through this work she developed a considerable understanding of the needs of children with autism and their teachers. She is a member of the Centre's Finance and Personnel Committee, Service Development Committee as well as the Planning and Building Committee.

#### **BOARD STRUCTURES**

The Centre's Board of Directors comprises 5 Department of Education appointees and 5 Department of Education and Science nominees. The Board of Directors meet at least eight times a year and its members serve on the Centre's four committees:

- Audit and Governance Committee,
- Service Development Committee,
- Planning and Buildings Committee and
- Finance and Personnel Committee.

The Board and its Committees are serviced by the Centre's Chief Executive Officer and Senior Management Team.

#### BOARD STRUCTURE IN MIDDLETOWN CENTRE FOR AUTISM





# ADVISERS

#### SECRETARY

Annsgate Limited Capital House 3 Upper Queen Street Belfast BT1 6PU

# REGISTERED OFFICE

Middletown Centre for Autism Limited 35 Church Street Middletown Co Armagh BT60 4HZ

AUDITORS FPM Accountants LLP Dromalane Mill The Quays Newry Co. Down BT35 8QS

#### REGISTERED NO. NI 063661

#### BANKERS

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Bank of Ireland 11 Upper English Street Armagh Co. Armagh BT61 7BH

#### **SOLICITORS**

Arthur Cox Solicitors Capital House 3 Upper Queen Street Belfast BT1 6PU



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S Statement

I have pleasure in presenting this account of the operation of Middletown Centre for Autism, detailing the work undertaken by the Centre from April 2012 to March 2013.

It has been a year of outstanding success for the Centre culminating in an agreement from the two funding Departments to proceed with the planned expansion of the Centre's services and development. This was formally announced at the North South Ministerial Council meeting of 15 June 2012 and is recognition of the innovative work carried out by the Centre since it opened in 2007.

Throughout the year the Centre has continued to develop and deliver an extensive range of training opportunities to both parents of children and young people with autism and the educational professionals who support them. In addition, the Centre's Research Department has continued to develop and publish its much acclaimed Research Bulletins as well as undertake three major research projects. The Learning Support and Assessment Service has also continued its work with young people referred to the service from all five of the Education and Library Boards in Northern Ireland. In addition to this on-going work the Centre's services were inspected in April 2012 by a joint inspection team from the ETI services in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Training is a key feature of the Centre's work and during the course of last year over 8,600 delegates attended training delivered by the Centre. Indeed since training commenced from the Centre in December 2007, a total in excess of 23,000 delegates have received specialist second level training from the Centre. These are very commendable figures and reflect greatly the growing interest and demand for high calibre training in all aspects of autism provision.



During the course of the year the Centre developed a number of new models of training which reflect the changing needs of both parents and professionals. Five week trainings were offered to parents in Dublin and Wexford as well as IAM trainings covering four topics per training in Dublin, Athlone, Galway and Naas. In addition to this, Joint Events involving parents and professionals were held in Dundalk, Dublin, Athlone, Cork and Limerick and involved international speakers such as Peter Vermeulen, Jacqui Ashton Smith, Patricia Howlin and Rita Jordan. In Northern Ireland an extensive Parent Training Programme was also completed with most trainings being hosted by the special school sector.

Training for professional staff is also a key feature of the Centre's work. During this past year the Centre brought to Ireland for the first time Emily Rubins to deliver a three day training at the Centre on Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transitional Support (SCERTS). This was followed by a one-day training on SCERTS for both professionals and parents in Athlone. Also of significance for the Centre this year was the development of a series of Master-class Trainings. Among those contributing were Rita Jordan and Patricia Howlin. These were very successful events attracting a diverse sector of influential educationalists both from Northern Ireland and from the Republic of Ireland.

Also of significance for the Centre was the development of its first "Best Practice Day". This was hosted by Gareth Morewood and included a range of professional presentations from professionals working in schools in both jurisdictions. Such was the success of this event that the Centre is currently planning a follow up event for later in this current year.



Research continues to underpin all that the Centre does. During the last year three Research Bulletins were published covering the themes of : Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Siblings. The high calibre of these documents has been recognised by many not least the National Autistic Society who asked that the bulletins be published on its newly created E-Learning Community of which the Centre was asked to become a founding member. To date the Centre's Research Bulletins are the most read and downloaded documents on the NAS site.

The Research Department has also this year undertaken and completed a major piece of research on the "Working Memory" of children and young people with autism. This work is currently awaiting publication in "The Irish Journal of Education". A project on Sensory Processing is also underway and the Research Department continues to work on follow up case studies on those children and young people referred to the Learning Support and Assessment Service. The first such Case Study is currently awaiting publication in the "Good Autism Practice Journal".

The Learning Support and Assessment Service's work continues to expand in Northern Ireland and will shortly be piloted in the Republic of Ireland thus ensuring that educationalists in both jurisdictions can refer children and young people who despite extensive first level intervention and support continue to encounter difficulties. This work has involved Centre staff working with parents and key professionals to support the young referrals. To date 18 children have been directly referred to the service with a further 314 receiving direct support and a further 332 receiving indirect support. These pupils are referred to the service by the Education and Library Boards and this work involves transdisciplinary teams working with children in their school, home and community settings. This work is very much based on a capacity building model and also involves a great deal of collaborative working with a wide range of external agencies.

The Centre's work was validated this year by a joint Inspection team from both Departments of Education. This work was carried out in April and May 2012 and reported on in September 2012. The inspectors concluded that *"In the work inspected, the quality of the provision is evaluated by the inspectors as outstanding"*. This extensive inspection involved meeting with key stakeholders and observing Centre staff delivering services. I would like to record my thanks to both the Centre staff and those parents and professionals who so willingly gave of their time to meet with the inspection team and to discuss the impact the Centre services were having both professionally and on family life.

