

# New Lodge Housing Forum

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100189

## Details

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**Status** Received

**Registered** 2014-08-19

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 4D Eithne House  
Duncairn Parade  
Belfast.  
Bt15 2ew  
BT15 2EW

**Phone** 02890 742399

**Email** [thenewlodgehousingforum@gmail.com](mailto:thenewlodgehousingforum@gmail.com)

## Activities

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**Purposes:** The Forum is established to improve the quality of life for residents and inhabitants of the Greater New Lodge and its environs (hereinafter described as the "area of benefit") without distinction of age, sex, race, political, religious, or other opinion, by negotiating with the relevant statutory agencies to ensure a constantly improved housing stock and regular new build within the area of benefit and promote and champion ongoing environmental projects for the betterment of the said area. Provide a link between Community and Housing providers, so giving residents a voice and advice to ensure the basic Human Right, the right to a decent home, is addressed.

**What the charity does:** The prevention or relief of poverty, The advancement of citizenship or community development, The advancement of environmental protection or improvement, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

**How the charity works:** Accommodation/housing, Advice/advocacy/information, Community development, Environment/sustainable development/conservation, Relief of poverty, Urban development

**Who the charity helps:** Community safety/crime prevention, General public, Interface communities, Tenants, Unemployed/low income, Voluntary and community sector, Volunteers

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£49,048	£35,244	£0	1

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Bernadette Caughey		
Mr Liam Wiggins		
Mrs Iris Kelly		
Mrs Kate Clarke		
Ms Eileen Rice		

**New Lodge Housing Forum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100189

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# Accounts

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Charity Commission No: 100189

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**  
Trustee Annual Report and  
Receipts & Payments Accounts  
for the year: 31 December 2024

Star Neighbourhood Centre  
79-83 Hillman Street  
Belfast  
Co Antrim  
BT15 2FS

### **Objectives and Activities**

**Improve the quality of the life of the residents and inhabitants of the Greater NewLodge and its environs. Provide a link between community and housing providers**

**To establish, maintain and manage the housing office**

**Promote and carry out or assist in promoting and carrying out research surveys and investigations and publish the results**

### **Achievements and Performance**

The past year has witnessed an increase in our services we offer to the residents of the greater New Lodge area. We continue to work on three major projects:

1. The redevelopment of the Upper Long Streets
2. Working with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive as they attempt to implement their policy of demolishing the seven tower blocks which are situated in the New Lodge area
3. The refurbishment of the dwellings in Duncairn Parade.

There has been a delay in furthering meaningful progress regarding the redevelopment area. The resources afforded to this project by government amount to 35 million pounds and this will see the demolishing of almost 300 old dwellings to be replaced by 123 quality homes. This resource was given over 3 years ago. There has been a small number of objections and this has extended the time frame of starting the actual build. It is hoped that this objection phase will be successfully dealt with in the near future. We continue to assist tenants with their queries regarding house sales, moving grants and their housing rights in general. We ensure that any issues regarding empty dwellings are dealt with as a matter of urgency.

There will be little progress regarding the 7 Towers issue as there is simply no space in the local area for over 430 families who presently reside in the flats to be allocated new homes. We are now looking at a project that will last between 20/25 years. We are ensuring that the refurbishment schemes continue in the existing blocks, and these include new bathrooms and kitchens etc. We assist the tenants with every day issues such as plumbing, dampness and electrical problems etc.

There has been no major decision regarding the dwellings in Duncairn Parade. There is a complication as 50% of the dwellings are privately owned and plumbing, sewage and electrical connections enter both housing executive tenant's homes and those people who own their properties. There has been a small scheme where three dwellings are being refurbished. We constantly assist residents with the issues of general maintenance on a daily basis.

We continue to organise clinics which are of great benefit to all of the residents who live in our local area. They include clinics which are assisting the people who live in the redevelopment area and these take place every Tuesday during the hours of 11am and 1pm. We organise clinics for those people who live in the Tower Blocks, and these take place the second Wednesday of each month. We have a clinic for those people who are homeless, and this takes place on the 1st Wednesday of each month. We organise a clinic for those people who have issues regarding their welfare benefits,

and these happen every Wednesday night and we have added a Tuesday clinic which deals specifically with universal credit issues.

We continue to work with the Sisters of Mercy and the Haven food bank as we deliver food parcels to those vulnerable people and their families who are most at risk. This past Christmas period has witnessed a substantial increase in people asking for food hampers and toys for their children. Our committee organised a Santa Christmas event which was well attended.

We are opened daily and our office really is a hub of activity as we respond to the issues mentioned in this report.

We have been and remain financially secure as we receive funding towards the Housing Workers salary and running costs which ensures we can continue to deliver our project.

We are working with other agencies including the Police, Housing Associations, Social Services and restorative groups as we deal with issues including anti-social behaviour.

Liam Wiggins

Chairperson of the New Lodge Housing Forum

## Financial Review

We are pleased to report that we find the Housing Forum in a healthy condition financially and although we are not by any means here to make money, we do need a modest bank account to insure the future of the forum.

Our current position guarantees our healthy existence for the foreseeable future.

