Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100033

Details

Known as	Dreamscheme
Status	Received
Registered	2014-03-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	77A Saintfield Road Belfast Bt8 7hn BT8 7HN
Phone	07871 133637
Email	jonny.luke@dreamschemeni.org
Website	www.dreamschemeni.org

Activities

Purposes: The objects of the company are the advancement of education and specifically to provide education, training and support to any groups establishing projects calculated to develop the physical, spiritual and mental capacities of young persons under the age of 25 that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society and their conditions of life may improve.

What the charity does: The advancement of education

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information,Community development,Cross-border/cross-community,Education/training,General charitable purposes,Sport/recreation,Volunteer development,Youth development

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds),Community safety/crime prevention,General public,Mental health,Specific areas of deprivation,Voluntary and community sector,Volunteers,Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£241,583	£276,743	£0	10

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Billy Mcclean		
David Nicholl		
Lex Mcvicker		
Mr David Currie		
Mr David Wilson		
Mr Jeffrey Brian Neill		
Mrs Heather Grills		

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI618264
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NIC100033

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Unaudited Financial Statements

30 March 2025

FEB CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Chartered accountants
Linenhall Exchange
26 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BG

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 30 March 2025

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

Year ended 30 March 2025

The Trustees, who are also the Directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 March 2025.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Dreamscheme Northern Ireland
Charity registration number	NIC100033
Company registration number	NI618264
Principal office and registered office	77a Saintfield Road Belfast Northern Ireland
The Trustees	Mr D Currie Mr W K McClean Mr D A Nicholl Mr D J Wilson Ms H E Grills Mr J A McVicker
Independent examiner	Michael Flannigan FCA FEB Chartered Accountants Linenhall Exchange 26 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BG

Structure, governance and management

Our governance

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland was set up as a company limited by guarantee in May 2013 (NI 618264) and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland in March 2014 (NIC 100033).

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland is governed by a Board of six Trustees, two of whom are qualified accountants, two are successful entrepreneurs and two have extensive business experience at senior management level. The Board is supported by a Board Administrator.

The Chair is a recognised expert in corporate governance. The Treasurer (a qualified accountant) is responsible for ensuring that sound financial systems and controls are in place and he is supported by our Deputy Treasurer who is also a qualified accountant. The Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer ensure compliance with all charity and company law requirements.

None of the Trustees are members of the company and no Trustee has any beneficial interest in the company.

The Trustees met six times during 2024/25. The Trustees have appointed a Chief Executive to manage the day-to-day operations of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland within a Framework of Control established by the Trustees.

All of our Trustees, staff and volunteers are subject to Disclosure & Barring Service (Access NI) checks and receive regular training on our Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and child protection matters. Our Safeguarding Policy is refreshed annually and safeguarding is an item on the agenda of every Board meeting.

Our purpose

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland was established in June 2004 and, since then, we have been working with at-risk young people between the ages of 11 and 18 in Belfast, Lisburn & Castlereagh and Antrim.

At the core of our existence is our desire to transform the lives of at-risk young people in disadvantaged areas of Northern Ireland. Motivated by Christian compassion, we believe in the worth of every young person regardless of their background and have a deep commitment to making a difference. We aim to provide hope, long-term practical support and positive role models.

Objectives and activities

The need

The areas that we currently work in - Milltown/Belvoir, Braniel, Newtownbreda, North Belfast and Antrim - are some of Northern Ireland's most deprived wards with clear needs:

Mental Health: Northern Ireland has higher rates (25%) of youth anxiety and depression compared to the rest of the United Kingdom. This is a real issue for the young people in Dreamscheme. There has been a 49% rise in safeguarding concerns in local schools this year.

Family and Community: Of the young people that we currently work with, 30% live in a lone-parent household. 10% of young people are feeling 'lonely'. There is a longing for a sense of belonging.

Pressures and Choices: There are many destructive influences in the communities where we operate. There is also pressure from social media on young people to use drugs and engage in other risk-taking behaviours.

Deprivation and Education: Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to experience disengagement from education and have lower hopes and aspirations. Young people who receive free school meals achieve on average 29% lower scores at GCSE level.

How we met the need

During 2024/25, our youth work programmes supported our young people in a range of ways:

1. Connect Programme
Young people build relationships and learn with friends in a safe environment. This includes our CONNECT nights where young people learn informally and undertake creative and sports activities. FILTER drop ins are designed to provide mental health support. TARGETED programmes (e.g. photography, Couch to 5k) - where we run extended specific programmes on subjects that are of interest to the young people.

2. Mentoring Programme
Young people get 1:1 support to cope and grow. We deliver this programme in our HUBs and in partnership with local schools for pupils with particular needs: anxiety, behaviour, disengagement from education, anger and more.

3. Explore Programme
Young people can explore the Christian faith. We offer a pathway for young people to ask the big questions about the meaning of life, existence and faith, connecting them to local churches as and when appropriate.

4. Thrive Work Projects
Young people learn skills and do creative or practical projects. WORK projects have been something that we have developed in the past year to bring more meaningful learning to young people. COMMUNITY work is at the heart of what we do including clean ups, inter-generational work and community days.

Objectives and activities ***(continued)***

5. Experiences and trips
Young people step out of their comfort zone and build lasting memories. We provide many trips and experiences throughout the 48-week programme including a fully-fledged summer programme, residentials and trips overseas

6. Young leaders
Young people develop leadership skills and give back to their communities. We offer a 2-year programme to explore and support growth of confident leadership skills through practical learning sessions and 1:1 support

7. Youth Council
Our Youth Council comprises representatives from each of our HUBs, ensuring that every area has a voice in shaping and improving Dreamscheme programmes. Their input has been instrumental in refining our workshops this year, leading to the introduction of more practical sessions and activities to boost engagement. In the latter half of the year, the Council led an awareness campaign focused on homelessness, partnering with OutsideIn, a clothing brand supporting the homeless. The young people visited the Belfast Christmas Market to learn about the organisation's work and the realities of homelessness in Belfast and Northern Ireland. They then shared these insights within their HUBs and distributed awareness cards to the public to help raise awareness of the issue.

Achievements and performance

Our reach

During 2024/25, Dreamscheme Northern Ireland worked with 180+ young people across seven Centres on a weekly basis and 330 young people on an ad hoc basis (including large scale Summer Intervention events organised with the police and other agencies). However, more than 5,000 people living in the communities we operate in benefitted indirectly from our activities with lower levels of anti-social behaviour and improved inter-generational relations.

Our impact - the difference that we made

During 2024/25:

- 183 young people reached on a weekly basis
- 402 youth work activities delivered
- 372 mentoring sessions facilitated
- 445 acts of community service undertaken
- 91% of pupils involved in our 1:1 mentoring programme rated it as very good or excellent
- 10 young people obtained their OCN Level 1 in Youth Work
- 31 volunteers provided 2,967 volunteer hours
- 83% of young people learned a new skill from our workshops
- 92% of young people would recommend Dreamscheme to a friend
- 95% of young people have built good relationships in Dreamscheme

See our Annual Report 2024/25 for further information on our impact together with stories of transformation in our young people.

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Feedback

"The partnership with Dreamscheme has been vital in helping with our pastoral care programme in school - pupils receive such meaningful support" (Breda Academy)

"Being able to have a chat about what is going on with friendships, family and school has been helpful and I feel supported" (mentee)

"Dreamscheme has had a huge impact on the young people in our area over the past few years" (parent)

"A great team with varied talents and personalities but all have a genuine interest in supporting and developing our young people. The Senior Youth Leaders are true role models to their volunteer leaders and the young people" (parent)

"David, Emma and the rest of the gang are amazing with the young folk of Belvoir. They guide them in the right direction of teenage life and at the same time maintain that friendship with them. They support them in everything they do even outside Dreamscheme. They really are like one big family" (parent)

Equality

Dreamscheme accepts young people from all communities and backgrounds. We work with young people:

- With little or no involvement in any other youth groups or organisations
- Vulnerable to exploitation by paramilitary organisations
- Hanging around hot spots late at night with potential for anti-social behaviour
- Engaged in risk taking activities e.g. drug and alcohol misuse
- From marginalised groups such as migrants and refugees

Our mentoring service in schools supports vulnerable pupils, many with mental health issues, serious family problems, behavioural issues (as evidenced by suspensions from school) and many of whom have given up on education and any hope for their future.

Our performance during the year

Over the past year, Dreamscheme has continued to grow in reach and effectiveness and, in particular, in the following areas:

1. Expansion and Deepened Impact
Youth work was delivered across seven core hubs-an increase from the previous year with a second hub in Antrim and new hub in North Belfast. Stakeholder feedback confirms the significant positive impact our work has had on young people and local communities

2. Targeted Mentoring Provision
A total of 372 individual mentoring sessions were provided to 38 pupils identified as at risk across three partner schools, enabling tailored support to help young people navigate personal and educational challenges

Our performance during the year ***(continued)***

3. Core Programme Development
We successfully launched our 'Thrive' Work Projects, equipping participants with digital media skills across podcasting, photography, videography and presenting. Our 'Learn to Lead' programme expanded from a one-year to a two-year pathway, allowing for deeper engagement and development.

Highlights

The launch and success of our enhanced 'Learn to Lead' leadership programme, which prepared 13 young people for participation in leadership training at Muskoka Woods Camp, Canada.

Our new Dreamscheme Youth Council entered partnerships with OutsideIn and Made for More to address youth homelessness and mental health.

Two successful Education Authority moderation visits, with "Outstanding" awarded in both "quality of youth work" and "team systems".

A new series of our THRIVE podcast spotlighting Dreamscheme participants. Thrive Work Projects have attracted interest from local businesses supporting future phases of digital skill development.

Expansion of our Internship Programme, with three 18+ interns contributing to youth work delivery and organisational support.

Strategic growth of our operational capacity through staff appointments in finance and fundraising, supporting long-term sustainability.

Securing additional office space thereby providing high quality, spacious accommodation for our staff.

Challenges faced during the year

In June 2024, Dreamscheme held its 20th Anniversary Celebrations which were well attended and attracted good publicity. However, the focus on preparing for the Celebration events resulted in our 'eye being taken off the ball' in terms of our fundraising efforts and this resulted in fewer successful applications to Trusts and other funders and failure to meet overall income targets for the year. This issue has been addressed, and we are now back on course.

In January 2025, Stephen Mullan confirmed that he would be stepping down as our Chief Executive after ten years in post. However, the Board's succession planning ensured a seamless transition with our Operations Director, Jonny Luke, stepping into the role.

Staff retention within Dreamscheme is excellent but during the year we had to increase salaries to be competitive with youth worker salaries elsewhere. Dreamscheme also set out clear career pathways for our youth workers etc. which provides them with the opportunity of meaningful and progressive career development within Dreamscheme.