In closing I would like to pay tribute to the work and commitment of the staff and Directors. The Centre is most fortunate in the calibre of staff it employs whose dedication and commitment ensure that high quality services are delivered across the island of Ireland. I would also like to pay tribute to the dedication of the Board of Directors and to thank them for the interest and guidance they give to the work and development of the Centre. It was most gratifying to note the reappointment of the Board for a further three year period and to welcome the appointment of Dr Laurence Crowley CBE as Chairman of the Board.

I trust that you will find this report informative and reflective of the work that the Centre has been engaged in over the last twelve months.

**J G Cooper** Chief Executive Officer

3 September 2013

Date



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S Report for the year

# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR

Over the past year the Centre and its staff have delivered services to three main client groups throughout Ireland:

- Professionals working in the autism sector, mainly those based in the education sector but including some health professionals who are school based; places area also provided for some staff working in the voluntary sector
- Parents (and guardians) and family members of children and young people with autism. The Centre's work with this group is provided within an educational context
- Children and young people with autism.

# A TRANS-DISCIPLINARY MODEL OF ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING SUPPORT

The Centre's educational advice and guidance service staff delivers intensive assessment and learning support for children and young people who, despite specialist input, continue to experience difficulties in their educational setting. This is a second level service aiming to provide further assessment, learning support and intervention for children and young people with autism. The service utilises a trans-disciplinary approach to service delivery. The team includes specialist autism teachers, occupational therapists, a speech and language therapist, an educational psychologist and a behaviour autism specialist. The service provides:-

- A detailed trans-disciplinary assessment and learning support plan;
- Specific training for those working with the child and young person referred to the service;
- · Home support and advice for parents in relation to their child's education; and
- Support for children and young people for up to four terms according to need

The success of the trans-disciplinary learning support plan is dependent on collaborative practice and multi-agency working. The team works closely with the education and health professionals already involved in working with the child or young person referred to the service and with the child's parents. Throughout the period of intervention the ongoing responsibility for services remains with the Health and Social Care Trusts and the schools. However, specific working arrangements are developed and delivered by mutual agreement between the Centre and the relevant professionals.

The Centre has a child-centred approach to service delivery, but with this comes the recognition that this involves more than just working with the individual child. Autism recognises few boundaries and as such cross-disciplinary provision for children and young people with this condition must be seamless. Centre staff can offer support for the child or young person and those working with and caring for them in their home, school and community settings. Support is more than class based education it is context based education in academic and functional life skills.

Staffs within schools are offered training on an individual and whole school basis. To date, the Learning Support and Assessment service, through both direct intervention and the training of staff and parents, has supported over 600 students. This is a capacity building model aiming to help teachers hone their skills in teaching children and young people with autism and enabling them to provide "autism competent" environments. The Centre during this year has been involved in delivering Learning Support and Assessment services to schools and families in Belfast, Londonderry, Armagh, Ballyclare, Lisnaskea, Lisburn and Newry.

### AUTISM SPECIFIC CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

The Centre has been providing specialist autism based in-service continuous professional development since 2007. At the end of March 2013 some 15,834 professionals have availed of the Centre's training programmes across the island. In addition over 7,977 parents have received specialist training. Trainings are needs led and the Centre has been instrumental in introducing and delivering innovative, evidence based trainings, in both jurisdictions. Many trainings have been offered for the first time on the island of Ireland such as TEACCH Transitional Assessment Profile (T-Tap) and Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support (SCERTS). The Centre now co-ordinates SCERTS support cluster groups to facilitate those professionals implementing the SCERTS approach Leading international experts including Dr Peter Vermeulen, Emily Rubin, Professor Patricia Howlin, Professor Rita Jordan and Dr Brenda Smith-Myles deliver trainings as part of the of the Centre's training programme: evaluations consistently rate the Centre's training as excellent. The Centre's training information is sent to every school in Ireland and feedback from delegates continues to be positive.



In addition to the professional training provision, the Centre also provides comprehensive programmes of training for parents throughout the island.

# USING RESEARCH TO INFORM

The Centre's Research Department is instrumental in supporting the introduction of new research based practice. Good practice is shared on a North / South context and the Research Department is keen to offer schools and professionals access to autism literature. Research Bulletins summarise peer reviewed literature on topics such as "Siblings, Social Communication, Autism & Emotional Regulation and Relationships & Sexuality".

They are published four times a year and are downloadable from the Centre's website.

A major North / South study into the working memory of children with autism has been completed and submitted to a peer reviewed journal and data collection on a major research project on sensory processing and autism is now underway.

There is no doubt that the services developed by the Centre have been greatly welcomed and a making a demonstrable difference to the quality of education provision in Ireland.

|           | Parental<br>Training NI | Parental<br>Training Rol | Professional<br>Training N I | Professional<br>Training Rol | Learning Support &<br>Assessment Referrals |  |
|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| 2009-2010 | 12                      | 41                       | 1452                         | 497                          | 0  |  |
| 2010-2011 | 706                     | 1461                     | 1356                         | 598                          | 3  |  |
| 2011-2012 | 710                     | 1854                     | 3171                         | 2180                         | 10   |  |
| 2012-2013 | 597                     | 2261                     | 3331                         | 2024                         | 10   |  |

SERVICES DELIVERED IN 2012/2013







### CONSULTATION

The Centre is mindful of the extensive range of stakeholders and interested parties and the need for an effective dissemination of the Centre's work and plans. The Centre recognises that all staff as well as the Board of Directors have an important role in promoting the work of the Centre and fostering relationships with those particularly linked to the first level services and statutory organisations.

The Centre has played host to a wide range of stakeholders throughout the course of the year as well as meeting with a wide cross section of those particularly in the voluntary sector who are delivering first level autism services. The development of these relationships is not merely for an exchange of information, but is designed to complement and add value to the provision of existing services for the wider autism community.