We started the year with a bank balance of £16,780 Secured £49,048 in funding. £35,798 from Housing Executive, £5,000 funding from Newington Housing Association and donations to the value of £8,250, from Sisters of Mercy

We had a spend of £39,139 and ended the year with a bank balance of £26,690

Approved by the Trustees on 10/02/25 and signed on their behalf by   
(Chairperson Signature)

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**  
**YEAR ENDED: 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2024**

**NIC: 100189**

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## Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of New Lodge Housing Forum

Star Neighbourhood Centre report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 4

### Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is Star Neighbourhood Centres responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's report

Star Neighbourhood centre have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and an examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

### Independent Examiners Statement

Star Neighbourhood Centre have completed an examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above in connection with following the Directions of the Charity commission NI have no matters that require drawing to your attention

Name: Maria Valente  
Company: Star Neighbourhood Centre  
Address: 79-83 Hillman Street  
Belfast  
BT15 2FS

Signed: Maria Valente

Date: 5/2/25

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

NIC:100189

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Rent				
Housing Executive	34,992.54		17,496.26	17,496.26
Grant/Donation		14,056.25	14,056.25	16,469.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,992.54</b>	<b>14,056.25</b>	<b>49,048.79</b>	<b>33,965.26</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Salaries/HMRC	26,244.00		26,244.00	26,631.60
Fees		60.00	60.00	60.00
Gas/Electric/Tele/water		1,566.96	1,566.96	1,418.95
Bank Fees/Donations		10,294.86	10,294.86	6,141.29
Petty Cash		621.83	621.83	541.67
Insurance		268.27	268.27	268.27
Resources/Materials		83.62	83.62	494.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,244.00</b>	<b>12,895.34</b>	<b>12,895.34</b>	<b>35,555.81</b>
<b>Net Receipts/Payments</b>	<b>8,748.54</b>	<b>1,160.91</b>	<b>1,160.91</b>	<b>-1,590.55</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit for the year</b>	<b>8,748.54</b>	<b>1,160.91</b>	<b>1,160.91</b>	<b>-1,590.55</b>
<b>Reconciliation at 31st December 2023</b>				
Surplus/deficit this year end	8,748.54	1,160.91	9,909.45	-1,590.55
bank Balance at 31st December 2023	1,972.30	14,808.57	16,780.87	18,371.42
<b>Bank Balance at 31st December 2024</b>	<b>10,720.84</b>	<b>15,969.48</b>	<b>26,690.32</b>	<b>16,780.87</b>

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES - YEAR ENDED: 31 DECEMBER 2024**

NIC: 100189

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2023	Total 2022
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>				
opening bank balance	1,972.30	14,808.57	16,780.87	18,371.42
Surplus/Deficit this year end	8,748.54	1,160.91	9,909.45	-1,590.55
<b>Closing Bank Balance</b>	<b>10,720.84</b>	<b>15,969.48</b>	<b>26,690.32</b>	<b>15,780.87</b>

**Other assets**

Computer/Laptop

Printer

photocopier

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on

10/02/2025

(Date)

and signed on their behalf by:

Catherine Cloeb

(Treasurer's Signature)

[Handwritten Signature]

(Chairperson's  
signature)

**1 Basis of Preparation**

These accounts are produced on a Receipts and Payments basis

**2 Trustee remuneration and Expenses**

Trustees received no remuneration for their services, and no Trustees were employed by the charity

3

	opening balance	receipts	payments	Closing Balance
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	14,808.57	14,056.25	12,895.34	15,969.48
<b>Restricted Funds housing Executive</b>	1,972.30	34,992.54	26,244.00	10,720.84
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	1,972.30	34,992.54	26,244.00	10,720.84
<b>Total Funds</b>	16,7808.87	49048.79	39,139.34	26,690.32

**4 Fund Purposes**

Housing Executive support salaries of the Newlodge Worker

**New Lodge Housing Forum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100189

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# Accounts

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**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**  
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**  
**NIC:100189**

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Rent				
Housing Executive	17,496.26		17,496.26	32,244.00
Grant/Donation		16,469.00	16,469.00	7,350.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,496.26</b>	<b>16,469.00</b>	<b>33965.26</b>	<b>39594.00</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Salaries/HMRC	26,631.60		26,631.60	25,294.80
Fees		60.00	60.00	60.00
Gas/Electric/Tele/water		1,418.95	1,418.95	14,09.71
Bank Fees/Donations		6,141.29	6,141.29	305.97
Petty Cash		541.67	541.67	486.22
Insurance		268.27	268.27	260.31
Resources/Materials		494.03	494.03	2,362.97
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,631.60</b>	<b>8,924.21</b>	<b>35,555.81</b>	<b>30179.98</b>
<b>Net Receipts/Payments</b>	<b>-9,135.34</b>	<b>7,544.79</b>	<b>-1,590.55</b>	<b>9,414.02</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit for the year</b>	<b>-9,135.34</b>	<b>7,544.79</b>	<b>-1,590.55</b>	<b>9,414.02</b>
<b>Reconciliation at 31st December 2022</b>				
Surplus/deficit this year end	-9,135.34	7,544.79	-1,590.55	9,414.02
bank Balance at 31st December 2022	11,107.64	7,263.78	18,371.42	6,785.77
<b>Bank Balance at 31st December 2023</b>	<b>1,972.30</b>	<b>14,808.57</b>	<b>16,780.87</b>	<b>8,957.40</b>

**NIC: 100189**

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**1 Basis of Preparation**

These accounts are produced on a Receipts and Payments basis

**2 Trustee remuneration and Expenses**

Trustees received no remuneration for their services, and no Trustees were employed by the charity

**3**

	<b>opening balance</b>	<b>receipts</b>	<b>payments</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	7,263.78	16,469.00	8,924.21	14,808.57
<b>Restricted Funds housing Executive</b>	11,107.64	17,496.26	26,631.60	1,972.30
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	11,107.64	17,496.26	26,631.60	1,972.30
<b>Total Funds</b>	18,371.42	33965.26	35,555.81	16,780.87

**4 Fund Purposes**

Housing Executive support salaries of the Newlodge Worker

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES - YEAR ENDED: 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**NIC: 100189**

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2022	Total 2021
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>				
opening bank balance	11,107.64	7,263.78	18,371.42	8,957.40
Surplus/Deficit this year end	-9,135.34	7,544.79	-1,590.55	2,171.63
Closing Bank Balance	<b>1,972.30</b>	<b>14,808.57</b>	<b>16,780.87</b>	<b>8,957.40</b>

**Other assets**

Computer/Laptop

Printer

photocopier

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on

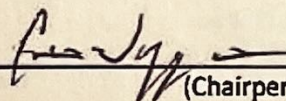
15<sup>th</sup> FEB 2024

(Date)

and signed on their behalf by:



(Treasurer's Signature)



(Chairperson's  
signature)

**New Lodge Housing Forum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100189

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# Annual report

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## **Trustee Report 2023 On Behalf of The New Lodge Housing Forum**

The past year has witnessed a substantial increase in the demand for our services. Our main areas of work include:

- 1) Re-development and demolition of the upper long streets
- 2) To ensure the tower block strategy is implemented
- 3) To pursue a policy of demolition or refurbishment of the Duncairn Parade area
- 4) To continue to work with our community and our statutory partners to shape a meaningful project centred around community safety and anti-social behaviour
- 5) To extend resources to cover our growing number of clinics
- 6) To work with the foodbanks to ensure vulnerable people and those most in need are catered for
- 7) To hold further meetings with residents from different parts of the area and assist in formulating committees
- 8) To continue to work with the increased number of clinics we have organised
- 9) Finance

The re-development area has been vested at over 10-12 year period 287 houses will be demolished to be replaced with 123 quality homes. We are dealing with a small number of objections that some of the residents have raised. In practical terms we are instrumental in ensuring that empty dwellings are blocked up and primary repairs are carried out in the remaining houses.

The tower block strategy is proving difficult as we simply do not have the space to re-house the 406 families who live there. Major repairs and refurbishment schemes are planned to improve the living conditions of the families living there.

The Duncairn Parade area is in a state of poor repair and senior members of the Housing Ex have recently been on site to prepare the ground for final decisions to be made regarding both the private home owners and the housing ex tenants.

Sadly, there has been an increase in anti social activity. Two young lives have been lost to drug addiction. We are working with the PSNI, Safer Streets, CRJI, Housing Ex and other statutory bodies in an attempt to support families and individuals who have been

impacted by crime. We are also sign posting residents who are suffering on a daily basis as they cope with drugs and alcohol addiction.

Our clinics have grown in numbers and they include dealing with our tenants who reside in the Tower Blocks. A housing ex patch manager attends a monthly clinic in our office and gives the tenants the opportunity to air their grievances. We have a clinic for those who live in the re-development area this includes landlord tenants, housing ex tenants and those people who own their own homes. A senior housing ex rep attends the meeting in our office on a weekly basis given the tenants the opportunity to bring forward their issues. We meet with housing solutions which is a dept. of the housing exe they deal with the homeless people. Our meetings take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month in a local community hall. This fast tacks peoples queries and other practical assistance to those who have no place to live in the local area. we have organised 2 clinics both on a weekly and fortnightly basis dealing with welfare benefit issues these include providing assistance with issues including ESA, PIPS and Universal Credit. We have witnessed a particular increase in numbers as we deal with U.C claims as the government has set a deadline of 2025 for people who claim benefits to transfer to Universal Credit.

We continue to work with the Haven Food Bank as we assist those families and individuals who are finding it extremely difficult to actually put food on the table. The number of clients have increased since last year, we have also been involved in fund raising for the Haven Food Bank.

We have met with groups of residents in recent months who find it difficult in trying to move things forward in dealing with housing issues. We are both advising them and providing practical assistance in setting up formal committees in the areas they represent.

Our financial situation is stable with the Housing Exe providing funding for the housing workers salary. A local housing association provides us with vital financial resources which assists us in covering the everyday expenses of running our office.

We are fortunate to have a positive representative who is employed by Supporting Communities. He assists us with our funding applications including the worker's salary and the charity commission returns. He also arranges minutes and agendas for the

many meetings we have throughout the year. Our committee meetings take place every 6 weeks.

The coming year will witness a busy time for the committee and housing worker and we feel a real sense of achievement in the project we deliver in our area.

**Signed:** Liam Wiggins

Chairperson of the New Lodge Housing Forum

**New Lodge Housing Forum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100189

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# Annual return

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**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**  
**YEAR ENDED: 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

**NIC: 100189**

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**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of New lodge Housing Forum**

Star Neighbourhood Centre report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 4

**Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

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- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

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4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

**Independent Examiners Statement**

Star Neighbourhood Centre have completed an examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above in connection with following the Directions of the Charity commission NI have no matters that require drawing to your attention

Name: Maria Valente  
Company: Star Neighbourhood Centre  
Address: 79-83 Hillman Street  
Belfast  
BT15 2FS

Signed: Maria Valente

Date: 14.2.24

**New Lodge Housing Forum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100189

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# Accounts

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Charity Commission No: 100189

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**  
Trustee Annual Report and  
Receipts & Payments Accounts  
for the year: 31 December 2022

Star Neighbourhood Centre  
79-83 Hillman Street  
Belfast  
Co Antrim  
BT15 2FS

### **Objectives and Activities**

Improve the quality of the life of the residents and inhabitants of the Greater NewLodge and its environs. Provide a link between community and housing providers.

To establish, maintain and manage the housing office.

Promote and carry out or assist in promoting and carrying out research surveys and investigations and publish the results

### **Achievements and Performance**

The past year has witnessed a substantial increase in the numbers of residents who have sought our assistance in matters relating to housing issues. We have dealt with over 326 requests covering a broad spectrum of problems which are primarily based around the subject of housing. These included.

- Homes that are directly impacted by the demolition of 287 dwellings. These are to be replaced with the building of 123 quality houses which will strengthen the overall sense of community which already exists in our area. The cost of this scheme will total 35\40 million pounds which is evidence of a major investment by the housing exe and the stormont minister encompassing the local area. We are tying in directly with the upper long streets committee, senior housing exe staff and local politicians on a daily basis as we jointly approach issues at an early stage i.e., sales of houses, ensuring the rights of housing exe tenants, homeowners and landlord tenants which are all properly protected. We have been to the fore in informing tenants of any progress that is made.
- We have witnessed a positive increase in the number of refurbishment schemes which have been carried out by the housing exe and these include 42 homes have been refurbished in the Carlisle estate area with new windows and effective external insulation which will ensure that homes are properly heated whilst also bringing down the cost of energy bills.
- There has been major refurbishment schemes in the tower blocks which have included, Oisin, Finn and Fianna blocks. These included new bathrooms and kitchens in each of the flats.
- We are still dealing with the issues of the maisonettes in Duncairn Parade. These dwellings are 60 years old and have fallen into serious disrepair with problems of dampness, crumbling concrete and little or no insulation which is driving the energy costs for each home literally through the roof. A second economic evaluation should be completed in the coming months and the results of this will determine the progress of either demolishing the complex or major investment in bringing the dwellings up to proper living standards.