Financial review

Our financial performance in 2024/25

Dreamscheme generated a deficit of £35,160 for 2024/25 compared to a surplus of £1,149 for 2023/24. Our income of £241,583 represented a decrease of £38,723 (14%) on the previous year's figure of £280,306 and our expenditure of £276,743 is a decrease of £2,414 (1%) on our previous year's figure of £279,157.

The results for the financial year are set out in more detail in the Statement of Financial Activities at page 10.

Our total restricted reserves were £19,667 at 31 March 2025 compared to £22,593 at 31 March 2024

The Trustees have kept the income and expenditure targets for 2025/26 at much the same levels as 2024/25 with fundraising efforts focused on increasing income from statutory funders, Trust Funders and individual donors

The Trustees are satisfied that our financial reporting systems are robust and generate high quality financial information for Trustees and staff. The Trustees consider a detailed financial report and a fundraising report at every meeting.

Plans for future periods

Our plans and priorities for the next three-year period

Establishing a regional presence in Northern Ireland, with 8-10 hubs benefitting young people in areas of serious deprivation where there is currently an unmet need

Expanding our mentoring services in schools. There is a huge unmet need for this service but funding constraints are proving difficult to overcome

Delivering our full Dreamscheme programme at a consistently high quality level to young people across all of our hubs

Developing new sources of income to enable innovation and investment in our programmes and hubs

Reserves Policy

Reserves are the part of a charity's unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on any of the charity's purposes. The definition excludes restricted income funds and endowment funds, although holding such funds influences our reserve policy. The Board has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the restricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be 3 months of the expenditure. The reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the charity and the Board is confident that at the level agreed they would be at least 3 months of expenditure. The restricted fund is currently in deficit, but the charity's policy will be to transfer funds from the unrestricted reserves to return the restricted funds to a surplus position

Public Benefit Statement

Purpose 1: the advancement of education specifically to provide education, training and support to any groups establishing projects calculated to develop the physical, spiritual and mental capacities of young persons under the age of 25 that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society and their conditions of life may improve

What benefit flows from this purpose?

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland:
- Provides young people in disadvantaged areas with attractive alternatives to risk taking behaviours, anti-social activity, civil unrest and crime
- Connects young people with their local communities and encourages active, positive citizenship on the part of young people (e.g. through providing community volunteering opportunities)
- Provides the statutory authorities (e.g. police, health and emergency services) with opportunities to connect with at risk young people in a positive manner
- Challenges racist and sectarian behaviour, combats prejudice and creates a safe space for young people to explore ideas
- Affirms young people, encourages ambition, builds potential and encourages a sense of self-worth.

Can we demonstrate benefit?

Yes. We undertake surveys of the young people who attend Dreamscheme and regularly obtain feedback from the PSNI and other funders/partners on the benefits delivered as a result of our activities (mostly through independent evaluations). We also seek feedback from partner schools and pupils (mentees) re the impact of our mentoring programmes and we conduct an annual survey of the parents of our young people

Who is the benefit for?

The young people that Dreamscheme serves are aged 11 - 18 years and include:
- Young people with little or no involvement in any other youth groups or organisations
- Young people who are vulnerable to exploitation by paramilitary organisations
- Those who have been involved in previous political unrest and / or violence
- Those hanging around hot spots late at night with potential for anti-social behaviour
- Young people engaged in risk taking activities e.g. drug and alcohol misuse.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The Trustees' annual report was approved on 10 October 2025 and signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by:

David A Nicholl
David A Nicholl (Oct 14, 2025 13:23:53 GMT+1)

Mr D A Nicholl
Trustee

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Year ended 30 March 2025

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland ('the charity') for the year ended 30 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the company (and also its Directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the '2008 Act') and the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the company are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michael Flannigan
Michael Flannigan (Oct 14, 2025 13:02:07 GMT+1)

Michael Flannigan FCA
Independent Examiner

FEB Chartered Accountants
Linenhall Exchange
26 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BG

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 30 March 2025

	Note	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Charitable activities	**5**	86,238	154,988	241,226	280,193
Investment income	**6**	357	–	357	113
Total income		86,595	154,988	241,583	280,306
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	**7**	116,288	157,914	274,202	276,422
Expenditure on governance costs	**8,9**	2,541	–	2,541	2,735
Total expenditure		118,829	157,914	276,743	279,157
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds		(32,234)	(2,926)	(35,160)	1,149
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		27,189	22,593	49,782	48,633
Total funds carried forward		(5,045)	19,667	14,622	49,782

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 12 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

30 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	**14**	–	1,701
Current assets			
Debtors	**15**	6,265	11,019
Cash at bank and in hand		35,109	47,902
		41,374	58,921
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**16**	26,752	10,840
Net current assets		14,622	48,081
Total assets less current liabilities		14,622	49,782
Net assets		14,622	49,782
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		19,667	22,593
Unrestricted funds		(5,045)	27,189
Total charity funds	**18**	14,622	49,782

For the year ending 30 March 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The Members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 10 October 2025, and are signed on behalf of the Board by:

David A Nicholl

David A Nicholl (Oct 14, 2025 13:23:53 GMT+1)

Mr D A Nicholl
Trustee

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland and a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is 77a Saintfield Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

3. Accounting policies ***(continued)***

Tangible assets ***(continued)***

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	-	50% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

4. Limited by guarantee

This is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

5. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**
Charitable activities			
Unrestricted Income	86,238	–	86,238
Restricted Income	–	154,988	154,988
	86,238	154,988	241,226

5. Charitable activities *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Charitable activities			
Unrestricted Income	114,874	–	114,874
Restricted Income	–	165,319	165,319
	114,874	165,319	280,193

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Bank interest receivable	357	357	113	113

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**
Expenditure on charitable activities	116,288	157,914	274,202

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Expenditure on charitable activities	128,695	147,726	276,422

8. Expenditure on governance costs by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Support costs	2,541	2,541	2,736	2,735

9. Expenditure on governance costs by activity type

	Support costs £	**Total funds 2025 £**	Total fund 2024 £
Governance costs	2,541	2,541	2,735

10. Net (expenditure)/income

Net (expenditure)/income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,701	1,896

11. Independent examination fees

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	840	840

12. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	203,216	183,340

The average head count of employees during the year was 11 (2024: 9). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Number of staff	11	9

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2024: Nil).

13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the Trustees.

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings
	£
Cost	
At 31 March 2024 and 30 March 2025	5,948
Depreciation	
At 31 March 2024	4,247
Charge for the year	1,701
At 30 March 2025	5,948
Carrying amount	
At 30 March 2025	–
At 30 March 2024	1,701

15. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	6,265	11,019

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,555	–
Accruals and deferred income	10,840	840
Other creditors	13,357	10,000
	26,752	10,840

17. Deferred income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amount deferred in year	10,000	–

18. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 31 March 24	Income	Expenditure	**At 30 March 25**
	£	£	£	£
General funds	27,189	86,595	(118,829)	(5,045)

	At 31 March 23	Income	Expenditure	At 30 March 24
	£	£	£	£
General funds	43,633	114,987	(131,431)	27,189

Restricted funds

	At 31 March 24	Income	Expenditure	**At 30 March 25**
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Fund	22,593	154,988	(157,914)	19,667
	22,593	154,988	(157,914)	19,667

	At 31 March 23	Income	Expenditure	At 30 March 24
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Fund	5,000	165,319	(147,726)	22,593
	5,000	165,319	(147,726)	22,593

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2025 £**
Tangible fixed assets	–	–	–
Current assets	(5,045)	19,667	14,622
Net assets	(5,045)	19,667	14,622

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,701	–	1,701
Current assets	27,189	22,593	49,782
Net assets	28,890	22,593	51,483

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 30 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Unrestricted Income	86,238	114,874
Restricted Income	154,988	165,319
	241,226	280,193
Investment income		
Bank interest receivable	357	113
Total income	241,583	280,306
Expenditure		
Costs of charitable activities		
Trips, activities and materials	33,042	38,727
Wages and salaries	203,216	183,340
Rent	13,593	15,159
Light & heat	727	899
Repairs & maintenance	778	1,699
Insurance	925	925
Other motor/travel costs	6,742	12,618
Legal and professional fees	1,610	9,630
Telephone	2,649	1,809
Other office costs	987	6,924
Sundry	7,047	3,337
Printing and marketing	2,481	1,355
Bank charges	405	–
	274,202	276,422
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Legal and professional fees	840	840
Depreciation	1,701	1,895
	2,541	2,735
Total expenditure	276,743	279,157
Net (expenditure)/income	(35,160)	1,149

	2025 £	2024 £
Costs of charitable activities		
Trips, activities and materials	33,042	38,727
Wages and salaries	203,216	183,340
Rent	13,593	15,159
Light & heat	727	899
Repairs & maintenance	778	1,699
Insurance	925	925
Other motor/travel costs	6,742	12,618
Legal and professional fees	1,610	9,630
Telephone	2,649	1,809
Other office costs	987	6,924
Sundry	7,047	3,337
Printing and marketing	2,481	1,355
Bank charges	405	–
	274,202	276,422
Costs of charitable activities	274,202	276,422
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Governance costs		
Accountancy fees	840	840
Depreciation	1,701	1,895
	2,541	2,735
Expenditure on charitable activities	2,541	2,735

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI618264
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NIC100033

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Unaudited Financial Statements

30 March 2024

FEB CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Chartered accountants
Linenhall Exchange
26 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BG

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 30 March 2024

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 30 March 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 March 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Dreamscheme Northern Ireland	
Charity registration number	NIC100033	
Company registration number	NI618264	
Principal office and registered office	77a Saintfield Road Belfast Northern Ireland	
The trustees	Mr D Currie Mr W K McClean Mr D A Nicholl Mr D J Wilson Ms H E Grills Mr J A McVicker	 (Appointed 19 May 2023)
Independent examiner	Michael Flannigan FCA Linenhall Exchange 26 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BG	

Structure, governance and management

Our governance

Dreamscheme was set up as a company limited by guarantee in May 2013 (NI 618264) and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland in March 2014 (NIC 100033).

Dreamscheme is governed by a Board of six Trustees, two of whom are qualified accountants, two are successful entrepreneurs with extensive business experience at senior management (MD) level and the other two Trustees have many years' experience at Director and senior management level in the voluntary sector. The Board is supported by a Board Administrator.

The Chairman is a recognised expert in corporate governance. The Treasurer (a qualified accountant) is responsible for ensuring that sound financial systems and controls are in place. Supported by our accountants, the Treasurer ensures compliance with all charity and company law requirements.

None of the Trustees are members of the company and no Trustee has any beneficial interest in the company.

The Trustees met seven times during 2023/24. The Trustees have appointed a Chief Executive to manage the day-to-day operations of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland within a Framework of Control established by the Trustees.

All of our Trustees, staff and volunteers are subject to Disclosure & Barring Service (Access NI) checks and receive regular training on our Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and child protection matters. Our Safeguarding Policy is refreshed annually and safeguarding is an item on the agenda of every Board meeting.