The Centre has continued to deliver and develop collaborative working arrangements with a number of service delivery agencies such as the Regional Training Unit in Northern Ireland and the Special Education Support Service in the Republic of Ireland. The Centre has also been invited to part of the steering group in the planning of the Department of Education, Northern Ireland's, strategic plan for autism. The Centre has also been involved in discussions with the Inspectorate in relation to capacity building within the context of the SEN Review.

The Centre has been keen this year to build on its links with the teacher training colleges providing specialist input to courses for aspiring teachers and other professionals. Centre staff has been asked to provide input into the core training of students at Stranmillis University College, St Mary's University College Belfast and also for further Education Lecturers at the University of Ulster. In addition to this the Centre also delivers on the SESS supported Post Graduate Diploma in St Angela's College, Sligo.

The Centre has also been developing links with the Further Education sectors in N Ireland and Ireland, providing support for young people transitioning into further education.

The Centre is keen to engage and develop in innovative provision for children and young people with autism. It is also currently working on the development of online learning modules reflecting and enhancing the Centre's training programme. The Centre continues to provide opportunities for parents and professionals to avail of research based training opportunities of an international standing. Much valuable work has been done this year in developing the "Attention Autism" intervention throughout Ireland and the Centre is keen to develop this work further over the next few years.



# A FOCUS ON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

The Centre is focused upon the promotion and development of excellence in the services which it provides for children, their families and the professionals who support and work with them. During the year it has focused on identifying examples of best practice through its own research work in Ireland, nationally and internationally. It hosted a best practice conference in November 2012 providing an opportunity for educational professionals and parents to share innovative autism specific teaching methods used throughout Ireland.

During the year the Centre's work and services were subjected to a comprehensive joint inspection by inspectors from N Ireland and Ireland. The joint Education and Training Inspectorate report completed in June 2012 evaluated the services delivered to date by the Centre, examining the quality and extent of the provision, its impact and outcomes, parental appreciation, schools and professional views and the overall effectiveness of the provision. The summary of the report described the *"quality of the provision for educational assessment, training and research as outstanding*". The reference to educational assessment is the approach, currently delivered on a small scale in N Ireland that is planned to be rolled out in N Ireland and initially piloted in Ireland during 2013-2014.

The Centre has as in past years, continued to work with a range agencies including the Regional Training Unit in Northern Ireland, Stranmillis University College, Saint Angela's and St Patrick's Teacher training Colleges in Ireland and Institutes of Further and Higher Education in Northern Ireland. The Centre has established good working links with Division TEACCH part of the University of North Carolina and with them delivers advanced training for education professionals throughout Ireland.

# PLANNED FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

At the North South Ministerial Council education meeting of 15 June 2012, the Council announced that there would be "a limited expansion of services delivered by the Middletown Centre for Autism and the focus on ensuring a sustainable future for the Centre" The review and inspection work carried out in the period 2010-2012 by the Centre's staff, Departmental officials and the Joint Inspection Team concluded that there remains an ongoing need for specialist trans-disciplinary assessment and intervention for those children with particularly complex autism whose needs cannot be fully met by the autism support services delivered by the existing education provision. The Departments and Inspectorate sees the expansion of the services delivered by the Centre as an important mechanism for NI and RoI education services to meet these increasingly complex demands for educational provision for children and young people with autism.

The expansion of the Centre's services will enable it to build upon it efforts to assist the Departments achieve many of the recommendations of the Task Group Report on Autism 2002 by building on local provision, researching and assessing current provision with a view to developing and co-ordinating best practice and disseminating important guidance and training to education authorities, schools, parents and educational professionals.

The development of the Centre continues to align with the Northern Ireland Executive and Department of Education's strategic priorities. The current Programme for Government describes its Priority 2 wishing to "close the gap in educational underachievement between those who are least and most disadvantaged and improving the participation of young people in education, employment and training". The most recently published DE business plan identified educational priorities which include "Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equity".

The expansion of the Centre fits within the strategic framework developed by the Department of Education and Skills in its STATEMENT OF STRATEGY 2011 – 2014 where the Department has established a long term objective of enhancing the education provision for children with special education needs.

# STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL

# **1. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY**

As Accountable Person, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of Middletown Centre for Autism's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and departmental assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Government Accounting Northern Ireland and Public Finance Procedures.

I provide assurance in respect of expenditure incurred by the Centre on programmes and schemes funded by the Department of Education and the Department of Education and Skills. I am responsible for maintaining administrative structures which enable the Centre to discharge its statutory duties which takes into account working with the Centre's sponsoring departments, other education bodies and partners both in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The achievement of these responsibilities is discussed at regular review meetings with officials of the Department of Education and Department of Education and Skills as detailed in the Management Statement and Financial Memorandum.

# 2. THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of departmental policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Middletown Centre for Autism for the year ended 31 March 2013 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts, and accords with the Finance Departments' guidance.

# **3. CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK**

Leadership has been given to the risk management process by senior management ensuring that all service managers review and evaluate their key risks and controls on a regular basis. The Board has a Risk Management Strategy and Policy which are developed under the leadership of the CEO and Senior Management Team and are endorsed by the Audit and Governance Committee. These documents specify the risk management process within the Centre and set out the roles and responsibilities of officers and members. Internal Audit has provided assistance and guidance to the Senior Management Team concerning the evaluation of risks and the completion of the required documentation. In endorsing the Risk Management Strategy and Policy the Audit and Governance Committee has identified specific risks outside the control of the Centre's management that have the potential to impede the work of the Centre and have therefore been identified on the Centre's Risk Register. Among these are the differentials in service provision between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland; and more recently the inherited responsibility for the convent building and its upkeep, including those parts which have been listed as well as the renovation of building block B in order to expand the Centre's services. Any one of these risks has the potential to be an obstacle to the achievement of the Centre's aims and objectives.

### 4. THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

The Risk Management Strategy for the Centre details a formal process for identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring risks faced by the Centre, including a prioritisation methodology based on risk ranking of impact and likelihood.