Our role in ensuring that the schemes will be successfully completed included.

- meeting with the various contractors on a regular basis to receive updates and to discuss problems that were arising i.e. amount of time they would be in residents homes, ensuring that scaffolding was up for a minimal amount of time and to keep in regular contact with the

contractors re the positioning of skips and the disposal of discarded building materials in general..

- Meeting with the housing executive patch managers, maintenance officers and senior staff to jointly tackle issues which were arising including completion dates etc.
- To meet with the residents both singularly and in groups to discuss progress in an overall sense. We also recorded any complaints and met with the reps and contractors to ensure that the work was completed to a high standard.

There continues to be a steady flow of residents who call to our office on a daily basis to report issues which are directly impacting on their lives and these include plumbing, electrical, plastering and heating problems. We have a good contact with both the DLO group and the emergency service section within the housing Executive. This ensures that urgent repairs can be dealt with in a two to four hour period.

We are in regular contact with the maintenance officers and through this relationship we have been able to install nine entry gates and provide a large number of replacement locks because of a small group of young people who are involved with sustained incidents of anti-social behaviour and they aim to have a free run of the entries.

We have also been working with the housing solutions team who are based in the housing executive's main office. There had been issues which had arisen over a period of time and these had slowed the growth of delivering an approach to homelessness which would witness meaningful progress. There was a significant turnover of personnel in this department and at times this led to a breakdown when dealing with some complaints. The North Belfast manager of the h e arranged a meeting for us to attend and those included were senior members of staff within housing solutions. There was an improvement right away and we now have a number of phone numbers and email contacts which ensures that there is little chance of the breakdowns which had happened previously.

We have a good working relationship with the local manager of the Belfast city council. There has been an increase in the number of incidents concerning the illegal dumping of rubbish in the general area. There have been a number of fines issued to those residents who have been involved with this negative activity

There has been a rise in the number of anti-social incidents in recent months. These include, drug dealing, vandalism and attacks between young people. We work closely with the PSNI the safer streets committee and community restorative justice Ireland. We also work with the local youth leaders who can offer young people alternative things to do and this literally takes them off the street.

Over three years ago our committee met and made the decision to offer the people of the area the opportunity to avail of the services of our new welfare rights clinic. We had been helping people who were in financial stress which had witnessed them facing extreme hardship. This included advising them on the growing issue of debt including rent arrears, loans and credit cards etc. We are fortunate to have a debt advisor who works on a voluntary basis in the clinic one night per week and also takes queries etc. through our office. We have found that as we deliver this project we are creating a meaningful working relationship with the housing benefits section of the h e.

We have also offered a service of delivering food parcels to h e tenants and other individuals who live in our area. We continue to take referrals from the local patch managers and this ensures that people will avoid the negative situation of going without food. There has been a marked increase in

requests being made to our office regarding food parcels and given the mammoth mistakes made by government this will be our reality for some time to come. We have responded to this increase by seeking the assistance of two further foodbanks in north Belfast and they have come to the fore in helping us, even though they are under extreme pressure regarding the numbers of people they already tend to.

We are working in partnership with Newington housing association who have been awarded the scheme which will witness the removal of the old housing stock in the upper long streets, to be replaced with 123 quality new homes. This will add to their already substantial presence in the local area where they are viewed as an organisation who have the best interests of the community at heart. They regularly assist many community groups in the area, including our own. They have assisted us with resources regarding our running costs.

We continue to seek advice and practical help from the supporting communities' organisation. Their representative (Lisa) is instrumental in helping us in many practical ways. These include arranging meetings, providing agendas and minutes and assisting us in preparing applications for funding. We regard the group as a positive partner in providing resources where they are most needed. Lisa is also to the fore in preparing our charity commission returns. They also assist us with wages being paid and payments to h m r c being paid on a regular basis.

Finances. Our financial situation is stable. The worker's salary is funded by the HE and is applied for on an annual basis. In the past two years two organisations have assisted us with running costs. They are Newington housing Association and the John Moore foundation. Recently we have been successful with our application to the h e r e grant for a much needed photo copier and a phone for the housing worker. Our accounts are prepared each year by the senior finance person in the star neighbourhood centre and we are grateful for their due diligence and professionalism.

Finally, I must mention our committee who are hardworking and keen to deliver a service to the community which will enhance the lives of all who live here. They are very practical in offering help to the housing worker who has commented their daily contact with him goes some way to ease the overall work load of the issues which is reported to our office on a regular basis. We intend not only to deliver our existing services, indeed we need to expand them in the coming months and years.

