



Cambusbarron Village Nursery Parent Summary of Standards & Quality Report 2019/2020

Prepared by: Jane Bain, Manager
June 2020

Introduction

Cambusbarron Village Nursery's Standards and Quality Report 2019/2020 provides an evaluation of the nursery provision during 2019-2020 and shows the positive aspects of our nursery and highlights the areas which the service plans to improve. This report references the National Improvement Framework, the Health and Social Care Standards and How Good Is Our Early Learning and Childcare (HGIOELC) as benchmarks of how well our nursery is doing. The report is compiled as part of a process of self-evaluation, improvement planning and quality assurance. It aims to provide helpful information to parents, our community, Stirling Council and Education Scotland. The report is shared on our website and via our social media platforms, is available on request and is displayed within the setting.

Context

Cambusbarron Village Nursery (CVN) is situated in a rural community to the west of Stirling. The Nursery opened under its new name as a Community Interest Company in August 2019 having previously operated for some 50 years as a charity playgroup (Cambusbarron Playgroup) managed by a voluntary parental committee. It operates as a Funded Provider with Stirling Council delivering 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare (ELC). The service is open weekdays from 0915 to 1515 during school term times providing 6-hour sessions. The Nursery provides a service for children aged 2½ to 5 years and is registered to take a maximum of 16 children per session. During Session 2019/2020 the Nursery has provided a service to 21 families and, at June 2020, has a role of 22 children. 2 children attend full time (5 sessions per week), the remaining 20 attending part time. During session 2019/2020 there were 5 pre-school children attending (due to start school in August 2020), 5 children due to start school in August 2021 and 12 children due to start school in August 2021. 5 children attended who were in the "eligible 2" category.

The nursery operates from a designated room within the local Community Centre with access to 2 large sports halls and a large paved garden. The nursery additionally accesses a large local woodland and provides Woodland Play Sessions to extend outdoor learning opportunities.

The nursery identifies strongly with the community and retains the mutual support ethos of a traditional playgroup and is considered to be a valuable resource to the community.

CVN has 2 qualified members of staff. Jane Bain, Lead Practitioner and Manager, has a BA (Hons) in Childhood Practice as well as a BSc (Hons) in Computing Science. She is a qualified Forest Leader and has many years' experience working in playgroups and community environments and has previously worked in the financial sector. Jen Gairns is a very welcome recent addition to the team. She is an Early Years Educator and holds an SVQ3 in Children's Care, Learning and Development. Jen has previously worked in the private sector. Jen is currently covering a maternity leave for Jordan Sutherland also an Early Years Educator, who holds an SVQ3 in Children's Care, Learning and Development. Jordan came from the private sector where she has many years' experience. CVN also employs Lynda Simpson as a trainee working towards her ELC qualification. Suzanne Wynne-Griffith serves as administration and finance officer. The staff team is completed by Moira Kerr, Helen O'Toole and Morna Tinto, relief playleaders, who are available to step in when required. Moira holds an SVQ3 in Children's Care, Learning and Development and is a respected and popular childminder in the local community. She brings many years of experience to the setting, Helen is a local business woman while Morna works part time as the senior playleader at a neighbouring setting. During 2019/2020 the staff team was supplemented by Janet Stevense, a Stirling Council peripatetic Early Years Teacher.

The group has positive working relations with other community organisations and services such as Cambusbarron Library, Greener Cambusbarron, Cambusbarron Toddlers, Cambusbarron Post Office, Cambusbarron Community Development Trust, Cambusbarron Community Council, Cambusbarron Primary School, Cambusbarron Church (particularly the Wellbeing Group) and Cambusbarron Co-op.

Cambusbarron Village Nursery ^{cic}

Deep Roots for a Strong Community

We are registered for a maximum of 16 children at each session

We work in partnership with Stirling Council. They provide us with access to a peripatetic teacher and a Funded Provider Support Officer

We are a Community Interest Company and are governed by a Board of Directors. As a social enterprise all of our profits are reinvested in our service for the benefit of our community.

Our service is led by Jane Bain. She holds a BA(Hons) in Childhood Practice. Jen Gairns is our Early Childhood Educator, she has an SVQ3 in Children's Care, Learning and Development. Lynda Simpson is currently working towards completing her SVQ3. Suzanne Wynne-Griffith takes care of our admin and our finances.

We are passionate about caring for the environment and promote Learning for Sustainability

We work closely with other community organisations such as Community Council, Development Trust & Save Gillies Hill. As a CIC we also work within the social enterprise network.

Our Village Nursery is open weekday mornings between 0845 and 1515 during school term times.

We have a strong outdoor learning ethos and have regular sessions in the local woodland

We have access to a large garden and play outside every day.

Our indoor sessions are held in the local community centre.

We are part of a Partnership Improvement group through Stirling Council and work with Bannockburn and Dunblane Nurseries to improve the quality of our service and to improve outcomes for our learners

We are a community focussed group. We value our relationships within our community and work towards developing and improving them.