Each manager is responsible for

- Identifying risks for their service
- · Evaluating these risks in terms of impact and likelihood; and
- Establishing an adequate control mechanism, commensurate with the perceived level of risk.

This information is forwarded to the Senior Management Team who determines whether the relationship between risk and control is appropriate. These risks are then incorporated into the Board risk register. Risk management is also a feature within the corporate and business planning process. The Senior Management Team has considered the Board's objectives as detailed in the corporate plan and from these have identified corporate risks.

#### 5. REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

As Accountable Person, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal auditors and the executive managers within the department who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports. I have been advised on the implications of the result of my review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Board, the Audit and Governance Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

The Board, through its committees, maintains and reviews the system of internal control within the Centre's three divisions by continually monitoring the service being provided to customers to ensure it meets objectives set in the respective divisional Business Plans. Updates on Business Plans are provided to relevant committees on a regular basis. The Chairperson of the Audit and Governance Committee reports to the Board as a whole on audit activity including risk management on a regular basis. The Board undertakes an annual review of its committees and an assessment of its performance .The Board has developed and carries out performance appraisal of the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team. The Board approves all expenditure and resource allocation plans and reviews these monthly through its Finance and Personnel Committee. The Board has also established a Service Development Committee and a

Planning and Buildings Committee to provide it with the capacity to offer strategic oversight and scrutiny in these aspects of the work of the Centre. No significant issues of internal control have been identified in the past year.

GCoope

3 September 2013

Date

Mr JG Cooper Chief Executive Officer


## REMUNERATION Report

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

The Members of the Board have received remuneration for their duties carried out as Directors of the Centre at a rate and on such conditions as determined by the Department of Education for those Directors appointed by the Department and on such conditions as determined by the Department of Education and Skills for those Directors appointed by the Department of Education and Skills.

Board members also receive travelling allowances for expenditure incurred, at such rates and on such conditions as determined by and subject to the approval of the Department of Education or Department of Education and Skills. No Board members receive or make pension contributions through their role as a Board member.

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND SECOND TIER OFFICERS

The remuneration of the Chief Executive and all other officers is based upon agreed outcomes of the Education and Library boards Joint Negotiating Committee's procedures and approved annually by both the Department of Education and Department of Education and Skills.

### STAFF SERVICE CONTRACTS

Officer appointments are in accordance with the Joint Negotiating Council (JNC) for the Education and Library Boards terms and conditions and in particular are in accordance with the Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection. Unless otherwise stated, the officers covered by this report hold appointments until their retirement. The normal period of notice is 1 month. Policy on termination payments in relation to premature retirement are in accordance with Local Government Regulations and the redundancy provisions.

#### **BENEFITS IN KIND**

No Director or senior post holders received non-cash benefits (benefits in kind) in this year.



# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT To the members of middletown centre for autism limited

#### RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS

As described on page 8 the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with the relevant legal and regulatory requirements and United Kingdom Auditing Standards.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly in accordance with the Companies (Northern Ireland) Act 2006. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the directors report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we required for our audit, or if information is specified by law regarding remuneration and transactions within the company is not disclosed.

We read the directors report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

### **BASIS OF OPINION**

We conducted our audit in accordance with the United Kingdom Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

## **OPINION**

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2013 and of its results and cash flow for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

Eag M Gorman

Feargal P McCormack Senior Statutory Auditor for and on behalf of FPM Accountants LLP Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors Dromalane Mill, The Quays, Newry Co. Down, BT35 8QS

3 September 2013

Date

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> march 2013

|   | Notes | 2013<br>£ | 2013<br>€ | 2012<br>£ | 2012<br>€ |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Income  | 2     | 1,364,246 | 1,627,368 | 1,256,167 | 1,423,581 |
| Other operating expenses                          | 3     | 1,356,341 | 1,617,987 | 1,249,964 | 1,416,207 |
|   |       |           |           |           |           |
| Operating Surplus                                 |       | 7,905     | 9,381     | 6,203     | 7,374     |
| Interest payable and similar charges              |       | (962)     | (1,148)   | (1,041)   | (1,180)   |
|   |       |           |           |           |           |
| Surplus on ordinary activities<br>before taxation |       | 6,943     | 8,233     | 5,162     | 6,194     |
| Taxation  | 4     | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         |
|   |       |           |           |           |           |
| Surplus for the year                              |       | 6,943     | 8,233     | 5,162     | 6,194     |
|   |       |           |           |           |           |

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## STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED Gains and losses for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013

|   | Notes | 2013<br>£ | 2013<br>€ | 2012<br>£ | 2012<br>€ |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Net (expenditure) /<br>income for the year                          |       | 6,943     | 8,233     | 5,162     | 6,194     |
| Actuarial gains /<br>(losses) on defined benefit<br>pension schemes |       | (376,000) | (445,867) | -         | -         |
|   |       |           |           |           |           |
| Total gains and losses<br>recognised since 1 April 2012             | 14    | (369,057) | (437,634) | 5,162     | 6,194     |
|   |       |           |           |           |           |

All amounts above relate to continuing activities of the company.

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the results above.