### **Financial Review**

We are pleased to report that we find the Housing Forum in a healthy condition financially and although we are not by any means here to make money, we do need a modest bank account to insure the future of the forum. Our current position guarantees our healthy existence for the foreseeable future. We started the year with a bank balance of £8,957 Secured £32,244 funding from the Housing Executive, £5,000 funding from Newington Housing Association and donations to the value of £2,350 from Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI), Sisters of Mercy & City Hibernian. We had a spend of £30,179 and ended the year with a bank balance of £18,371

Approved by the Trustees on 14.2.23 and signed on their behalf by

  
(Chairperson Signature)

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**  
**YEAR ENDED: 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

**NIC: 100189**

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**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of New lodge Housing Forum**

Star Neighbourhood Centre report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 4

**Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is Star Neighbourhood Centres responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

Star Neighbourhood centre have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and an examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

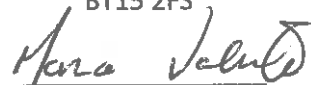
My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

**Independent Examiners Statement**

Star Neighbourhood Centre have completed an examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above in connection with following the Directions of the Charity commission NI have no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: Maria Valente  
Company: Star Neighbourhood Centre  
Address: 79-83 Hillman Street  
Belfast  
BT15 2FS

Signed: 

Date: 14/2/23

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

NIC:100189

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Rent				
Housing Executive	32,244.00		32,244.00	24,333.34
Grant/Donation		7,350.00	7,350.00	3,800.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32,244.00</b>	<b>7,350.00</b>	<b>39,594.00</b>	<b>28133.34</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Salaries/HMRC	25,294.80		25,294.80	24000.00
Fees		60.00	60.00	60.00
Gas/Electric/Tele/water		1,409.71	1,409.71	803.76
Bank Fees		305.97	305.97	105.09
Petty Cash		486.22	486.22	0.00
Insurance		260.31	260.31	302.74
Resources/Materials		2,362.97	2,362.97	90.12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,294.80</b>	<b>4,885.18</b>	<b>30,179.98</b>	<b>25,961.71</b>
<b>Net Receipts/Payments</b>	<b>6,949.20</b>	<b>2,464.82</b>	<b>9,414.02</b>	<b>2,171.63</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit for the year</b>	<b>6,949.20</b>	<b>2,464.82</b>	<b>9,414.02</b>	<b>2,171.63</b>
<b>Reconciliation at 31st December 2021</b>				
Surplus/deficit this year end	6,949.20	2,464.82	9,414.02	2,171.63
bank Balance at 31st December 2021	4,158.44	4,798.96	8,957.40	6,785.77
<b>Bank Balance at 31st December 2022</b>	<b>11,107.64</b>	<b>7,263.78</b>	<b>18,371.42</b>	<b>8,957.40</b>

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES - YEAR ENDED: 31 DECEMBER 2022**

NIC: 100189

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2021	Total 2020
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>				
opening bank balance	4,158.44	4,798.96	8,957.40	6,785.77

Surplus/Deficit this year end	6,949.20	2,464.82	9,414.02	2,171.63
Closing Bank Balance	11,107.64	7,263.78	18,371.42	8,957.40

**Other assets**  
 Computer/Laptop  
 Printer  
 photocopier

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on

14 Feb. 2023.  
 (Date)

and signed on their behalf by:

Kate Clark  
 (Treasurer's Signature)

[Signature]  
 (Chairperson's signature)

**NIC: 100189**

**1 Basis of Preparation**

These accounts are produced on a Receipts and Payments basis.

**2 Trustee remuneration and Expenses**

Trustees received no remuneration for their services, and no Trustees were employed by the charity

**NIC: 100189**

**1 Basis of Preparation**

These accounts are produced on a Receipts and Payments basis

**2 Trustee remuneration and Expenses**

Trustees received no remuneration for their services, and no Trustees were employed by the charity

**3**

	opening balance	receipts	payments	Closing Balance
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	4,798.96	7,350.00	4,885.18	7,263.78
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	4,158.44	32,244.00	25,294.80	11,107.64
housing Executive				
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	4,158.44	32,244.00	25,294.80	11,107.64
<b>Total Funds</b>	8,957.40	39,594.00	30,179.98	18,371.42

**4 Fund Purposes**

Housing Executive support salaries of the Newlodge Worker

**New Lodge Housing Forum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100189

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# Annual report

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NEW LODGE HOUSING FORUM

23 NEWLODGE RD

BT15 2BU

ANNUAL CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

NOVEMBER 2022

THE PAST YEAR HAS WITNESSED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE NUMBERS OF RESIDENTS WHO HAVE SOUGHT OUR ASSISTANCE IN MATTERS RELATING TO HOUSING ISSUES. WE HAVE DEALT WITH OVER 326 REQUESTS COVERING A BROAD SPECTRUM OF PROBLEMS WHICH ARE PRIMARILY BASED AROUND THE SUBJECT OF HOUSING. THESE INCLUDED

1 HOMES THAT ARE DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY THE DEMOLITION OF 287 DWELLINGS. THESE ARE TO BE REPLACED WITH THE BUILDING OF 123 QUALITY HOUSES WHICH WILL STRENGTHEN THE OVERALL SENSE OF COMMUNITY WHICH ALREADY EXISTS IN OUR AREA. THE COST OF THIS SCHEME WILL TOTAL 35\40 MILLION POUNDS WHICH IS EVIDENCE OF A MAJOR INVESTMENT BY THE HOUSING EXE AND THE STORMONT MINISTER ENCOMPASSING THE LOCAL AREA. WE ARE TYING IN DIRECTLY WITH THE UPPER LONG STREETS COMMITTEE, SENIOR HOUSING EXE STAFF AND LOCAL POLITICIANS ON A DAILY BASIS AS WE JOINTLY APPROACH ISSUES AT AN EARLY STAGE IE SALES OF HOUSES, ENSURING THE RIGHTS OF HOUSING EXE TENANTS, HOMEOWNERS AND LANDLORD TENANTS WHICH ARE ALL PROPERLY PROTECTED. WE HAVE BEEN TO THE FORE IN INFORMING TENANTS OF ANY PROGRESS THAT IS MADE.

2 WE HAVE WITNESSED A POSITIVE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF REFURBISHMENT SCHEMES WHICH HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE HOUSING EXE AND THESE INCLUDE

42 HOMES HAVE BEEN REFURBISHED IN THE CARLISLE ESTATE AREA WITH NEW WINDOWS AND EFFECTIVE EXTERNAL INSULATION WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT HOMES ARE PROPERLY HEATED WHILST ALSO BRINGING DOWN THE COST OF ENERGY BILLS.