Cambusbarron Village Nursery Partnership Group 2015/16

Our Mission Statement

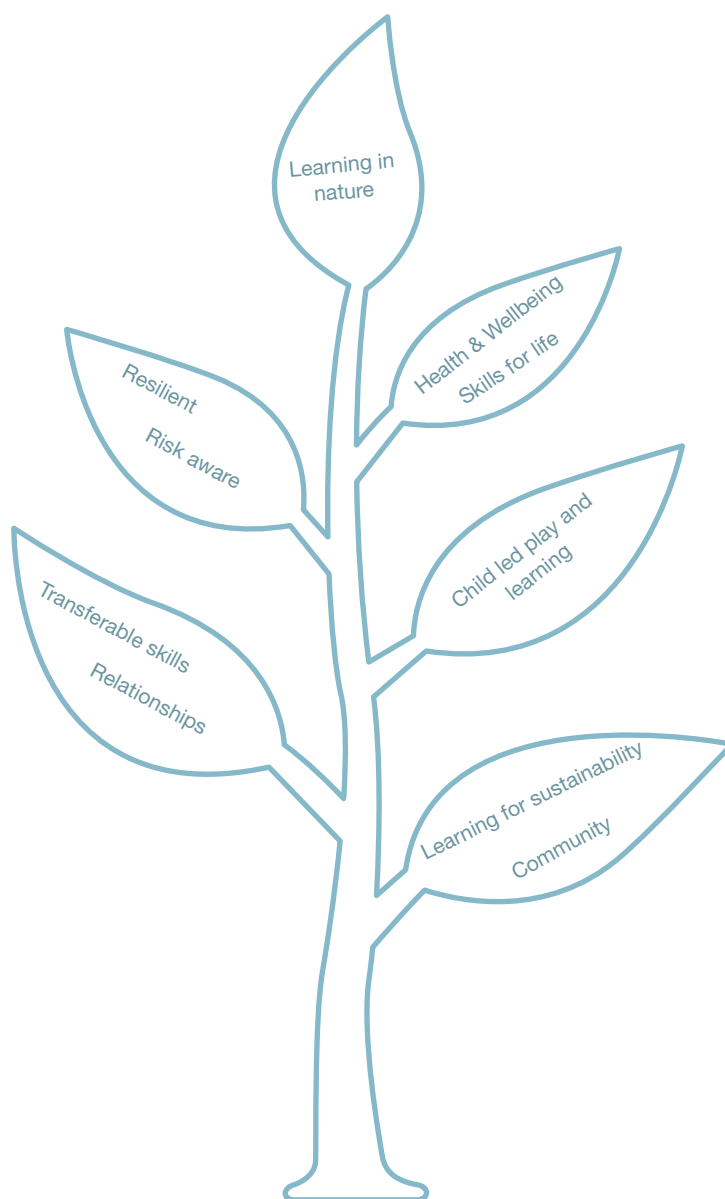
To provide a community focussed service which meets the needs of our children, their families and our community.

Our Social Aims and Objectives

- Provide a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment where all children can develop confidence, take risks, learn from their mistakes, make informed decisions and develop a “can do” attitude.
- Encourage and celebrate creativity, curiosity and a life-long love of learning.
- Develop skills for the future by providing opportunities for children to engage in high quality, motivating, challenging and purposeful learning experiences across a broad curriculum.
- Work in partnership with parents and the local community to ensure that children are supported to achieve their full potential, be fit and healthy, have high aspirations and recognise the positive contribution they can make to society
- Provide high quality, accessible, flexible and affordable service for parents
- Be a community focussed service
- Facilitate parental employment and/or education
- Promote the benefits of outdoor play and learning particularly in the natural environment
- Promote learning for sustainability
- To provide outdoor play and learning opportunities to economically and educationally disadvantaged children and adults
- To provide training opportunities for fellow professionals
- To be a fair ethical and supportive employer

Our Curriculum Rationale

We are currently developing our Curriculum Rationale. Here are some of the areas which are central to our ethos.



The Self-evaluation Process

Self-evaluation for self-improvement means carrying out a range of activities to find out our strengths so they can be celebrated, and good practice shared; it is also to find out what is not going so well so action can be taken to make an improvement. Self-evaluation is not a series of one off events but a continuous cycle of self-reflection and evaluation processes and in best practice involves all children, parents/carers, staff and the local community.

Evaluating and improving our service is key to its sustainability. We use a wide range of information upon which we determine our improvement priorities. Children have been involved in the process of self-evaluation. Their comments and opinions have been obtained through consultation, discussion and voting processes. Families have also engaged in the process through questionnaires, an information evening, comments and email. Staff have engaged in the process bringing their opinions and thoughts during professional dialogue during sessions and at meetings. Professional networks such as VSE, partner provider and training groups have also informed the process.

Our self-reflection and self-evaluation process in session 2019/2020 has also been influenced by the professional and business knowledge of external services such as Stirling Enterprise Park (STEP), Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface, (CTSi), Partners for Procurement (P4P) and Community Enterprise.