There is no material difference between the surplus on ordinary activities before taxation and the surplus for the year stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

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Dr Laurence Crowley Chairman

3 September 2013

Date

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**Mr JG Cooper** Chief Executive Officer

3 September 2013

Date

# BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013

| ••••••   |       |                     |           |           |                 |
|--|-------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
|  | Notes | 2013                | 2013      | 2012      | 2012            |
| Fixed Assets                                   |       | £                   | €         | £         | €               |
| Tangible fixed assets                          | 6     | 174,916             | 207,423   | 132,562   | 145,130         |
| Current Assets                                 |       |                     |           |           |                 |
| Debtors  | 7     | 12,039              | 14,276    | 5,663     | 6,795           |
| Cash at bank and in hand                       |       | 51,623              | 61,218    | 8,958     | 10,749          |
|  |       |                     |           |           |                 |
|  |       | 63,662              | 75,494    | 14,621    | 17,544          |
| Current Liabilities                            |       |                     |           |           |                 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 8     | (51,585)            | (61,172)  | (9,487)   | (11,384)        |
|  |       |                     |           |           |                 |
| Net Current Assets                             |       | 12,077              | 14,322    | 5,134     | 6,160           |
| Total assets less current liabilities          |       | 186,993             | 221,745   | 137,696   | 152,290         |
| Long Term Liabilities                          |       |                     |           |           |                 |
| Deferred credits - capital grants              | 9     | (174,916)           | (207,423) | (132,562) | (145,130)       |
| Provisions for liabilities                     | 10    | (376,000)           | (445,867) | -         | -               |
|  |       |                     |           |           |                 |
|  |       | (550,916)           | (653,290) | (132,562) | (145,130)       |
|  |       |                     |           |           |                 |
| Net Assets / Liabilities                       |       | (363,920)           | (431,545) | 5,134     | 6,160           |
|  |       |                     |           |           |                 |
| Reserves                                       | 11    |                     |           |           |                 |
| General Reserves                               |       | 12,077              | 14,322    | 5,134     | 6,160           |
| Pension Liability                              |       | (376,000)           | (445,867) | -         | -               |
|  |       | (363,920)<br>====== | (431,545) | 5,134     | 6,160<br>====== |

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 26 June 2013 and were signed on its behalf by:

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**Dr Laurence Crowley** Chairman

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Mr JG Cooper Chief Executive Officer

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013

|  | Notes | 2013<br>£ | 2013<br>€ | 2012<br>£ | 2012<br>€ |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow)<br>from Operating Activities | 12    | 42,665    | 50,468    | (1,573)   | (1,427)   |
| Capital Expenditure and<br>Financial Investment        |       |           |           |           |           |
| Payments to acquire tangible Fixed Assets              | б     | 74,602    | 88,467    | 12,433    | 14,070    |
|  |       |           |           |           |           |
| Net Cash Inflow Before Financing                       |       | 117,267   | 138,935   | 10,860    | 12,643    |
| Financing  |       |           |           |           |           |
| Capital Funding Received                               | 9     | (74,602)  | (88,467)  | (14,433)  | (14,070)  |
|  |       |           |           |           |           |
| Increase/(Decrease) in<br>Cash and Cash Equivalents    | 13    | 42,665    | 50,468    | (1,573)   | (1,427)   |
|  |       |           |           |           |           |

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> march 2013

**1.1. ACCOUNTING CONVENTION** 

1.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention. Without limiting the information given, the accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and comply with the accounting and disclosure requirements of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, the Irish Companies' Acts 1963 to 2006, the accounting standards issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards Board and accounting and disclosure requirements issued by the Department of Education, NI and the Department of Education and Skills, ROI, insofar as those requirements are appropriate.

#### **1.2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

The cost of tangible fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental expenses of acquisition.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost, or valuation of tangible fixed assets, over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:

0/~

|                           | 70   |                        |
|---------------------------|------|------------------------|
| Fixtures & Fittings       | 15   | Reducing balance basis |
|                           |      |                        |
| <b>Computer Equipment</b> | 33 ¼ | Straight line basis    |
|                           |      |                        |
| Telecoms Equipment        | 25   | Straight line basis    |

#### **1.3. GOVERNMENT GRANTS**

Revenue grants receivable are recognised in the year in which they are received. Grants receivable as a contribution towards expenditure on a fixed asset are credited to a capital grant reserve and released to the income and expenditure account in the same proportion as the depreciation charged on the relevant assets.

#### **1.4. FOREIGN CURRENCIES**

The accounts are maintained in sterling and are also reported on in Euro at our year end. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange prevailing at the accounting date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the date of the transactions. All differences are taken to the income and expenditure account.

#### **1.5. PENSIONS ARRANGEMENTS**

The Board's employees belong to two principal schemes, the Teachers' Superannuation Scheme (TSS) and the Northern Ireland Local Government Officer's Superannuation Committee Scheme (NILGOSC). The Teachers' Superannuation Scheme is a contributory scheme administered by the Department of Education. The conditions of the Superannuation (NI) Order 1972, the Teachers' Superannuation Regulations (NI) 1977 and subsequent amendments apply to the scheme. The scheme is presently notionally funded. The rate of the employer's contribution is determined from time to time by the Government actuary and advised by the Department of Finance and Personnel. The scheme is administered by the Department of Education, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor.

The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee Scheme is a defined benefit pension scheme, the assets of the schemes being held in separate trustee administered funds. The scheme is administered by NILGOSC, Holywood Road, Belfast.

The fund is valued every three years by a professionally qualified independent actuary, the rates of contribution payable being determined by the trustees of the scheme based on advice of the actuary. In the intervening years the continuing appropriateness of the rates are reviewed. Pension costs are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a systematic basis based on the actuary's calculations. The company pays no other post retirement benefits to its employees.

#### 1.6. TAXATION

Current tax represents the amount expected to be paid or recovered in respect of taxable profits for the year and is calculated using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantially enacted at the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date where transactions or events have occurred at that date that will result in an obligation to pay more tax in the future, or a right to pay less tax in the future. Timing differences are temporary differences between the company's taxable profits and its results as stated in the financial statements.

Deferred tax is measured on an undiscounted basis at the tax rates that are anticipated to apply in the periods in which the timing differences are expected to reverse, based on tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantially enacted by the balance sheet date.