Our purpose and ethos

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland was established in June 2004 and, since then, we have been working with at-risk young people between the ages of 11 and 18 in Belfast, Lisburn & Castlereagh and, more recently, Antrim.

We are a youth development organisation seeking to bring about positive transformation in young people and communities. We do this through delivering targeted interventions, including detached youth work, drop-in sessions, diversionary programmes, mentoring, developmental activities and community work.

The five core aims of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland are to:

Provide young people in disadvantaged areas with attractive alternatives to risk taking behaviours, anti-social activity, civil unrest and crime

Connect young people with their local communities and encourage active, positive citizenship on the part of young people

Challenge racist and sectarian behaviours, combat prejudice and create a safe space for young people to explore ideas

Affirm young people, encourage ambition, build potential and encourage a sense of self-worth

Develop young people with skills and abilities to become future leaders in their communities

At the core of our existence is our desire to transform the lives of at-risk young people in disadvantaged areas of Northern Ireland. Motivated by Christian compassion, we believe in the worth of every young person regardless of their background and have a deep commitment to making a difference. We aim to provide hope, long-term practical support and positive role models.

Objectives and activities

Overall progress

In our Annual Report last year, we set out our main priorities for the three year period from 2023/24 to 2025/26 as follows:

- Expanding Dreamscheme's operations into **three new areas** of serious deprivation across Northern Ireland where there is an unmet need

- Delivering our full Dreamscheme programme to 160 young people across our five existing areas of operation

- Expanding our mentoring programme in schools

I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress on all three fronts:

Expanding our operations

During 2023/24, we continued to develop our new work in Antrim town, reaching a group of teenagers in Ballycraigy estate on a weekly basis.

We also launched a pilot programme in Lower North Belfast, an area of social deprivation where young people have serious issues - there is a particular need to support young girls in the area

Delivering our full Dreamscheme programme

Dreamscheme continues to deliver excellent work in our core hubs and we have made a real difference in the lives of our young people - this is evidenced by the positive feedback received from the young people themselves, their parents, community leaders etc.

Developing our mentoring service in schools

We are now working with 47 pupils in three schools. In the past year, we provided 357 mentoring sessions

Who did we reach?

During 2023/24, Dreamscheme supported 170 young people in our weekly programme across five hubs (Breda, Belvoir, Braniel, Antrim and Lower North Belfast), with an additional 300 young people reached through one-off events such as year group assemblies, summer schemes and street outreach.

What did we do?

We delivered 651 youth work activities including 294 group activities and 357 mentoring sessions. We currently have 25 committed volunteers who delivered 4000+ voluntary hours in the past year.

What difference did we make?

Survey evidence

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland is committed to measuring the impact and positive outcomes of our work with young people. According to our end-of-year survey of young people involved in our mentoring and Centre-based programmes:

- 92% of young people would recommend Dreamscheme to a friend
- 92% of respondents believe that Dreamscheme has made a positive difference in their personal growth
- 99% of Dreamscheme young people aged 16+ are in education, training or employment (compared to 90% normal rate in local areas)
- 935 hours of community work were undertaken through 445 acts of community service e.g. serving a dinner to the elderly, designing a community mural
- 95% of young people built good relationships in Dreamscheme
- 94% of mentees found the 1:1 support helpful, either in building resilience or dealing with pressure
- 22 young people are now serving in positions of leadership
- 19 young people explored or developed Christian faith through attending an Alpha Course or Camp Sonshine Portugal

Feedback from parents

"A wonderful place full of amazing leaders who have time for the young people and see the best in these kids. They encourage the kids to make the best of themselves, give them the drive to be better people and better to each other"

"One of the best youth organisations that any young person could get involved in. The programmes benefit the local youth as they get the opportunity to meet and engage with other young people in the area and the wider community, it provides them with workshops on drugs/alcohol abuse, gives them the opportunity to improve their life skills, not to mention providing them with super opportunities and experiences through residentials and team building exercises helping to build their confidence and steering them through the teenage years with guidance and positivity"

"A very positive experience. Such an amazing bunch of leaders. It helps by keeping the kids off the streets, its gives them somewhere to hang out and reduces antisocial behaviour"

"My daughter loves going to Dreamcheme. She wouldn't miss a week. It really benefits the age group and builds confidence"

"Young people are valued at Dreamscheme, the Hub at Saintfield Road is bright and modern and is a very pleasant space to engage with young people. Excellent. Kids are at the centre of all Dreamscheme do"

"I've seen our kids grow and really come out of themselves. Dreamscheme helps them grow as a person, make new friends and build relationships with peers. Intergenerational nights and tidy ups etc give the whole community a buzz"

Feedback from schools

"Dreamscheme has made a difference in this year's pupils, helping to tackle issues of anti-social behaviour & attendance at school. We have had great feedback from pupils and we can notice a difference" (**D Collins, Vice Principal, Lagan College**)

"In this academic year, Dreamscheme has supported 26 pupils. They have helped pupils struggling with anxiety, low self-esteem, behavioural issues and poor attendance as well as other mental health issues. The team has developed supportive relationships and formed strong bonds with the pupils with the recent questionnaire response showing excellent success and progress. The mentoring programme is invaluable to a diverse school like Breda Academy, and we feel very fortunate to be working with Dreamscheme. We would like to have Dreamscheme in more often in our school working with our students" (**G Scott, Vice Principal, Breda Academy**)

Feedback from young people

"Before I went to Dreamscheme, I was going down the wrong alley. I was getting involved with the police every week. But then Jonny stepped in and helped me. The mentoring really helped. Camp Sonshine Portugal and the residentials also made a big difference. Over the years, I've made many new friends and I'm now on a good run"

"Dreamscheme helped me get off the streets and give me a better self image"

"Dreamscheme for me is a safe place. It's like a second home"

"The leaders have really helped me to build confidence, through the way they get alongside you. They give help and advice, and just listen to you, no matter what's been going on"

"Having a space to come and talk about issues that I am facing has helped and made me feel more confident"

"My time in Portugal helped my faith in God and that was a really big moment for me"

Highlights of the year

Quality of youth work provision

During 2023/24, the Education Authority for Northern Ireland undertook a moderation visit to inspect our youth work provision in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area. Its overall assessment was that our work was "outstanding in the quality of our youth work provision and the quality of our curriculum".

Furthermore, in January 2023, the Board commissioned Andy Hewitt, Executive Director of Youth Initiatives and a Facilitator for the Youth Work Forum NI, to "undertake an independent review of youth work practice in Dreamscheme Northern Ireland". This was designed to provide the Board with independent assurance that our youth work practice adhered to the very highest standards.

Andy Hewitt's report, presented at a special Board meeting on 6 October 2023, concluded that the standard of youth work practice in Dreamscheme Northern Ireland is extremely high but he identified a few areas where there is scope for improvement and development. The Board subsequently agreed an Action Plan to implement the recommendations arising from his report.

Dreamscheme Youth Council

In October 2023, on foot of a recommendation in the Hewitt report, Dreamscheme Northern Ireland set up a Youth Council with seven members drawn from across our hubs. The stated purpose of the Youth Council is to:

"Create a safe space where young people can have a say on issues that they face as well as providing feedback on Dreamscheme programmes and

“To ensure that Dreamscheme NI is operating as a Young Person-led organisation and listening to stakeholders"

Other highlights

Some of the other highlights include another excellent year of mentoring in schools, a new THRIVE podcast series featuring Dreamscheme young people, our Big Residential in July and an overseas trip to Camp Sonshine Portugal.

Highlight post - 31 March 2024

Post year-end, in June 2024, Dreamscheme Northern Ireland celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a weekend of events to mark the occasion culminating in a Gala Dinner on Saturday 15 June attended by 90 volunteers and supporters.

Challenges faced during the past year

As Dreamscheme has grown, we have had to build more capacity into our senior team to ensure stability and facilitate sustainable growth. During 2023/24, we restructured our operations and created new roles to take responsibility for operations management, innovation and development, fundraising and community engagement.

As the staff team has grown, our current offices have become inadequate for our needs. We have implemented a short-term solution which provides us with additional office accommodation but, in the longer term, we need to identify and secure a fit-for-purpose headquarters building.

Equality

Dreamscheme accepts young people from all communities and backgrounds. We work with young people:

- With little or no involvement in any other youth groups or organisations
- Vulnerable to exploitation by paramilitary organisations
- Hanging around hot spots late at night with potential for anti-social behaviour
- Engaged in risk taking activities e.g. drug and alcohol misuse
- From marginalised groups such as migrants and refugees

Our mentoring service in schools supports vulnerable pupils, many with mental health issues, serious family problems, behavioural issues (as evidenced by suspensions from school) and many of whom have given up on education and any hope for their future.

Our financial performance in 2023/24

Dreamscheme generated an overall surplus of £1,149 for 2023/24 compared to a deficit of £14,098 in 2022/23. Our income of £280,306 represented an increase of £81,941 (41%) on the previous year's figure of £198,365 and our expenditure of £279,157 is an increase of £66,694 (31%) on our previous year's figure of £212,463.

During 2023/24, Dreamscheme Northern Ireland recruited additional staff to deliver our youth work programmes at Antrim and undertake fundraising and finance functions. The Board also agreed substantial pay increases for staff to reflect the increased costs of living.

The results for the financial year are set out in more detail in the Statement of Financial Activities at page 11.

Our total restricted reserves were £22,593 at 31 March 2024 compared to £5,000 at 31 March 2023.

The Trustees have kept the income and expenditure targets for 2024/25 at much the same levels as 2023/24 with fundraising efforts focused on increasing income from Trust Funders and individual donors.

The Trustees are satisfied that our financial reporting systems are robust and generate high quality financial information for Trustees and staff. The Trustees consider a detailed financial report and a fundraising report at every meeting.

Our plans and priorities for the next three-year period

Our plans and priorities for the next three years include:

- Establishing a regional presence in Northern Ireland, with 8-10 hubs benefitting young people in areas of serious deprivation where there is currently an unmet need

- Expanding our mentoring services in schools. There is a huge unmet need for this service but funding constraints are proving difficult to overcome

- Identifying and securing suitable premises

- Developing new sources of income to enable innovation and investment in our programmes and hubs

- Enhancing our reputation in the United Kingdom and Ireland as a valuable source of expertise and ideas in relation to faith-based youth work

Reserves Policy

Reserves are the part of a charity's unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on any of the charity's purposes. The definition excludes restricted income funds and endowment funds, although holding such funds influences our reserve policy. The Board has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the restricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be 3 months of the expenditure. The reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the charity and the Board are confident that at the level agreed they would be between 3 months of the expenditure. The restricted fund is currently in deficit, but the charity's policy will be to transfer funds from the unrestricted reserves to return the restricted funds to a surplus position.