Evidence

A range of evidence has been used to inform this report, including

- Feedback obtained from staff, parents and children through questionnaires, meetings and during sessions
- Feedback and advice from business services
- Child observations
- Comments made on social media, email and in person
- HGIOELC
- Visiting, learning about and sharing good practice with local authority and partner provider colleagues.
- Professional knowledge and research

Review of Session 2019-2020

June 2020 marks the end of CVN's first year of operation and, notwithstanding the significant impact of the coronavirus epidemic, it has been a very successful one and, indeed, more so than anticipated.

Our move towards full day provision came without incident and our children and staff transitioned smoothly to the new 6 hour session. The August term began with, as expected, low numbers - we operated for the first 3 weeks with one session having only one child attending. Our role however grew quickly and by Easter our role was 22 (2 full time, 20 part time).

Our model of governance has been developing and we welcomed 2 new members to our Board of Directors. Directors meetings have been held infrequently and this is an area to develop in session 2020/2021.

Woodland Play

Our woodland play sessions have continued to be a major success. Our children have thrived in the woodland environment and parents and staff have noticed the increases in confidence, resilience and positive risk taking as well as improvements in stamina, balance and coordination. Feedback remains overwhelmingly positive with parents telling us

"I would love the sessions to be increased!"

"[woodland play] builds confidence and independence; teaches them to adapt to situations outside their daily environment"

"I can tell they're learning so much"

"[woodland play] teaches them to be less dependent on the material 'stuff'"

With the extended sessions however parents were less keen for their children to be outdoors all day

"For the winter, longer days may be an issue"

Given that the temperature is dropping just now, I wouldn't like a full-day session outdoors"

This feedback led to the decision to restrict sessions to mornings with the intention to extend to longer sessions in the spring.

We held a very successful open woods session in the autumn serving soup and pancakes cooked over an open fire.

We repeated our Dark Woods event for the children and their families and this was again huge success and we were pleased to receive very positive feedback. Plans to hold more open sessions, in particular to include the Toddler group and the Wellbeing groups were put on hold because of the coronavirus outbreak.

We are delighted that the purchase of Gillies Hill by Cambusbarron Community Development Trust was finalised and our relationship with the Trust further secured when our manager was co-opted onto the Board of Directors. We have now received formal approval from the Trust to commence investigations into building a bespoke nursery building in the woods. Planning for this has already begun and it will remain a major focus area for session 2020/2021.

Intergenerational Practice

We were thrilled to make links with Angela Samson, Wellbeing Coordinator for Cambusbarron. Angela runs afternoon sessions for members of the community who may be elderly, infirm, isolated or lonely. We joined with one of these afternoon sessions about "How we kept warm" and showed off our fire making skills. We had several more sessions and activities planned, in particular we had arranged for our new friends to join us for a school lunch, however this was all postponed because of the coronavirus outbreak. Meantime we made Easter treats as well as cards and pictures for our older friends who have been isolating. Our intergenerational work will continue and expand during session 2020/2021 as we develop a joint project, Mind the Gap, which aims to build intergenerational relationships within our community.

International Links

This year we made contact with a pre-school setting in France and have benefited from the exchange of letters and gifts. Unfortunately this was restricted following the coronavirus outbreak but we will pick up these links again next session.

Lunches

With the move towards full day provision children and staff now have lunch during a session. This has been a big change for our service but another which we have embraced. We were delighted to have been invited by Stirling Council to pilot the provision of hot lunches from January this year. Our children have enjoyed tasting new things and we have been extremely grateful for the support we have received from Catering Services at Stirling Council and particularly Avril who cooks our lunches. Children have visited the school kitchens, have been involved in creating a menu, choosing their meals and also phoning in their orders. Feedback from parents, children and staff has been very positive. Looking forward we will be working with our staff, children and families to reduce and reuse the food waste created during our service.

Staff

Our staff team was complemented in January this year by Jen Gairns who joined us to replace Jordan who is on maternity leave. Jen is an enthusiastic supporter of outdoor play and learning and has been a welcome addition to the team.

The staff team has engaged in training opportunities through the Adventures with Alice program. Lynda is currently working her way towards her SVQ3 Social Services (Children and Young People) while Jane has completed her Forest School Training for Leaders course as well as the International Certificate in Intergenerational Learning.

Our Community

Staff have contributed to the management of the community centre from where we run our service. We are delighted to have been part of the core group which succeeded in installing a community use defibrillator outside the hall. We held a Soup Share lunch serving soup made from vegetables grown in our garden and our own home made bread. With its close proximity we've been able to visit the library regularly and have also attended their fortnightly BookBug sessions.

We joined with the Needle & Natter group at their MacMillan coffee morning and repeated our Christmas Acts of Kindness delivering small gifts randomly throughout the community. We continue to reinforce our position in the community so that our children to see the actions and benefits of being part of an active and cohesive community.

Students

We have been pleased to be able to support 5 students this year. Lauren and Abbie, both early years students, Erin, a workplace experience student as well as Kat and Alice, 2 teaching students completing their early years practice placements. We are pleased to be able to play a role in developing the early years workforce and their feedback on their experienced while with us was extremely positive.

"it was an extremely eye-opening and educational experience for me which allowed me to connect better with what I was being taught"

"The woodland sessions were amazing"

"I feel like the children really benefit from this style of nursery education"