#### 2. INCOME

The income of the company has been derived from funding received from Department of Education, Northern Ireland and Department of Education and Skills, Republic of Ireland.

|                | 2013      | 2013      | 2012      | 2012      |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                | £         | €         | £         | €         |
| Administration | 1,229,761 | 1,466,994 | 1,180,653 | 1,337,659 |
| Establishment  | 126,580   | 150,993   | 69,311    | 78,548    |
|                |           |           |           |           |
|                | 1,356,341 | 1,617,987 | 1,249,964 | 1,416,207 |
|                | ======    | ======    | =======   | ======    |

### **3. OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES**

## 4. TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

|   | 2013<br>£ | 2013<br>€ | 2012<br>£ | 2012<br>€ |  |  |  |  |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|--|
| Analysis of charge in the year                      |           |           |           |           |  |  |  |  |
| Current tax:<br>Corporation tax at 20% (2012: 20%)  | -         | -         | -         | -         |  |  |  |  |
|   |           |           |           |           |  |  |  |  |
|   |           |           |           |           |  |  |  |  |
| No charge to tax arises due to tax losses incurred. |           |           |           |           |  |  |  |  |

| 5. STAFF C                        | OSTS          |           |           |               |           |           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                   | Staff<br>No.s | 2013<br>£ | 2013<br>€ | Staff<br>Nos. | 2012<br>£ | 2012<br>€ |
| Remuneration of Senior Management | 4             | 298,582   | 356,170   | 4             | 297,089   | 336,682   |
| Other Employees Remuneration      | 15            | 481,171   | 573,974   | 19            | 520,429   | 589,789   |

|                       | 2013<br>£ | 2013<br>€ |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Wages and salaries    | 622,190   | 742,191   |
| Social security costs | 53,654    | 64,003    |
| Pension costs         | 103,909   | 123,950   |
|                       | 779,753   | 930,144   |

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779,753

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817,518

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926,471

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930,144

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# The following amounts were also paid to the Chairman and Directors directly from the Department of Education and the Department of Education and Skills:

|                                    | 2013<br>£ | 2013<br>€ | 2012<br>£ | 2012<br>€ |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Department of Education            | 0         | 0         | 5,727     | 7,145     |
| Department of Education and Skills | 0         | 0         | 2,805     | 3,500     |

One Director nominee of the Department of Education and Skills as Public/Civil Servants was not entitled to claim remuneration.

Details on the pension arrangements are given in Note 1.5.

The salaries of Senior Managers, including the Chief Executive Officer, are paid in accordance with terms agreed by the Joint Negotiating Council for the Education and Library Boards. They are paid according to the following scales:

| Chief Executive Officer | Scale 68 – 73 | £57,995 - £62,787 |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
|                         |               |                   |
| Heads of Division (3)   | Scale 64 - 67 | £54,437 - £57,083 |

## 6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

|                  |         | ires &<br>ings | Com<br>Equip | puter<br>oment | Teleo  | coms   | Buil<br>Improv | ding<br>ements | То      | tal     |
|------------------|---------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------|--------|----------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| Cost             | £       | €              | £            | €              | £      | €      | £              | €              | £       | €       |
| At 1 April 2012  | 165,589 | 196,363        | 89,669       | 106,334        | 17,449 | 20,692 | -              | -              | 272,707 | 323,389 |
|                  |         |                |              |                |        |        |                |                |         |         |
| Additions        | -       | -              | 8,667        | 10,278         | -      | -      | 65,935         | 78,189         | 74,602  | 88,467  |
|                  |         |                |              |                |        |        |                |                |         |         |
| At 31 March 2013 | 165,589 | 196,363        | 98,336       | 116,612        | 17,449 | 20,692 | 65,935         | 78,189         | 347,309 | 411,857 |
|                  |         |                |              |                |        |        |                |                |         |         |
| Depreciation     |         |                |              |                |        |        |                |                |         |         |
| At 1 April 2012  | 54,424  | 64,539         | 69,888       | 82,877         | 15,832 | 18,775 | -              | -              | 140,145 | 166,191 |
|                  |         |                |              |                |        |        |                |                |         |         |
| Charge           | 16,374  | 19,417         | 13,372       | 15,857         | 1,617  | 1,917  | 887            | 1,052          | 32,250  | 38,243  |
|                  |         |                |              |                |        |        |                |                |         |         |
| At 31 March 2013 | 70,798  | 83,956         | 83,260       | 98,734         | 17,449 | 20,692 | 887            | 1,052          | 172,395 | 204,434 |
|                  |         |                |              |                |        |        |                |                |         |         |
| Net Book Value   |         |                |              |                |        |        |                |                |         |         |
| At 31 March 2013 | 94,791  | 112,407        | 15,076       | 17,878         | -      | -      | 65,048         | 77,137         | 174,916 | 207,423 |
|                  |         |                |              |                |        |        |                |                |         |         |
| At 31 March 2012 | 111,165 | 126,641        | 19,781       | 23,572         | 1,617  | 3,352  | -              | -              | 132,562 | 145,130 |
|                  |         |                |              |                |        |        |                |                |         |         |

## 7. DEBTORS

|               | 2013<br>£ | 2013<br>€ | 2012<br>£ | 2012<br>€ |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sundry Debtor | 12,039    | 14,276    | 5,663     | 6,795     |
|               |           |           |           |           |
|               | 12,039    | 14,276    | 5,663     | 6,795     |
|               |           |           |           |           |

## 8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

|                               | 2013<br>£ | 2013<br>€ | 2012<br>£ | 2012<br>€ |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sundry Creditors and Accruals | 51,585    | 61,172    | 9,487     | 11,384    |
|                               |           |           |           |           |
|                               | 51,585    | 61,172    | 9,487     | 11,384    |
|                               |           |           |           |           |

## 9. DEFERRED INCOME

|   | 2013<br>£ | 2013<br>€ | 2012<br>£ | 2012<br>€ |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Balance at 1 April 2012                 | 132,563   | 157,199   | 163,162   | 179,828   |
| Capital Grants Received                 | 74,602    | 88,467    | 12,433    | 14,070    |
| Release to Income & Expenditure Account | (32,249)  | (38,243)  | (43,033)  | (48,768)  |
|   |           |           |           |           |
| Balance at 31 March 2013                | 174,916   | 207,423   | 132,562   | 145,130   |
|   |           |           |           |           |