Public Benefit Statement

Purpose 1: the advancement of education specifically to provide education, training and support to any groups establishing projects calculated to develop the physical, spiritual and mental capacities of young persons under the age of 25 that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society and their conditions of life may improve

What benefit flows from this purpose?
Dreamscheme Northern Ireland:
• Provides young people in disadvantaged areas with attractive alternatives to risk taking behaviours, anti-social activity, civil unrest and crime
• Connects young people with their local communities and encourage active, positive citizenship on the part of young people (e.g. through providing community volunteering opportunities)
• Provides the statutory authorities (e.g. police, health and emergency services) with opportunities to connect with at risk young people in a positive manner
• Challenges racist and sectarian behaviour, combats prejudice and creates a safe space for young people to explore ideas
• Affirms young people, encourages ambition, builds potential and encourages a sense of self-worth.

Can we demonstrate benefit?
We undertake surveys of the young people who attend Dreamscheme and regularly obtain feedback from the PSNI and other funders/partners on the benefits delivered as a result of our activities (mostly through independent evaluations).

Who is the benefit for?
The young people that Dreamscheme serves are aged 13 - 18 years and include: • Young people with little or no involvement in any other youth groups or organisations
• Young people who are vulnerable to exploitation by paramilitary organisations
• Those who have been involved in previous political unrest and / or violence
• Those hanging around hot spots late at night with potential for anti-social behaviour
• Young people engaged in risk taking activities e.g. drug and alcohol misuse.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 27 September 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

David A Nicholl
David A Nicholl (Oct 1, 2024 17:18 GMT+1)

Mr D A Nicholl
Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Year ended 30 March 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland ('the charity') for the year ended 30 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the ‘2008 Act’) and the Companies Act 2006 (‘the 2006 Act’). You are satisfied that the accounts of the company are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity’s gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 65 of the 2008 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Chartered Accountants Ireland (CAI), which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a ‘true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michael flannigan
Michael flannigan (Oct 24, 2024 14:33 GMT+1)

Michael Flannigan FCA
Independent Examiner

Linenhall Exchange
26 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BG

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 30 March 2024

		Year to 30 Mar 24			Period from 1 Apr 22 to 30 Mar 23
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**Total funds £**	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Charitable activities	**5**	114,874	165,319	280,193	198,209
Investment income	**6**	113	–	113	156
Total income		114,987	165,319	280,306	198,365
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	**7**	128,695	147,726	276,421	211,139
Expenditure on governance costs	**8,9**	2,736	–	2,736	1,324
Total expenditure		131,431	147,726	279,157	212,463
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		(16,444)	17,593	1,149	(14,098)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		43,633	5,000	48,633	62,731
Total funds carried forward		27,189	22,593	49,782	48,633

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 14 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

30 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	14	1,701	1,217
Current assets			
Debtors	15	11,019	14,773
Cash at bank and in hand		47,902	43,296
		58,921	58,069
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	10,840	10,653
Net current assets		48,081	47,416
Total assets less current liabilities		49,782	48,633
Net assets		49,782	48,633
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		22,593	5,000
Unrestricted funds		27,189	43,633
Total charity funds	17	49,782	48,633

For the year ending 30 March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

The statement of financial position continues on the following page.

The notes on pages 14 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 27 September 24, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

David A Nicholl
David A Nicholl (Oct 1, 2024 17:18 GMT+1)

Mr D A Nicholl
Trustee

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland and a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is 77a Saintfield Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.

- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.

- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.

- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.

- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Tangible assets *(continued)*

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	-	50% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

4. Limited by guarantee

This is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

5. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2024 £**
Charitable activities			
Unrestricted Income	114,874	–	114,874
Restricted Income	–	165,319	165,319
	114,874	165,319	280,193

5. Charitable activities *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Charitable activities			
Unrestricted Income	91,796	–	91,796
Restricted Income	–	106,413	106,413
	91,796	106,413	198,209

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2024 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Bank interest receivable	113	113	156	156

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2024 £**
Expenditure on charitable activities	128,695	147,726	276,421

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Expenditure on charitable activities	109,726	101,413	211,139

8. Expenditure on governance costs by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2024 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Support costs	2,736	2,736	1,324	1,324

9. Expenditure on governance costs by activity type

	Support costs £	**Total funds 2024 £**	Total fund 2023 £
Governance costs	2,736	2,736	1,324

10. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,896	824

11. Independent examination fees

	Year to 30 Mar 24	Period from 1 Apr 22 to 30 Mar 23
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	840	500

12. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	Year to 30 Mar 24	Period from 1 Apr 22 to 30 Mar 23
	£	£
Wages and salaries	183,340	157,111

The average head count of employees during the year was 9 (2023: 9). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Number of staff	9	9

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £
Cost	
At 31 March 2023	3,568
Additions	2,380
At 30 March 2024	5,948
Depreciation	
At 31 March 2023	2,351
Charge for the year	1,896
At 30 March 2024	4,247
Carrying amount	
At 30 March 2024	1,701
At 30 March 2023	1,217

15. Debtors

	2024 **£**	2023 £
Other debtors	11,019	14,773

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 **£**	2023 £
Trade creditors	–	128
Accruals and deferred income	840	500
Other creditors	10,000	10,025
	10,840	10,653

17. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 31 March 23	Income	Expenditure	**At 30 March 24**
	£	£	£	£
General funds	43,633	114,987	(131,431)	27,189

	At 1 April 22	Income	Expenditure	At 30 March 23
	£	£	£	£
General funds	62,731	91,952	(111,050)	43,633

Restricted funds

	At 31 March 23	Income	Expenditure	**At 30 March 24**
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Fund	5,000	165,319	(147,726)	22,593
	5,000	165,319	(147,726)	22,593

	At 1 April 22	Income	Expenditure	At 30 March 23
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Fund	–	106,413	(101,413)	5,000
	–	106,413	(101,413)	5,000

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2024 £**
Tangible fixed assets	1,701	–	1,701
Current assets	25,488	22,593	48,081
Net assets	27,189	22,593	49,782

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,217	–	1,217
Current assets	42,416	5,000	47,416
Net assets	43,633	5,000	48,633

Management Information

Year ended 30 March 2024

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 30 March 2024

	Year to 30 Mar 24	Period from 1 Apr 22 to 30 Mar 23
	£	£
Charitable Activities		
Unrestricted Income	114,874	91,796
Restricted Income	165,319	106,413
	280,193	198,209
Investment income		
Bank interest receivable	113	156
Total income	280,306	198,365
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Purchases	38,727	25,268
Wages and salaries	183,340	157,111
Rent	15,159	13,542
Light and heat	899	1,059
Repairs and maintenance	1,699	–
Insurance	925	884
Other motor/travel costs	12,618	356
Legal and professional fees	9,630	2,700
Telephone	1,809	1,441
Other office costs	6,924	4,583
Sundry	3,336	2,286
Printing and marketing	1,355	1,909
	276,421	211,139
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Legal and professional fees	840	500
Depreciation	1,896	824
	2,736	1,324
Total expenditure	279,157	212,463
Net income/(expenditure)	1,149	(14,098)

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 30 March 2024

	Year to 30 Mar 24	Period from 1 Apr 22 to 30 Mar 23
	£	£
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Purchases	38,727	25,268
Wages and salaries	183,340	157,111
Rent	15,159	13,542
Light & heat	899	1,059
Repairs & maintenance	1,699	–
Insurance	925	884
Other motor/travel costs	12,618	356
Legal and professional fees	9,630	2,700
Telephone	1,809	1,441
Other office costs	6,924	4,583
Sundry	3,336	2,286
Printing and marketing	1,355	1,909
	276,421	211,139
Expenditure on charitable activities	276,421	211,139
Governance costs		
Governance costs - accountancy fees	840	500
Governance costs - depreciation	1,896	824
	2,736	1,324
Expenditure on governance costs	2,736	1,324

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Final Audit Report 2024-10-24

Created:	2024-10-01
By:	FEB Chartered Accountants (info@febni.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAlqpmMyBBZsClMUAw_ONzvlq1qJ4GIiea

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Agreement completed.
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Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100033

Annual report

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 30 March 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 March 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Dreamscheme Northern Ireland	
Charity registration number	NIC100033	
Company registration number	NI618264	
Principal office and registered office	77a Saintfield Road Belfast Northern Ireland	
The trustees	Mr D Currie Mr W K McClean Mr D A Nicholl Mr D J Wilson Ms H E Grills Mr J A McVicker	 (Appointed 19 May 2023)
Independent examiner	Michael Flannigan FCA Linenhall Exchange 26 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BG	

Structure, governance and management

Our governance

Dreamscheme was set up as a company limited by guarantee in May 2013 (NI 618264) and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland in March 2014 (NIC 100033).

Dreamscheme is governed by a Board of six Trustees, two of whom are qualified accountants, two are successful entrepreneurs with extensive business experience at senior management (MD) level and the other two Trustees have many years' experience at Director and senior management level in the voluntary sector. The Board is supported by a Board Administrator.

The Chairman is a recognised expert in corporate governance. The Treasurer (a qualified accountant) is responsible for ensuring that sound financial systems and controls are in place. Supported by our accountants, the Treasurer ensures compliance with all charity and company law requirements.

None of the Trustees are members of the company and no Trustee has any beneficial interest in the company.

The Trustees met seven times during 2023/24. The Trustees have appointed a Chief Executive to manage the day-to-day operations of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland within a Framework of Control established by the Trustees.

All of our Trustees, staff and volunteers are subject to Disclosure & Barring Service (Access NI) checks and receive regular training on our Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and child protection matters. Our Safeguarding Policy is refreshed annually and safeguarding is an item on the agenda of every Board meeting.

Our purpose and ethos

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland was established in June 2004 and, since then, we have been working with at-risk young people between the ages of 11 and 18 in Belfast, Lisburn & Castlereagh and, more recently, Antrim.

We are a youth development organisation seeking to bring about positive transformation in young people and communities. We do this through delivering targeted interventions, including detached youth work, drop-in sessions, diversionary programmes, mentoring, developmental activities and community work.

The five core aims of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland are to:

Provide young people in disadvantaged areas with attractive alternatives to risk taking behaviours, anti-social activity, civil unrest and crime

Connect young people with their local communities and encourage active, positive citizenship on the part of young people

Challenge racist and sectarian behaviours, combat prejudice and create a safe space for young people to explore ideas

Affirm young people, encourage ambition, build potential and encourage a sense of self-worth

Develop young people with skills and abilities to become future leaders in their communities

At the core of our existence is our desire to transform the lives of at-risk young people in disadvantaged areas of Northern Ireland. Motivated by Christian compassion, we believe in the worth of every young person regardless of their background and have a deep commitment to making a difference. We aim to provide hope, long-term practical support and positive role models.