THERE HAS BEEN MAJOR REFURBISHMENT SCHEMES IN THE TOWER BLOCKS WHICH HAVE INCLUDED, OISIN, FINN AND FIANNA BLOCKS. THESE INCLUDED NEW BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS IN EACH OF THE FLATS.

WE ARE STILL DEALING WITH THE ISSUES OF THE MASONETTES IN DUNCAIRN PDE. THESE DWELLINGS ARE 60 YEARS OLD AND HAVE FALLEN INTO SERIOUS DISREPAIR WITH PROBLEMS OF SERIOUS DAMPNES, CRUMBLING CONCRETE AND LITTLE OR NO INSULATION WHICH IS DRIVING THE ENERGY COSTS FOR EACH HOME LITERALLY THROUGH THE ROOF. A SECOND ECONOMIC EVALUATION SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN THE COMING MONTHS AND THE RESULTS OF THIS WILL DETERMINE THE PROGRESS OF EITHER DEMOLISHING THE COMPLEX OR MAJOR INVESTMENT IN BRINGING THE DWELLINGS UP TO PROPER LIVING STANDARDS.

OUR ROLE IN ENSURING THAT THE SCHEMES WILL BE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED INCLUDED

1 MEETING WITH THE VARIOUS CONTRACTORS ON A REGULAR BASIS TO RECEIVE UPDATES AND TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS THAT WERE ARISING IE AMOUNT OF TIME THEY WOULD BE IN RESIDENTS HOMES, ENSURING THAT SCAFFOLDING WAS UP FOR A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF TIME AND TO KEEP IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE CONTRACTORS RE THE POSITIONING OF SKIPS AND THE DISPOSAL OF DISCARDED BUILDING MATERIALS IN GENERAL..

2 MEETING WITH THE HOUSING EXECUTIVE MANAGERS, MAINTENANCE OFFICERS AND SENIOR STAFF TO JOINTLY TACKLE ISSUES WHICH WERE ARISING INCLUDING COMPLETION DATES ETC

3 TO MEET WITH THE RESIDENTS BOTH SINGULARLY AND IN GROUPS TO DISCUSS PROGRESS IN AN OVERALL SENSE. WE ALSO RECORDED ANY COMPLAINTS AND MET WITH THE REPS AND CONTRACTORS TO ENSURE THAT THE WORK WAS COMPLETED TO A HIGH STANDARD.

THERE CONTINUES TO BE A STEADY FLOW OF RESIDENTS WHO CALL TO OUR OFFICE ON A DAILY BASIS TO REPORT ISSUES WHICH ARE DIRECTLY IMPACTING ON THEIR LIVES AND THESE INCLUDE PLUMBING, ELECTRICAL, PLASTERING AND HEATING PROBLEMS. WE HAVE A GOOD CONTACT WITH BOTH THE DLO GROUP AND THE EMERGENCY SERVICE SECTION WITHIN THE HOUSING EXEC. THIS ENSURES THAT URGENT REPAIRS CAN BE DEALT WITH IN A TWO TO FOUR HOUR PERIOD.

WE ARE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE MAINTENANCE OFFICERS AND THROUGH THIS RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INSTALL NINE ENTRY GATES AND PROVIDE A LARGE NUMBER OF REPLACEMENT LOCKS BECAUSE OF A SMALL GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE INVOLVED WITH SUSTAINED INCIDENTS OF ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND THEY AIM TO HAVE A FREE RUN OF THE ENTRIES.

WE HAVE ALSO BEEN WORKING WITH THE HOUSING SOLUTIONS TEAM WHO ARE BASED IN THE HOUSING EXECUTIVES MAIN OFFICE. THERE HAD BEEN ISSUES WHICH HAD ARISEN OVER A PERIOD OF TIME AND THESE HAD SLOWED THE GROWTH OF DELIVERING AN APPROACH TO HOMELESSNESS WHICH WOULD WITNESS MEANINGFUL PROGRESS. THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT TURNOVER OF PERSONNEL IN THIS DEPARTMENT AND AT TIMES THIS LED TO A BREAKDOWN WHEN DEALING WITH SOME COMPLAINTS. THE NORTH BELFAST MANAGER OF THE H E ARRANGED A MEETING FOR US TO ATTEND AND THOSE INCLUDED WERE SENIOR MEMBERS OF STAFF WITHIN HOUSING SOLUTIONS. THERE WAS AN IMPROVEMENT RIGHT AWAY AND WE NOW HAVE A NUMBER OF PHONE NUMBERS AND EMAIL CONTACTS WHICH ENSURES THAT THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE OF THE BREAKDOWNS WHICH HAD HAPPENED PREVIOUSLY.

WE HAVE A SOUND WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LOCAL MANAGER OF THE BELFAST CITY COUNCIL. THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS CONCERNING THE ILEGAL DUMPING OF RUBBISH IN THE GENERAL AREA. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF FINES ISSUED TO THOSE RESIDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THIS NEGATIVE ACTIVITY

THERE HAS BEEN A RISE IN THE NUMBER OF ANTI SOCIAL INCIDENTS IN RECENT MONTHS. THESE INCLUDE, DRUG DEALING, VANDALISM AND ATTACKS BETWEEN YOUNG PEOPLE. WE WORK CLOSELY WITH THE PSNI, THE SAFER STREETS COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IRELAND. WE ALSO WORK WITH THE LOCAL YOUTH LEADERS WHO CAN OFFER YOUNG PEOPLE ALTERNATIVE THINGS TO DO AND THIS LITERALLY TAKES THEM OFF THE STREET.