## 10. PROVISIONS

|                               | 2013<br>£ | 2013<br>€ | 2012<br>£ | 2012<br>€ |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Balance at 1 April 2012       | -         | -         | -         | -         |
| Additions – Pension Liability | 376,000   | 445,867   | -         | -         |
|                               |           |           |           |           |
| Balance at 31 March 2013      | 376,000   | 207,423   | -         | -         |
|                               |           |           |           |           |

|                  |             | neral<br>erves | Pen:<br>Liab |           | То          | otal        |
|------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
|                  | £           | €              | £            | €         | £           | €           |
| At 1 April 2012  | 5,134       | 6,160          | -            | -         | 5,134       | 6,160       |
| Income           | 1,364,246   | 1,627,368      | -            | -         | 1,364,246   | 1,627,368   |
| Expenditure      | (1,357,303) | (1,619,135)    | -            | -         | (1,357,303) | (1,619,135) |
| Gains / (Losses) | -           | -              | (376,000)    | (445,867) | (376,000)   | (455,867)   |
|                  |             |                |              |           |             |             |
| At 31 March 2013 | 12,077      | 14,322         | (376,000)    | (445,867) | (363,920)   | (431,545)   |
|                  |             |                |              |           |             |             |

## 11. RESERVES

## 12. RECONCILIATION OF DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

|  | 2013<br>£ | 2013<br>€ | 2012<br>£ | 2012<br>€ |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Surplus for the year                                   | 6,943     | 8,201     | 5,162     | 6,194     |
| Adjustment for non cash transactions                   |           |           |           |           |
| Depreciation   | 32,249    | 38,243    | 43,033    | 48,768    |
| Transfer from Capital Grant Reserve                    | (32,249)  | (38,243)  | (43,033)  | (48,768)  |
|  |           |           |           |           |
| Adjustments for movements in Working Capital           | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         |
|  |           |           |           |           |
| Increase in Debtors                                    | (6,376)   | (7,521)   | 0         | 0         |
| Increase in creditors/(Decrease in Creditors)          | 42,098    | 49,788    | (6,735)   | (7,621)   |
|  |           |           |           |           |
|  | 35,722    | 42,307    | (6,735)   | (7,621)   |
|  |           |           |           |           |
| Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow)<br>from Operating Activities | 42,665    | 50,468    | (1,573)   | (1,427)   |
|  |           |           |           |           |

### 13. ANALYSIS OF CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

|  | 2013<br>£ | 2013<br>€ | 2012<br>£ | 2012<br>€ |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow)<br>from Operating Activities | 42,665    | 50,468    | (1,573)   | (1,427)   |
|  |           |           |           |           |
| Cash at Bank and in Hand at 31 March 2013              | 51,623    | 61,217    | 8,958     | 10,749    |
|  |           |           |           |           |

## **14. PENSION COSTS**

### DEFINED BENEFIT

The company participates in a defined benefit scheme in the UK, operated by NILGOSC. The most recent full actuarial valuation was as of 31 March 2013 by a qualified independent actuary, Scott Campbell FIA for and on behalf of Aon Hewitt.

| The major assumptions used by the actuary were: |           |           |  |
|---|-----------|-----------|--|
|   | 2013<br>% | 2012<br>% |  |
| Rate of increase in salaries                    | 5.2       | 4.8       |  |
| Rate of increase in pension payment             | 2.8       | 2.5       |  |
| Discount rate                                   | 4.5       | 4.8       |  |
| Expected return on assets                       | 6.9       | 5.7       |  |

#### The long term expected rates of return are as follows:

|                  | 2013<br>% | 2012<br>% |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Equities         | 7.8       | 6.2       |
| Government bonds | 2.8       | 4.1       |
| Corporate bonds  | 3.8       | 4.1       |
| Property         | 7.3       | 4.4       |
| Cash             | 0.9       | 3.5       |
| Other assets     | 7.8       | 6.2       |

#### The assets in the scheme are as follows:

|                                     | 2013<br>£  |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Equities                            | 510,000    |
| Government bonds                    | 73,000     |
| Corporate bonds                     | 3,000      |
| Property                            | 52,000     |
| Cash                                | 32,000     |
| Other assets                        | 4,000      |
|                                     | 674,000    |
| Total fair value of assets          | 674,000    |
| Present value of scheme liabilities | 1 ,050,000 |
| Net pension liability               | (376,000)  |
| Experience gains on assets          | 52,000     |
| Experience gain on liabilities      | -          |
|                                     |            |

# Analysis of the amount charged to operating profit:

|                              | 2013<br>£ |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Current Service Cost         | 79,000    |
| Curtailments and Settlements | -         |
|                              |           |
| Total Operating Charge       | 79,000    |

### Movement in surplus during the year:

|                                       | 2013<br>£ |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Deficit in the scheme at 1 April 2012 | -         |
| Current service cost                  | (79,000)  |
| Employer contributions                | (90,000)  |
| Exceptional past service gain         | -         |
| Net return on assets                  | 169,000   |
|                                       |           |
| Actuarial gains / (losses)            | (376,000) |
| Deficit in scheme at 31 March 2013    | (376,000) |
|                                       |           |

# Analysis of the amount credited to other finance income:

|  | 2013<br>£ |
|--|-----------|
| Expected return on pension scheme assets | 30,000    |
| Interest on pension scheme liabilities   | (38,000)  |
| Net Return                               | (8,000)   |

# Projected pension expense for the year to 31 March 2014:

|   | 2014<br>£ |
|---|-----------|
| Projected current service cost                      | 101,000   |
| Interest on obligation                              | 50,000    |
| Expected return on plan assets                      | (50,000)  |
| Past service cost                                   | -         |
| Losses / (Gains) on curtailments<br>and settlements | -         |
|   | 101,000   |

| History of experience gains and losses:  |           |
|--|-----------|
|  | 2013<br>% |
| Difference between the expected and the actual return of assets:                 |           |
| Amount   | 52,000    |
| Value of assets  | 674,000   |
| Percentage of assets   | 7.7%      |
| Experience Gains / (Losses) on Liabilities:                                      |           |
| Amount   | -         |
| Present value of liabilities   | 741,000   |
| Percentage of present value of liabilities                                       | 0.0%      |
| Actuarial Gains / Losses recognised in statement of recognised gains and losses: |           |
| Amount   | (376,000) |
| Present value of liabilities   | 741,000   |
| Percentage of present value of liabilities                                       | (50.7)%   |
|  |           |

## **15. RELATED PARTIES**

There were no related party transactions requiring disclosure in the year ended 31 March 2013.