Objectives and activities

Overall progress

In our Annual Report last year, we set out our main priorities for the three year period from 2023/24 to 2025/26 as follows:

- Expanding Dreamscheme's operations into **three new areas** of serious deprivation across Northern Ireland where there is an unmet need

- Delivering our full Dreamscheme programme to 160 young people across our five existing areas of operation

- Expanding our mentoring programme in schools

I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress on all three fronts:

Expanding our operations

During 2023/24, we continued to develop our new work in Antrim town, reaching a group of teenagers in Ballycraigy estate on a weekly basis.

We also launched a pilot programme in Lower North Belfast, an area of social deprivation where young people have serious issues - there is a particular need to support young girls in the area

Delivering our full Dreamscheme programme

Dreamscheme continues to deliver excellent work in our core hubs and we have made a real difference in the lives of our young people - this is evidenced by the positive feedback received from the young people themselves, their parents, community leaders etc.

Developing our mentoring service in schools

We are now working with 47 pupils in three schools. In the past year, we provided 357 mentoring sessions

Who did we reach?

During 2023/24, Dreamscheme supported 170 young people in our weekly programme across five hubs (Breda, Belvoir, Braniel, Antrim and Lower North Belfast), with an additional 300 young people reached through one-off events such as year group assemblies, summer schemes and street outreach.

What did we do?

We delivered 651 youth work activities including 294 group activities and 357 mentoring sessions. We currently have 25 committed volunteers who delivered 4000+ voluntary hours in the past year.

What difference did we make?

Survey evidence

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland is committed to measuring the impact and positive outcomes of our work with young people. According to our end-of-year survey of young people involved in our mentoring and Centre-based programmes:

- 92% of young people would recommend Dreamscheme to a friend
- 92% of respondents believe that Dreamscheme has made a positive difference in their personal growth
- 99% of Dreamscheme young people aged 16+ are in education, training or employment (compared to 90% normal rate in local areas)
- 935 hours of community work were undertaken through 445 acts of community service e.g. serving a dinner to the elderly, designing a community mural
- 95% of young people built good relationships in Dreamscheme
- 94% of mentees found the 1:1 support helpful, either in building resilience or dealing with pressure
- 22 young people are now serving in positions of leadership
- 19 young people explored or developed Christian faith through attending an Alpha Course or Camp Sonshine Portugal

Feedback from parents

"A wonderful place full of amazing leaders who have time for the young people and see the best in these kids. They encourage the kids to make the best of themselves, give them the drive to be better people and better to each other"

"One of the best youth organisations that any young person could get involved in. The programmes benefit the local youth as they get the opportunity to meet and engage with other young people in the area and the wider community, it provides them with workshops on drugs/alcohol abuse, gives them the opportunity to improve their life skills, not to mention providing them with super opportunities and experiences through residentials and team building exercises helping to build their confidence and steering them through the teenage years with guidance and positivity"

"A very positive experience. Such an amazing bunch of leaders. It helps by keeping the kids off the streets, its gives them somewhere to hang out and reduces antisocial behaviour"

"My daughter loves going to Dreamcheme. She wouldn't miss a week. It really benefits the age group and builds confidence"

"Young people are valued at Dreamscheme, the Hub at Saintfield Road is bright and modern and is a very pleasant space to engage with young people. Excellent. Kids are at the centre of all Dreamscheme do"

"I've seen our kids grow and really come out of themselves. Dreamscheme helps them grow as a person, make new friends and build relationships with peers. Intergenerational nights and tidy ups etc give the whole community a buzz"

Feedback from schools

"Dreamscheme has made a difference in this year's pupils, helping to tackle issues of anti-social behaviour & attendance at school. We have had great feedback from pupils and we can notice a difference" (**D Collins, Vice Principal, Lagan College**)

"In this academic year, Dreamscheme has supported 26 pupils. They have helped pupils struggling with anxiety, low self-esteem, behavioural issues and poor attendance as well as other mental health issues. The team has developed supportive relationships and formed strong bonds with the pupils with the recent questionnaire response showing excellent success and progress. The mentoring programme is invaluable to a diverse school like Breda Academy, and we feel very fortunate to be working with Dreamscheme. We would like to have Dreamscheme in more often in our school working with our students" (**G Scott, Vice Principal, Breda Academy**)

Feedback from young people

"Before I went to Dreamscheme, I was going down the wrong alley. I was getting involved with the police every week. But then Jonny stepped in and helped me. The mentoring really helped. Camp Sonshine Portugal and the residentials also made a big difference. Over the years, I've made many new friends and I'm now on a good run"

"Dreamscheme helped me get off the streets and give me a better self image"

"Dreamscheme for me is a safe place. It's like a second home"

"The leaders have really helped me to build confidence, through the way they get alongside you. They give help and advice, and just listen to you, no matter what's been going on"

"Having a space to come and talk about issues that I am facing has helped and made me feel more confident"

"My time in Portugal helped my faith in God and that was a really big moment for me"

Highlights of the year

Quality of youth work provision

During 2023/24, the Education Authority for Northern Ireland undertook a moderation visit to inspect our youth work provision in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area. Its overall assessment was that our work was "outstanding in the quality of our youth work provision and the quality of our curriculum".

Furthermore, in January 2023, the Board commissioned Andy Hewitt, Executive Director of Youth Initiatives and a Facilitator for the Youth Work Forum NI, to "undertake an independent review of youth work practice in Dreamscheme Northern Ireland". This was designed to provide the Board with independent assurance that our youth work practice adhered to the very highest standards.

Andy Hewitt's report, presented at a special Board meeting on 6 October 2023, concluded that the standard of youth work practice in Dreamscheme Northern Ireland is extremely high but he identified a few areas where there is scope for improvement and development. The Board subsequently agreed an Action Plan to implement the recommendations arising from his report.

Dreamscheme Youth Council

In October 2023, on foot of a recommendation in the Hewitt report, Dreamscheme Northern Ireland set up a Youth Council with seven members drawn from across our hubs. The stated purpose of the Youth Council is to:

"Create a safe space where young people can have a say on issues that they face as well as providing feedback on Dreamscheme programmes and

"To ensure that Dreamscheme NI is operating as a Young Person-led organisation and listening to stakeholders"

Other highlights

Some of the other highlights include another excellent year of mentoring in schools, a new THRIVE podcast series featuring Dreamscheme young people, our Big Residential in July and an overseas trip to Camp Sonshine Portugal.

Highlight post - 31 March 2024

Post year-end, in June 2024, Dreamscheme Northern Ireland celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a weekend of events to mark the occasion culminating in a Gala Dinner on Saturday 15 June attended by 90 volunteers and supporters.

Challenges faced during the past year

As Dreamscheme has grown, we have had to build more capacity into our senior team to ensure stability and facilitate sustainable growth. During 2023/24, we restructured our operations and created new roles to take responsibility for operations management, innovation and development, fundraising and community engagement.

As the staff team has grown, our current offices have become inadequate for our needs. We have implemented a short-term solution which provides us with additional office accommodation but, in the longer term, we need to identify and secure a fit-for-purpose headquarters building.

Equality

Dreamscheme accepts young people from all communities and backgrounds. We work with young people:

- With little or no involvement in any other youth groups or organisations
- Vulnerable to exploitation by paramilitary organisations
- Hanging around hot spots late at night with potential for anti-social behaviour
- Engaged in risk taking activities e.g. drug and alcohol misuse
- From marginalised groups such as migrants and refugees

Our mentoring service in schools supports vulnerable pupils, many with mental health issues, serious family problems, behavioural issues (as evidenced by suspensions from school) and many of whom have given up on education and any hope for their future.

Our financial performance in 2023/24

Dreamscheme generated an overall surplus of £1,149 for 2023/24 compared to a deficit of £14,098 in 2022/23. Our income of £280,306 represented an increase of £81,941 (41%) on the previous year's figure of £198,365 and our expenditure of £279,157 is an increase of £66,694 (31%) on our previous year's figure of £212,463.

During 2023/24, Dreamscheme Northern Ireland recruited additional staff to deliver our youth work programmes at Antrim and undertake fundraising and finance functions. The Board also agreed substantial pay increases for staff to reflect the increased costs of living.

The results for the financial year are set out in more detail in the Statement of Financial Activities at page 11.

Our total restricted reserves were £22,593 at 31 March 2024 compared to £5,000 at 31 March 2023.

The Trustees have kept the income and expenditure targets for 2024/25 at much the same levels as 2023/24 with fundraising efforts focused on increasing income from Trust Funders and individual donors.

The Trustees are satisfied that our financial reporting systems are robust and generate high quality financial information for Trustees and staff. The Trustees consider a detailed financial report and a fundraising report at every meeting.

Our plans and priorities for the next three-year period

Our plans and priorities for the next three years include:

- Establishing a regional presence in Northern Ireland, with 8-10 hubs benefitting young people in areas of serious deprivation where there is currently an unmet need

- Expanding our mentoring services in schools. There is a huge unmet need for this service but funding constraints are proving difficult to overcome

- Identifying and securing suitable premises

- Developing new sources of income to enable innovation and investment in our programmes and hubs

- Enhancing our reputation in the United Kingdom and Ireland as a valuable source of expertise and ideas in relation to faith-based youth work

Reserves Policy

Reserves are the part of a charity's unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on any of the charity's purposes. The definition excludes restricted income funds and endowment funds, although holding such funds influences our reserve policy. The Board has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the restricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be 3 months of the expenditure. The reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the charity and the Board are confident that at the level agreed they would be between 3 months of the expenditure. The restricted fund is currently in deficit, but the charity's policy will be to transfer funds from the unrestricted reserves to return the restricted funds to a surplus position.

Public Benefit Statement

Purpose 1: the advancement of education specifically to provide education, training and support to any groups establishing projects calculated to develop the physical, spiritual and mental capacities of young persons under the age of 25 that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society and their conditions of life may improve

What benefit flows from this purpose?
Dreamscheme Northern Ireland:
• Provides young people in disadvantaged areas with attractive alternatives to risk taking behaviours, anti-social activity, civil unrest and crime
• Connects young people with their local communities and encourage active, positive citizenship on the part of young people (e.g. through providing community volunteering opportunities)
• Provides the statutory authorities (e.g. police, health and emergency services) with opportunities to connect with at risk young people in a positive manner
• Challenges racist and sectarian behaviour, combats prejudice and creates a safe space for young people to explore ideas
• Affirms young people, encourages ambition, builds potential and encourages a sense of self-worth.

Can we demonstrate benefit?
We undertake surveys of the young people who attend Dreamscheme and regularly obtain feedback from the PSNI and other funders/partners on the benefits delivered as a result of our activities (mostly through independent evaluations).