OVER THREE YEARS AGO OUR COMMITTEE MET AND MADE THE DECISION TO OFFER THE PEOPLE OF THE AREA THE OPPORTUNITY TO AVAIL OF THE SERVICES OF OUR NEW WELFARE RIGHTS CLINIC. WE HAD BEEN HELPING PEOPLE WHO WERE IN FINANCIAL STRESS WHICH HAD WITNESSED THEM FACING EXTREME HARDSHIP. THIS INCLUDED ADVISING THEM ON THE GROWING ISSUE OF DEBT INCLUDING RENT ARREARS, LOANS AND CREDIT CARDS ETC. WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE A DEBT ADVISOR WHO WORKS ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS IN THE CLINIC ONE NIGHT PER WEEK AND ALSO TAKES QUERIES ETC THROUGH OUR OFFICE. WE HAVE FOUND THAT AS WE DELIVER THIS PROJECT WE ARE CREATING A MEANINGFUL WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HOUSING BENEFITS SECTION OF THE H E.

WE HAVE ALSO OFFERED A SERVICE OF DELIVERING FOOD PARCELS TO H E TENANTS AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO LIVE IN OUR AREA.WE CONTINUE TO TAKE REFERALS FROM THE LOCAL PATCH MANAGERS AND THIS ENSURES THAT PEOPLE WILL AVOID THE NEGATIVE SITUATION OF GOING WITHOUT FOOD.THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED INCREASE IN REQUESTS BEING MADE TO OUR OFFICE REGARDING FOOD PARCELS AND GIVEN THE MAMOOOTH MISTAKES MADE BY GOVERNMENT THIS WILL BE OUR REALITY FOR SOME TIME TO COME.WE HAVE RESPONDED TO THIS INCREASE BY SEEKING THE ASSISTANCE OF TWO FURTHER FOODBANKS IN NORTH BELFAST AND THEY HAVE COME TO THE FORE IN HELPING US,EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE UNDER EXTREME PRESSURE REGARDING THE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE THEY ALREADY TEND TO.

WE ARE WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEWINGTON HOUSING ASSOCIATION WHO HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE SCHEME WHICH WILL WITNESS THE REMOVAL OF THE OLD HOUSING STOCK IN THE UPPER LONG STREETS,TO BE REPLACED WITH 123 QUALITY NEW HOMES.THIS WILL ADD TO THEIR ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL PRESENCE IN THE LOCAL AREA WHERE THEY ARE VIEWED AS AN ORGANISATION WHO HAVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AT HEART.THEY REGULARLY ASSIST MANY COMMUNITY GROUPS IN THE AREA,INCLUDING OUR OWN.THEY HAVE ASSISTED US WITH RESOURCES REGARDING OUR RUNNING COSTS.

WE CONTINUE TO SEEK ADVICE AND PRACTICAL HELP FROM THE SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES ORGANISATION.THEIR REPRESENTATIVE (LISA) IS INSTUMENTAL IN HELPING US IN MANY PRACTICAL WAYS.THESE INCLUDE ARRANGING MEETINGS,PROVIDING AGENDAS AND MINUTES AND ASSISTING US IN PREPARING APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING.WE REGARD THE GROUP AS A POSITIVE PARTNER IN PROVIDING RESOURCES WHERE THEY ARE MOST NEEDED.LISA IS ALSO TO THE FORE IN PREPARING OUR CHARITY COMMISION RETURNS.THEY ALSO ASSIST US WITH WAGES BEING PAID AND PAYMENTS TO H M R C BEING PAID ON A REGULAR BASIS.

FINANCES.OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION IS STABLE.THE WORKERS SALARY IS FUNDED BY THE H E AND IS APPLIED FOR ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.IN THE PAST TWO YEARS TWO ORGANISATIONS HAVE ASSISTED US WITH RUNNING COSTS.THEY ARE NEWINGTON HOUSING ASSOC AND THE JOHN MOORE FOUNDATION.IN RECENT DAYS WE HAVE SUCCESSFUL WITH OUR APPLICATION TO THE H E RE A GRANT FOR A MUCH NEEDED PHOTO COPIER AND A PHONE FOR THE HOUSING WORKER.OUR ACCOUNTS ARE PREPARED EACH YEAR BY THE SENIOR FINANCE PERSON IN THE STAR NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THEIR DUE DILIGENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM .

FINALLY,I MUST MENTION OUR COMMITTEE WHO ARE HARDWORKING AND KEEN TO DELIVER A SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY WHICH WILL ENHANCE THE LIVES OF ALL WHO LIVE HERE.THEY ARE VERY PRACTICAL IN OFFERING HELP TO THE HOUSING WORKER WHO HAS COMMENTED THEIR DAILY CONTACT WITH HIM GOES SOME WAY TO EASE THE OVERALL WORK LOAD OF THE ISSUES WHICH IS REPORTED TO OUR OFFICE ON A REGULR BASIS.WE INTEND NOT ONLY TO DELIVER OUR EXISTING SERVICES,INDEED WE NEED TO EXPAND THEM IN THE COMING MONTHS AND YEARS.

LIAM WIGGINS,CHAIRPERSON OF THE NEW LODGE HOUSING FORUM, 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

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**New Lodge Housing Forum**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100189

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# Annual return

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Charity Commission No: 100189

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**  
Trustee Annual Report and  
Receipts & Payments Accounts  
for the year: 31 December 2022

Star Neighbourhood Centre  
79-83 Hillman Street  
Belfast  
Co Antrim  
BT15 2FS

### **Objectives and Activities**

Improve the quality of the life of the residents and inhabitants of the Greater NewLodge and its environs. Provide a link between community and housing providers.

To establish, maintain and manage the housing office.

Promote and carry out or assist in promoting and carrying out research surveys and investigations and publish the results

### **Achievements and Performance**

The past year has witnessed a substantial increase in the numbers of residents who have sought our assistance in matters relating to housing issues. We have dealt with over 326 requests covering a broad spectrum of problems which are primarily based around the subject of housing. These included.