The Directors' Register of Interests is maintained at the registered office of the company. It is available to the public and may be accessed by contacting the Company Secretary.

## **16. FUTURE COMMITMENTS**

At the year end the Centre had estimated future commitments of approximately  $\pounds 60K - \pounds 70K$  in respect of the building work being carried out.

# APPENDIX 1

| Detailed Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2013 |           |           |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|  | 2013<br>£ | 2013<br>€ | 2012<br>£ | 2012<br>€ |
| Income   |           |           |           |           |
| Grants received from Department of Education                             | 673,798   | 803,754   | 627,683   | 711,337   |
| Grants received from Department of Education and Skills                  | 690,448   | 823,614   | 627,683   | 711,337   |
| Sundry Income  | 0         | 0         | 801       | 907       |
|  |           |           |           |           |
|  | 1,364,246 | 1,627,368 | 1,256,167 | 1,423,581 |
| Overhead Expenses  |           |           |           |           |
| Administration   | 1,229,761 | 1,466,994 | 1,180,653 | 1,337,659 |
| Establishment  | 126,580   | 150,993   | 69,311    | 78,548    |
| Depreciation   | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| Interest payable and similar charges                                     | 962       | 1,148     | 1,041     | 1,180     |
|  |           |           |           |           |
|  | 1,357,303 | 1,619,134 | 1,251,005 | 1,417,387 |
|  |           |           |           |           |
| Surplus  | 6,943     | 8,234     | 5,162     | 6,194     |
|  |           |           |           |           |

Details of capital grants reaceived are disclosed in Note 9.

# APPENDIX 2

| Overhead Ex                      | xpenses for the year | r ended 31 Marc | h 2013    |           |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                  | 2013<br>£            | 2013<br>€       | 2012<br>£ | 2012<br>€ |
| Administration                   |                      |                 |           |           |
| Salaries and Wages               | 779,753              | 930,144         | 817,518   | 926,471   |
| Audit and Accountancy            | 15,564               | 18,567          | 12,413    | 14,068    |
| Subscriptions                    | 18,730               | 22,343          | 12,437    | 14,094    |
| Teaching Materials               | 83,928               | 100,116         | 88,968    | 100,825   |
| DFP Procurement                  | 321                  | 383             | 809       | 917       |
| Catering Supplies                | 3,476                | 4,148           | 8,028     | 9,098     |
| Computer Supplies                | 15,677               | 18,700          | 9,495     | 10,760    |
| Travel and Subsistence           | 73,461               | 87,630          | 53,074    | 60,146    |
| Training Provision               | 98,604               | 117,624         | 96,456    | 109,310   |
| Facility Hire                    | -                    | -               | 1,459     | 1,654     |
| Recruitment                      | 16,417               | 19,584          | 30        | 34        |
| Consultancy                      | -                    | -               | 252       | 286       |
| Legal and Professional           | 31,047               | 37,037          | 1,670     | 1,893     |
| Advertising and Promotion        | 18,408               | 21,959          | 7,025     | 7,961     |
| Telephone                        | 17,344               | 20,689          | 13,526    | 15,328    |
| Printing, postage and Stationery | 42,311               | 50,471          | 35,670    | 40,426    |
| Cleaning and Hygiene             | 667                  | 786             | 489       | 554       |
| Loss on Foreign Exchange         | -                    | 49              | -         | (344)     |
| Leasing payments                 | 7,382                | 8,807           | 8,576     | 9,179     |
| General Office Supplies          | 6,671                | 7,957           | 12,758    | 14,459    |
|                                  |                      |                 |           |           |
|                                  | 1,229,761            | 1,466,994       | 1,180,653 | 1,337,659 |



| Overhead Ex                          | penses for the yea | ended 31 Marc | h 2013    |           |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                      | 2013<br>£          | 2013<br>€     | 2012<br>£ | 2012<br>€ |
| Establishment                        |                    |               |           |           |
| Light & Heat                         | 24,205             | 28,873        | 31,039    | 35,176    |
| Repairs                              | 79,635             | 94,995        | 16,398    | 18,583    |
| Insurance                            | 17,566             | 20,953        | 18,799    | 21,304    |
| Rates                                | 5,174              | 6,175         | 3,075     | 3,485     |
|                                      |                    |               |           |           |
|                                      | 126,580            | 150,996       | 69,311    | 78,548    |
|                                      |                    |               |           |           |
| Depreciation                         |                    |               |           |           |
| Fixtures and Fittings                | 16,374             | 19,417        | 18,158    | 20,578    |
| Computer Equipment                   | 13,372             | 15,857        | 21,012    | 23,812    |
| Telecoms Equipment                   | 1,617              | 1,917         | 3,863     | 4,378     |
| Building Improvements                | 887                | 1,052         | -         | -         |
| Release of Deferred Income           | (32,249)           | (38,243)      | (43,033)  | (48,768)  |
|                                      |                    |               |           |           |
|                                      | 0                  | 0             | 0         | 0         |
|                                      |                    |               |           |           |
| Interest payable and similar charges |                    |               |           |           |
| Bank charges                         | 962                | 1,148         | 1,041     | 1,180     |
|                                      |                    |               |           |           |

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