Who is the benefit for?
The young people that Dreamscheme serves are aged 13 - 18 years and include: • Young people with little or no involvement in any other youth groups or organisations
• Young people who are vulnerable to exploitation by paramilitary organisations
• Those who have been involved in previous political unrest and / or violence
• Those hanging around hot spots late at night with potential for anti-social behaviour
• Young people engaged in risk taking activities e.g. drug and alcohol misuse.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 27 September 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

David A Nicholl
David A Nicholl (Oct 1, 2024 17:18 GMT+1)

Mr D A Nicholl
Trustee

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100033

Annual return

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Year ended 30 March 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland ('the charity') for the year ended 30 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the ‘2008 Act’) and the Companies Act 2006 (‘the 2006 Act’). You are satisfied that the accounts of the company are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity’s gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 65 of the 2008 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Chartered Accountants Ireland (CAI), which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a ‘true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michael flannigan
Michael flannigan (Oct 24, 2024 14:33 GMT+1)

Michael Flannigan FCA
Independent Examiner

Linenhall Exchange
26 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BG

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI618264
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NIC100033

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Unaudited Financial Statements

30 March 2023

FEB CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Chartered accountants
Linenhall Exchange
26 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BG

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Period from 1 April 2022 to 30 March 2023

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Period from 1 April 2022 to 30 March 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the period ended 30 March 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Dreamscheme Northern Ireland
Charity registration number	NIC100033
Company registration number	NI618264
Principal office and registered office	77a Saintfield Road Belfast Northern Ireland
The trustees	Mr D Currie Mr W K McClean Mr D A Nicholl Mr D J Wilson Ms H E Grills (Appointed 19 May 2023) Mr J A McVicker
Independent examiner	Michael Flannigan FCA Linenhall Exchange 26 Linenhall Street Belfast BT2 8BG

Structure, governance and management

Our governance

Dreamscheme was set up as a company limited by guarantee in May 2013 (NI 618264) and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland in March 2014 (NIC 100033).

Dreamscheme is governed by a Board of six Trustees, two of whom are qualified accountants, two are successful entrepreneurs with extensive business experience at senior management (MD) level and the other two Trustees have many years' experience at Director and senior management level in the voluntary sector. The Board is supported by a Board Administrator.

The Chairman is a recognised expert in corporate governance. The Treasurer (a qualified accountant) is responsible for ensuring that sound financial systems and controls are in place. Supported by our accountants, the Treasurer ensures compliance with all charity and company law requirements.

None of the Trustees are members of the company and no Trustee has any beneficial interest in the company.

The Trustees met seven times during 2022/23. The Trustees have appointed a Chief Executive to manage the day-to-day operations of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland within a Framework of Control established by the Trustees.

All of our Trustees, staff and volunteers are subject to Disclosure & Barring Service (Access NI) checks and receive regular training on our Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and child protection matters. Our Safeguarding Policy is refreshed annually, and safeguarding is an item on the agenda of every Board meeting.

Reserves Policy

Reserves are the part of a charity's unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on any of the charity's purposes. The definition excludes restricted income funds and endowment funds, although holding such funds influences our reserve policy. The Board has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the restricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be 3 months of the expenditure. The reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the charity and the Board are confident that at the level agreed they would be between 3 months of the expenditure. The restricted fund is currently in deficit, but the charity's policy will be to transfer funds from the unrestricted reserves to return the restricted funds to a surplus position.

Objectives and activities

Our purpose and ethos

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland was established in June 2004 and, since then, we have been working with at-risk young people between the ages of 11 and 18 in Belfast, Lisburn & Castlereagh and more recently Antrim.

We are a youth development organisation seeking to bring about positive transformation in young people and communities. We do this through delivering targeted interventions, including detached youth work, drop-in sessions, diversionary programmes, mentoring, developmental activities and community work.

The five core aims of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland are to:

1. Provide young people in disadvantaged areas with attractive alternatives to risk taking behaviours, anti-social activity, civil unrest and crime

2. Connect young people with their local communities and encourage active, positive citizenship on the part of young people

3. Challenge racist and sectarian behaviours, combat prejudice and create a safe space for young people to explore ideas

4. Affirm young people, encourage ambition, build potential and encourage a sense of self-worth

5. Develop young people with skills and abilities to become future leaders in their communities

At the core of our existence is our desire to transform the lives of at-risk young people in disadvantaged areas of Northern Ireland. Motivated by Christian compassion, we believe in the worth of every young person regardless of their background and have a deep commitment to making a difference. We aim to provide hope, long-term practical support and positive role models.

Overall progress

In our Annual Report last year, we set out three main priorities for 2022/23:

1. Delivering our full Dreamscheme programme to the young people across our five current areas of operation

2. Expanding Dreamscheme Northern Ireland's operations into one major centre outside Greater Belfast where there is a significant and unmet need

3. Expanding our mentoring programme in schools

I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress on all three fronts.

1. Delivering our full Dreamscheme programme

Dreamscheme continues to deliver excellent work in our core hubs and we have made a real difference in the lives of our young people - this is evidenced by the positive feedback received from the young people themselves, their parents, community leaders etc.

2. Expanding our operations outside Greater Belfast

In January 2023, we launched a new Dreamscheme operation in the Ballycraigy Estate in Antrim - an area of serious deprivation and unmet social need. This followed a very successful pilot scheme undertaken in the Summer of 2022.

3. Expanding our mentoring service in schools

We expanded our mentoring work in schools and are now working with 42 pupils in four schools. In the past year, we provided 270 mentoring sessions.

Achievements and performance

Who did we reach?

During 2022/23, Dreamscheme Northern Ireland supported 340 young people across our five Centres and our new Antrim operation.

What did we do?

We delivered 587 youth work activities including 41 evenings of street work (East Belfast, Botanic, Castlereagh), 276 Centre-based group activities provided with our core programmes and 270 mentoring sessions.

We currently have 33 volunteers who delivered 3800+ voluntary hours in the past year.

What difference did we make?

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland is committed to measuring the impact and positive outcomes of our work with young people. According to our end-of-year survey of participants involved in our mentoring and Centre-based programmes:

- 93% of respondents learned something new through Dreamscheme programmes- 84% of respondents had improved their emotional and mental wellbeing- 84% believed Dreamscheme had empowered them to give back to their community- 82% thought that Dreamscheme had helped them improve their relationships- 100% of participants were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the youth services provided by Dreamscheme (with 83% 'very satisfied') - 100% of mentees would recommend our mentoring service to a friend - 7 young leaders completed Dreamscheme's youth leadership programme and are now actively leading in their community

Feedback from parents

"Dreamscheme has been the glue that has kept our family together"

"A wonderful place full of amazing people who have time for the younger generation and see the best in these kids. They encourage the kids to make the best of themselves, give them the drive to be better people and better to each other"

"Both my children have participated in the programmes, and I cannot stress enough how invaluable Dreamscheme is to the local youth during their teenage years"

"They give young people a safe space to be themselves and be honest. They are also a space to grow and learn in a fun way! The programmes are just what they need".

"Dreamscheme is a lifeline for young people in our community providing a safe space and great opportunities".

"Dreamscheme is a great organisation that loves young people and aims to help them thrive in their life through building long lasting relationships as well as impacting communities".

Feedback from schools

"Dreamscheme is our number one external support partner in Breda, and we're proud to have you as part of our school community. Lizzie and Jonny have built excellent relationships with their students and this has impacted on improved behaviour, increased self-confidence and esteem and improved relationships for our pupils" Gillian Scott, Vice Principal, Breda Academy

Feedback from young people

"Dreamscheme is so good. It's like my safe place".

"I would recommend Dreamscheme to everyone, I have so much fun every time I go, and it has helped me to become more confident"

"Dreamscheme enables young people to feel valued. That someone is actually interested in them and cares for them. It also gives them opportunities to learn. To learn new skills and also learn something about themselves. And all of this is done with an element of fun and a relaxed atmosphere".

"Dreamscheme engages young people in ways that parents and teachers cannot. Relating to us and supporting us in a vulnerable stage of life and leading us towards positive life choices"

"Dreamscheme is a fun and safe place with leaders who have become like family".

One of the highlights of the year

In May 2022, one of our volunteers (Chloe Chapman), who has come up through Dreamscheme from the age of 12 to becoming a young leader and now a volunteer, accompanied our Chairman, David Nicholl, to a Garden Party in Buckingham Palace in recognition of the award of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to Dreamscheme Northern Ireland in 2021 (the Garden Party was deferred to 2022 due to Covid-19):

QAVS Citation: Making a difference to and bringing hope into the lives of young people in their local communities.

"Her Majesty and the QAVS National Committee have seen the way in which the work of Dreamscheme is delivering for young people in this and other areas across the City, and they have judged this outstanding - outstanding in vision, delivery and in achievement." Lord Lieutenant for Belfast, Fionnuala Jay O'Boyle CBE

Challenges faced during the past year

The significant expansion of our work during the past year both in terms of geographical expansion and the growth of our mentoring service in schools has put significant pressure on our staff team. We recruited two new part time youth workers during the year to address this issue.

However, we have been struggling to cope with the corresponding growth in finance and fundraising activity where we have traditionally been reliant on Trustees to undertake much of this activity. This is no longer a realistic option going forward if we are to deliver our ambitious plans for growth. Unfortunately, Dreamscheme was unsuccessful in recruiting a Fundraising Manager and Finance Officer over the past year despite several attempts to do so.

Equality

Dreamscheme accepts young people from all communities and backgrounds. We work with young people:

- With little or no involvement in any other youth groups or organisations- Vulnerable to exploitation by paramilitary organisations
- Hanging around hot spots late at night with potential for anti-social behaviour- Engaged in risk taking activities e.g. drug and alcohol misuse
- From marginalised groups such as migrants and Roma young people

Our mentoring service in schools supports vulnerable pupils, many with mental health issues, serious family problems, behavioural issues (as evidenced by suspensions from school) and many of whom have given up on education and any hope for their future.

Financial review

Our financial performance in 2022/23

Dreamscheme generated an overall deficit of £14,098 for 2022/23 with income of £198,365 and expenditure of £212,463. This deficit compares to a budgeted surplus of £314. Our total unrestricted reserves were £43,633 at 31 March 2023 compared to £62,731 at 31 March 2022.

The results for the financial year are set out in more detail in the Statement of Financial Activities at page 11.

The principal reason for the deficit in 2022/23 was a shortfall of £25,000 in statutory income received against the budgeted figure. This was largely caused by the decision of a large local authority to cut back significantly on the funding that it provides to the voluntary sector.

The Trustees have revised the statutory income target for 2023/24 downwards to reflect this ongoing situation and have refocused our fundraising efforts on Trust Funds and corporate & individual donors to compensate. This revised strategy has already bore fruit in the first quarter of 2023/24.

The Trustees are satisfied that our financial reporting systems are extremely robust and generate high quality financial information for Trustees and staff. The Trustees consider a detailed financial report and a fundraising report at every meeting.

Plans for future periods
Our plans and priorities over the next three years include the following:

- Expanding Dreamscheme's operations into three new areas of serious deprivation across Northern Ireland where there is an unmet need

- Delivering our full Dreamscheme programme to 160 young people across our five existing areas of operation

- Expanding our mentoring programme in schools - there is a huge unmet need for this service and we have been approached by several schools who want to work in partnership with us.

