

## 2024 AGM Chair's Report

Thank you all for taking the time to come this evening.

I'm the current Chair and Secretary of the Chestnut Playgroup committee. There are six of us presently on the committee, but sadly five of us will be stepping down from today. Fran has been on the committee a number of years now, and has provided great support as the named treasurer and within our fundraising team. Georgina has been a General Member on our committee for the last two years, who's contribution to our meetings and events has been invaluable. Janine joined the committee this year and her early years background has been invaluable to the committee, and we are pleased to say she is leaving the committee in order to join the staff team next week. Janine's husband Paul has also been a general committee member this last year, but will be stepping down too to avoid any potential conflict of interests. I sadly will also be stepping down from the committee, leaving the Chair, Secretary and Appointed Ofsted contact available for new members to take on. I've been part of the committee for the past nine years (except for a brief gap year a few years back), and whilst it has its challenges it really has been enjoyable and has gone in a flash. I'm pleased to say our final current member, Emily will be staying on the committee next year in her Health And Safety Lead role, and to assist the new committee members settle into their new roles.

We are truly privileged to have a great team of staff at Chestnuts, which before the summer comprised of 7 permanent staff and 4 bank staff members. Sadly though we were faced with resignations from both the Leader Charlene and Deputy Leader Tracey at the end of last year. Whilst the summer period cast a cloud of doubt over the team, the existing team have rose to the challenge and willingly accepted enhancements to their roles. In particular, I'm delighted to say that Kirsty has been appointed as the Deputy Leader since the start of this year, and is unsurprisingly excelling in her role. We are still in the process of recruiting a new Leader, and very much hope this position will be filled this term.

The committee itself is made up by a group of parents or former parents of children that attend Chestnuts. It's an essential part of the playgroup, and without a committee the playgroup wouldn't be able to operate in its current form. It can be hard work at times, but also very rewarding. We are hoping at least 4 people will be able to join us on the committee this coming year. The more there are, the more ideas will be shared, and the load will be lighter for everyone involved. This year in particular we are looking for someone to take on the four mandatory roles, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, and Ofsted contact. None of these are as daunting as they sound, and full handovers will be provided. All roles are heavily supported by our wonderful administrator, Philippa. We are also keen for other general members to help in the whole or to take on smaller roles within the committee. If you have any questions about the committee or particular roles, please do let me know.

As a final note, I just wanted to thank Charlene for her commitment to the playgroup these last 10 years and wish her all the best in her new role which is out of early years.