Public Benefit Statement
Purpose 1: the advancement of education specifically to provide education, training and support to any groups establishing projects calculated to develop the physical, spiritual and mental capacities of young persons under the age of 25 that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society and their conditions of life may improve.
What benefit flows from this purpose?
Dreamscheme Northern Ireland:
• Provides young people in disadvantaged areas with attractive alternatives to risk taking behaviours, anti-social activity, civil unrest and crime
• Connects young people with their local communities and encourage active, positive citizenship on the part of young people (e.g. through providing community volunteering opportunities)
• Provides the statutory authorities (e.g. police, health and emergency services) with opportunities to connect with at risk young people in a positive manner
• Challenges racist and sectarian behaviour, combats prejudice and creates a safe space for young people to explore ideas
• Affirms young people, encourages ambition, builds potential and encourages a sense of self-worth
Can we demonstrate benefit? "The work that Dreamscheme does is having a real positive impact in engaging young people most at risk and helping to reduce anti-social behaviour in the area. I wish that there could be more projects like Dreamscheme NI operating across other neighbourhoods of Castlereagh". Derek Martin, Commander Castlereagh, Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) We undertake surveys of the young people who attend Dreamscheme and regularly obtain feedback from the PSNI and other funders/partners on the benefits delivered as a result of our activities (mostly through independent evaluations). A recent evaluation report (commissioned by Castlereagh Borough Council Leisure Services) found that: young people on our restorative justice placements had experienced a positive shift in attitudes toward offending; community work by young people had resulted in better community relations and a greater sense of 'community safety'; the scheme had improved the general outlook and self-esteem of young participants; workshops had helped to change attitudes to harmful attitudes and activities; the outings 'Reward Points' programme had been highly valued by young people many of whom would not otherwise have been able to participate in the activities on offer. Is there any harm or possibility of harm and, if so, is it outweighed by the benefit? The only harm that we have identified through our risk assessment is the possibility of harm to our staff and volunteers at the hands of one or more young people but this is a moderate to low risk and is outweighed by the substantial and demonstrable benefits delivered through our projects and activities.

Who is the benefit for?

The young people that Dreamscheme serves are aged 13 - 18 years and include:
• Young people with little or no involvement in any other youth groups or organisations
• Young people who are vulnerable to exploitation by paramilitary organisations
• Those who have been involved in previous political unrest and / or violence
• Those hanging around hot spots late at night with potential for anti-social behaviour
• Young people engaged in risk taking activities e.g. drug and alcohol misuse.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 18 August 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Mr D A Nicholl
Trustee

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Period from 1 April 2022 to 30 March 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland ('the charity') for the period ended 30 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the '2008 Act') and the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the company are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michael Flannigan FCA
Independent Examiner

Linenhall Exchange
26 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BG

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure account)

Period from 1 April 2022 to 30 March 2023

		Period from 1 Apr 22 to 30 Mar 23			Year to 31 Mar 22
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	**Total funds**	Total funds
	Note	**£**	**£**	**£**	£
Income and endowments					
Charitable activities	**5**	91,796	106,413	198,209	209,240
Investment income	**6**	156	–	156	13
Total income		91,952	106,413	198,365	209,253
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	**7**	109,726	101,413	211,139	189,613
Expenditure on governance costs	**8,9**	1,324	–	1,324	1,478
Total expenditure		111,050	101,413	212,463	191,091
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds		(19,098)	5,000	(14,098)	18,162
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		62,731	–	62,731	44,569
Total funds carried forward		43,633	5,000	48,633	62,731

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

30 March 2023

	Note	30 Mar 23 £	31 Mar 22 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	14	1,217	629
Current assets			
Debtors	15	14,773	8,045
Cash at bank and in hand		43,296	75,127
		58,069	83,172
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	10,653	21,070
Net current assets		47,416	62,102
Total assets less current liabilities		48,633	62,731
Net assets		48,633	62,731
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		5,000	–
Unrestricted funds		43,633	62,731
Total charity funds	18	48,633	62,731

For the period ending 30 March 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 18 August 2023, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

D A Nicholl

Mr D A Nicholl
Trustee

The notes on pages 13 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland and a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is 77a Saintfield Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable, and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Tangible assets *(continued)*

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	-	50% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are not recognised until there is reasonable assurance that the charity will comply with the conditions attaching to them and the grants will be received.

Where the grant does not impose specified future performance-related conditions on the recipient, it is recognised in income when the grant proceeds are received or receivable. Where the grant does impose specified future performance-related conditions on the recipient, it is recognised in income only when the performance-related conditions have been met. Where grants received are prior to satisfying the revenue recognition criteria, they are recognised as a liability.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

4. Limited by guarantee

This is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

5. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2023 £**
Charitable Activities			
Unrestricted Income	91,796	–	91,796
Restricted Income	–	106,413	106,413
Grants			
Government grant income	–	–	–
	91,796	106,413	198,209

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Charitable Activities			
Unrestricted Income	119,798	–	119,798
Restricted Income	–	87,492	87,492
Grants			
Government grant income	1,950	–	1,950
	121,748	87,492	209,240

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2023 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Bank interest receivable	156	156	13	13

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2023 £**
Expenditure on charitable activities	109,726	101,413	211,139

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Expenditure on charitable activities	102,121	87,492	189,613

8. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2023 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Support costs	1,324	1,324	1,478	1,478

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Support costs £	**Total funds 2023 £**	Total fund 2022 £
Governance costs	1,324	1,324	1,478

10. Net (expenditure)/income

Net (expenditure)/income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	30 Mar 23 £	31 Mar 22 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	824	1,078

11. Independent examination fees

	Period from 1 Apr 22 to 30 Mar 23 £	Year to 31 Mar 22 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	500	400

12. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	Period from 1 Apr 22 to 30 Mar 23 £	Year to 31 Mar 22 £
Wages and salaries	157,111	136,016

The average head count of employees during the period was 9 (2022: 9). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the period is analysed as follows:

	30 Mar 23 No.	31 Mar 22 No.
Number of staff	9	9

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: Nil).

13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings
	£
Cost	
At 1 April 2022	2,156
Additions	1,412
At 30 March 2023	3,568
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2022	1,527
Charge for the period	824
At 30 March 2023	2,351
Carrying amount	
At 30 March 2023	1,217
At 31 March 2022	629

15. Debtors

	30 Mar 23	31 Mar 22
	£	£
Other debtors	14,773	8,045

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	30 Mar 23	31 Mar 22
	£	£
Trade creditors	128	417
Accruals and deferred income	500	10,653
Other creditors	10,025	10,000
	10,653	21,070

17. Government grants

The amounts recognised in the financial statements for government grants are as follows:

	30 Mar 23	31 Mar 22
	£	£
Recognised in income from donations and legacies:		
Government grants income	–	1,950

18. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 Apr 2022	Income	Expenditure	**At 30 Mar 2023**
	£	£	£	**£**
General funds	62,731	91,952	(111,050)	43,633

	At 1 Apr 2021	Income	Expenditure	At 31 Mar 2022
	£	£	£	£
General funds	44,569	121,761	(103,599)	62,731

Restricted funds

	At 1 Apr 2022	Income	Expenditure	**At 30 Mar 2023**
	£	£	£	**£**
Restricted Funds	–	106,413	(101,413)	5,000

	At 1 Apr 2021	Income	Expenditure	At 31 Mar 2022
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds	–	87,492	(87,492)	–

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total Funds 2023**
	£	£	**£**
Tangible fixed assets	1,217	–	1,217
Current assets	42,416	5,000	47,416
Net assets	43,633	5,000	48,633

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	629	–	629
Current assets	62,102	–	62,102
Net assets	62,731	–	62,731

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Management Information

Period from 1 April 2022 to 30 March 2023

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Period from 1 April 2022 to 30 March 2023

	Period from 1 Apr 22 to 30 Mar 23	Year to 31 Mar 22
	£	£
Charitable Activities		
Unrestricted Income	91,796	119,798
Restricted Income	106,413	87,492
Government grant income	–	1,950
	198,209	209,240
Investment income		
Bank interest receivable	156	13
Total income	198,365	209,253
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Purchases	25,268	24,564
Wages and salaries	157,111	136,016
Rent	13,542	10,250
Light & heat	1,059	3,147
Insurance	884	780
Other motor/travel costs	356	–
Legal and professional fees	2,700	2,351
Telephone	1,441	1,266
Other office costs	4,583	7,022
Sundry	2,286	1,531
Printing and marketing	1,909	2,686
	211,139	189,613
Expenditure on governance costs		
Legal and professional fees	500	400
Depreciation	824	1,078
	1,324	1,478
Total expenditure	212,463	191,091
Net (expenditure)/income	(14,098)	18,162

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Period from 1 April 2022 to 30 March 2023

	Period from 1 Apr 22 to 30 Mar 23 £	Year to 31 Mar 22 £
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Purchases	25,268	24,564
Wages and salaries	157,111	136,016
Rent	13,542	10,250
Light & heat	1,059	3,147
Insurance	884	780
Other motor/travel costs	356	–
Legal and professional fees	2,700	2,351
Telephone	1,441	1,266
Other office costs	4,583	7,022
Sundry	2,286	1,531
Printing and marketing	1,909	2,686
	211,139	189,613
Expenditure on charitable activities	211,139	189,613
Governance costs		
Accountancy fees	500	400
Depreciation	824	1,078
	1,324	1,478
Expenditure on governance costs	1,324	1,478

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100033

Annual report

Structure, governance and management

Our governance

Dreamscheme was set up as a company limited by guarantee in May 2013 (NI 618264) and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland in March 2014 (NIC 100033).

Dreamscheme is governed by a Board of six Trustees, two of whom are qualified accountants, two are successful entrepreneurs with extensive business experience at senior management (MD) level and the other two Trustees have many years' experience at Director and senior management level in the voluntary sector. The Board is supported by a Board Administrator.

The Chairman is a recognised expert in corporate governance. The Treasurer (a qualified accountant) is responsible for ensuring that sound financial systems and controls are in place. Supported by our accountants, the Treasurer ensures compliance with all charity and company law requirements.

None of the Trustees are members of the company and no Trustee has any beneficial interest in the company.

The Trustees met seven times during 2022/23. The Trustees have appointed a Chief Executive to manage the day-to-day operations of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland within a Framework of Control established by the Trustees.

All of our Trustees, staff and volunteers are subject to Disclosure & Barring Service (Access NI) checks and receive regular training on our Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and child protection matters. Our Safeguarding Policy is refreshed annually, and safeguarding is an item on the agenda of every Board meeting.

Reserves Policy

Reserves are the part of a charity's unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on any of the charity's purposes. The definition excludes restricted income funds and endowment funds, although holding such funds influences our reserve policy. The Board has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the restricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be 3 months of the expenditure. The reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the charity and the Board are confident that at the level agreed they would be between 3 months of the expenditure. The restricted fund is currently in deficit, but the charity's policy will be to transfer funds from the unrestricted reserves to return the restricted funds to a surplus position.

Objectives and activities

Our purpose and ethos

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland was established in June 2004 and, since then, we have been working with at-risk young people between the ages of 11 and 18 in Belfast, Lisburn & Castlereagh and more recently Antrim.

We are a youth development organisation seeking to bring about positive transformation in young people and communities. We do this through delivering targeted interventions, including detached youth work, drop-in sessions, diversionary programmes, mentoring, developmental activities and community work.

The five core aims of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland are to:

1. Provide young people in disadvantaged areas with attractive alternatives to risk taking behaviours, anti-social activity, civil unrest and crime

2. Connect young people with their local communities and encourage active, positive citizenship on the part of young people

3. Challenge racist and sectarian behaviours, combat prejudice and create a safe space for young people to explore ideas

4. Affirm young people, encourage ambition, build potential and encourage a sense of self-worth

5. Develop young people with skills and abilities to become future leaders in their communities

At the core of our existence is our desire to transform the lives of at-risk young people in disadvantaged areas of Northern Ireland. Motivated by Christian compassion, we believe in the worth of every young person regardless of their background and have a deep commitment to making a difference. We aim to provide hope, long-term practical support and positive role models.

Overall progress

In our Annual Report last year, we set out three main priorities for 2022/23:

1. Delivering our full Dreamscheme programme to the young people across our five current areas of operation

2. Expanding Dreamscheme Northern Ireland's operations into one major centre outside Greater Belfast where there is a significant and unmet need

3. Expanding our mentoring programme in schools

I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress on all three fronts.

1. Delivering our full Dreamscheme programme

Dreamscheme continues to deliver excellent work in our core hubs and we have made a real difference in the lives of our young people - this is evidenced by the positive feedback received from the young people themselves, their parents, community leaders etc.

2. Expanding our operations outside Greater Belfast

In January 2023, we launched a new Dreamscheme operation in the Ballycraigy Estate in Antrim - an area of serious deprivation and unmet social need. This followed a very successful pilot scheme undertaken in the Summer of 2022.

3. Expanding our mentoring service in schools

We expanded our mentoring work in schools and are now working with 42 pupils in four schools. In the past year, we provided 270 mentoring sessions.

Achievements and performance

Who did we reach?

During 2022/23, Dreamscheme Northern Ireland supported 340 young people across our five Centres and our new Antrim operation.

What did we do?

We delivered 587 youth work activities including 41 evenings of street work (East Belfast, Botanic, Castlereagh), 276 Centre-based group activities provided with our core programmes and 270 mentoring sessions.

We currently have 33 volunteers who delivered 3800+ voluntary hours in the past year.

What difference did we make?

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland is committed to measuring the impact and positive outcomes of our work with young people. According to our end-of-year survey of participants involved in our mentoring and Centre-based programmes:

- 93% of respondents learned something new through Dreamscheme programmes- 84% of respondents had improved their emotional and mental wellbeing- 84% believed Dreamscheme had empowered them to give back to their community- 82% thought that Dreamscheme had helped them improve their relationships- 100% of participants were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the youth services provided by Dreamscheme (with 83% 'very satisfied') - 100% of mentees would recommend our mentoring service to a friend - 7 young leaders completed Dreamscheme's youth leadership programme and are now actively leading in their community

Feedback from parents

"Dreamscheme has been the glue that has kept our family together"

"A wonderful place full of amazing people who have time for the younger generation and see the best in these kids. They encourage the kids to make the best of themselves, give them the drive to be better people and better to each other"

"Both my children have participated in the programmes, and I cannot stress enough how invaluable Dreamscheme is to the local youth during their teenage years"

"They give young people a safe space to be themselves and be honest. They are also a space to grow and learn in a fun way! The programmes are just what they need".

"Dreamscheme is a lifeline for young people in our community providing a safe space and great opportunities".

"Dreamscheme is a great organisation that loves young people and aims to help them thrive in their life through building long lasting relationships as well as impacting communities".

Feedback from schools

"Dreamscheme is our number one external support partner in Breda, and we're proud to have you as part of our school community. Lizzie and Jonny have built excellent relationships with their students and this has impacted on improved behaviour, increased self-confidence and esteem and improved relationships for our pupils" Gillian Scott, Vice Principal, Breda Academy

Feedback from young people

"Dreamscheme is so good. It's like my safe place".

"I would recommend Dreamscheme to everyone, I have so much fun every time I go, and it has helped me to become more confident"

"Dreamscheme enables young people to feel valued. That someone is actually interested in them and cares for them. It also gives them opportunities to learn. To learn new skills and also learn something about themselves. And all of this is done with an element of fun and a relaxed atmosphere".

"Dreamscheme engages young people in ways that parents and teachers cannot. Relating to us and supporting us in a vulnerable stage of life and leading us towards positive life choices"

"Dreamscheme is a fun and safe place with leaders who have become like family".

One of the highlights of the year

In May 2022, one of our volunteers (Chloe Chapman), who has come up through Dreamscheme from the age of 12 to becoming a young leader and now a volunteer, accompanied our Chairman, David Nicholl, to a Garden Party in Buckingham Palace in recognition of the award of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to Dreamscheme Northern Ireland in 2021 (the Garden Party was deferred to 2022 due to Covid-19):

QAVS Citation: Making a difference to and bringing hope into the lives of young people in their local communities.

"Her Majesty and the QAVS National Committee have seen the way in which the work of Dreamscheme is delivering for young people in this and other areas across the City, and they have judged this outstanding - outstanding in vision, delivery and in achievement." Lord Lieutenant for Belfast, Fionnuala Jay O'Boyle CBE

Challenges faced during the past year

The significant expansion of our work during the past year both in terms of geographical expansion and the growth of our mentoring service in schools has put significant pressure on our staff team. We recruited two new part time youth workers during the year to address this issue.

However, we have been struggling to cope with the corresponding growth in finance and fundraising activity where we have traditionally been reliant on Trustees to undertake much of this activity. This is no longer a realistic option going forward if we are to deliver our ambitious plans for growth. Unfortunately, Dreamscheme was unsuccessful in recruiting a Fundraising Manager and Finance Officer over the past year despite several attempts to do so.

Equality

Dreamscheme accepts young people from all communities and backgrounds. We work with young people:

- With little or no involvement in any other youth groups or organisations- Vulnerable to exploitation by paramilitary organisations
- Hanging around hot spots late at night with potential for anti-social behaviour- Engaged in risk taking activities e.g. drug and alcohol misuse
- From marginalised groups such as migrants and Roma young people

Our mentoring service in schools supports vulnerable pupils, many with mental health issues, serious family problems, behavioural issues (as evidenced by suspensions from school) and many of whom have given up on education and any hope for their future.

Financial review

Our financial performance in 2022/23

Dreamscheme generated an overall deficit of £14,098 for 2022/23 with income of £198,365 and expenditure of £212,463. This deficit compares to a budgeted surplus of £314. Our total unrestricted reserves were £43,633 at 31 March 2023 compared to £62,731 at 31 March 2022.

The results for the financial year are set out in more detail in the Statement of Financial Activities at page 11.

The principal reason for the deficit in 2022/23 was a shortfall of £25,000 in statutory income received against the budgeted figure. This was largely caused by the decision of a large local authority to cut back significantly on the funding that it provides to the voluntary sector.

The Trustees have revised the statutory income target for 2023/24 downwards to reflect this ongoing situation and have refocused our fundraising efforts on Trust Funds and corporate & individual donors to compensate. This revised strategy has already bore fruit in the first quarter of 2023/24.

The Trustees are satisfied that our financial reporting systems are extremely robust and generate high quality financial information for Trustees and staff. The Trustees consider a detailed financial report and a fundraising report at every meeting.

Plans for future periods
Our plans and priorities over the next three years include the following:

- Expanding Dreamscheme's operations into three new areas of serious deprivation across Northern Ireland where there is an unmet need

- Delivering our full Dreamscheme programme to 160 young people across our five existing areas of operation

- Expanding our mentoring programme in schools - there is a huge unmet need for this service and we have been approached by several schools who want to work in partnership with us.

Public Benefit Statement
Purpose 1: the advancement of education specifically to provide education, training and support to any groups establishing projects calculated to develop the physical, spiritual and mental capacities of young persons under the age of 25 that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society and their conditions of life may improve.
What benefit flows from this purpose?
Dreamscheme Northern Ireland:
• Provides young people in disadvantaged areas with attractive alternatives to risk taking behaviours, anti-social activity, civil unrest and crime
• Connects young people with their local communities and encourage active, positive citizenship on the part of young people (e.g. through providing community volunteering opportunities)
• Provides the statutory authorities (e.g. police, health and emergency services) with opportunities to connect with at risk young people in a positive manner
• Challenges racist and sectarian behaviour, combats prejudice and creates a safe space for young people to explore ideas
• Affirms young people, encourages ambition, builds potential and encourages a sense of self-worth
Can we demonstrate benefit? "The work that Dreamscheme does is having a real positive impact in engaging young people most at risk and helping to reduce anti-social behaviour in the area. I wish that there could be more projects like Dreamscheme NI operating across other neighbourhoods of Castlereagh". Derek Martin, Commander Castlereagh, Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) We undertake surveys of the young people who attend Dreamscheme and regularly obtain feedback from the PSNI and other funders/partners on the benefits delivered as a result of our activities (mostly through independent evaluations). A recent evaluation report (commissioned by Castlereagh Borough Council Leisure Services) found that: young people on our restorative justice placements had experienced a positive shift in attitudes toward offending; community work by young people had resulted in better community relations and a greater sense of 'community safety'; the scheme had improved the general outlook and self-esteem of young participants; workshops had helped to change attitudes to harmful attitudes and activities; the outings 'Reward Points' programme had been highly valued by young people many of whom would not otherwise have been able to participate in the activities on offer. Is there any harm or possibility of harm and, if so, is it outweighed by the benefit? The only harm that we have identified through our risk assessment is the possibility of harm to our staff and volunteers at the hands of one or more young people but this is a moderate to low risk and is outweighed by the substantial and demonstrable benefits delivered through our projects and activities.

Who is the benefit for?

The young people that Dreamscheme serves are aged 13 - 18 years and include:
• Young people with little or no involvement in any other youth groups or organisations
• Young people who are vulnerable to exploitation by paramilitary organisations
• Those who have been involved in previous political unrest and / or violence
• Those hanging around hot spots late at night with potential for anti-social behaviour
• Young people engaged in risk taking activities e.g. drug and alcohol misuse.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 18 August 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

D A Nicholl

Mr D A Nicholl
Trustee

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100033

Annual return

Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland

Period from 1 April 2022 to 30 March 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Dreamscheme Northern Ireland ('the charity') for the period ended 30 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the '2008 Act') and the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the company are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michael Flannigan FCA
Independent Examiner

Linenhall Exchange
26 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BG