- Homes that are directly impacted by the demolition of 287 dwellings. These are to be replaced with the building of 123 quality houses which will strengthen the overall sense of community which already exists in our area. The cost of this scheme will total 35\40 million pounds which is evidence of a major investment by the housing exe and the stormont minister encompassing the local area. We are tying in directly with the upper long streets committee, senior housing exe staff and local politicians on a daily basis as we jointly approach issues at an early stage i.e., sales of houses, ensuring the rights of housing exe tenants, homeowners and landlord tenants which are all properly protected. We have been to the fore in informing tenants of any progress that is made.
- We have witnessed a positive increase in the number of refurbishment schemes which have been carried out by the housing exe and these include 42 homes have been refurbished in the Carlisle estate area with new windows and effective external insulation which will ensure that homes are properly heated whilst also bringing down the cost of energy bills.
- There has been major refurbishment schemes in the tower blocks which have included, Oisin, Finn and Fianna blocks. These included new bathrooms and kitchens in each of the flats.
- We are still dealing with the issues of the maisonettes in Duncairn Parade. These dwellings are 60 years old and have fallen into serious disrepair with problems of dampness, crumbling concrete and little or no insulation which is driving the energy costs for each home literally through the roof. A second economic evaluation should be completed in the coming months and the results of this will determine the progress of either demolishing the complex or major investment in bringing the dwellings up to proper living standards.

Our role in ensuring that the schemes will be successfully completed included.

- meeting with the various contractors on a regular basis to receive updates and to discuss problems that were arising i.e. amount of time they would be in residents homes, ensuring that scaffolding was up for a minimal amount of time and to keep in regular contact with the

contractors re the positioning of skips and the disposal of discarded building materials in general..

- Meeting with the housing executive patch managers, maintenance officers and senior staff to jointly tackle issues which were arising including completion dates etc.
- To meet with the residents both singularly and in groups to discuss progress in an overall sense. We also recorded any complaints and met with the reps and contractors to ensure that the work was completed to a high standard.

There continues to be a steady flow of residents who call to our office on a daily basis to report issues which are directly impacting on their lives and these include plumbing, electrical, plastering and heating problems. We have a good contact with both the DLO group and the emergency service section within the housing Executive. This ensures that urgent repairs can be dealt with in a two to four hour period.

We are in regular contact with the maintenance officers and through this relationship we have been able to install nine entry gates and provide a large number of replacement locks because of a small group of young people who are involved with sustained incidents of anti-social behaviour and they aim to have a free run of the entries.

We have also been working with the housing solutions team who are based in the housing executive's main office. There had been issues which had arisen over a period of time and these had slowed the growth of delivering an approach to homelessness which would witness meaningful progress. There was a significant turnover of personnel in this department and at times this led to a breakdown when dealing with some complaints. The North Belfast manager of the h e arranged a meeting for us to attend and those included were senior members of staff within housing solutions. There was an improvement right away and we now have a number of phone numbers and email contacts which ensures that there is little chance of the breakdowns which had happened previously.

We have a good working relationship with the local manager of the Belfast city council. There has been an increase in the number of incidents concerning the illegal dumping of rubbish in the general area. There have been a number of fines issued to those residents who have been involved with this negative activity

There has been a rise in the number of anti-social incidents in recent months. These include, drug dealing, vandalism and attacks between young people. We work closely with the PSNI the safer streets committee and community restorative justice Ireland. We also work with the local youth leaders who can offer young people alternative things to do and this literally takes them off the street.

Over three years ago our committee met and made the decision to offer the people of the area the opportunity to avail of the services of our new welfare rights clinic. We had been helping people who were in financial stress which had witnessed them facing extreme hardship. This included advising them on the growing issue of debt including rent arrears, loans and credit cards etc. We are fortunate to have a debt advisor who works on a voluntary basis in the clinic one night per week and also takes queries etc. through our office. We have found that as we deliver this project we are creating a meaningful working relationship with the housing benefits section of the h e.

We have also offered a service of delivering food parcels to h e tenants and other individuals who live in our area. We continue to take referrals from the local patch managers and this ensures that people will avoid the negative situation of going without food. There has been a marked increase in

requests being made to our office regarding food parcels and given the mammoth mistakes made by government this will be our reality for some time to come. We have responded to this increase by seeking the assistance of two further foodbanks in north Belfast and they have come to the fore in helping us, even though they are under extreme pressure regarding the numbers of people they already tend to.

We are working in partnership with Newington housing association who have been awarded the scheme which will witness the removal of the old housing stock in the upper long streets, to be replaced with 123 quality new homes. This will add to their already substantial presence in the local area where they are viewed as an organisation who have the best interests of the community at heart. They regularly assist many community groups in the area, including our own. They have assisted us with resources regarding our running costs.

We continue to seek advice and practical help from the supporting communities' organisation. Their representative (Lisa) is instrumental in helping us in many practical ways. These include arranging meetings, providing agendas and minutes and assisting us in preparing applications for funding. We regard the group as a positive partner in providing resources where they are most needed. Lisa is also to the fore in preparing our charity commission returns. They also assist us with wages being paid and payments to h m r c being paid on a regular basis.

Finances. Our financial situation is stable. The worker's salary is funded by the HE and is applied for on an annual basis. In the past two years two organisations have assisted us with running costs. They are Newington housing Association and the John Moore foundation. Recently we have been successful with our application to the h e r e grant for a much needed photo copier and a phone for the housing worker. Our accounts are prepared each year by the senior finance person in the star neighbourhood centre and we are grateful for their due diligence and professionalism.

Finally, I must mention our committee who are hardworking and keen to deliver a service to the community which will enhance the lives of all who live here. They are very practical in offering help to the housing worker who has commented their daily contact with him goes some way to ease the overall work load of the issues which is reported to our office on a regular basis. We intend not only to deliver our existing services, indeed we need to expand them in the coming months and years.

### **Financial Review**

We are pleased to report that we find the Housing Forum in a healthy condition financially and although we are not by any means here to make money, we do need a modest bank account to insure the future of the forum. Our current position guarantees our healthy existence for the foreseeable future. We started the year with a bank balance of £8,957 Secured £32,244 funding from the Housing Executive, £5,000 funding from Newington Housing Association and donations to the value of £2,350 from Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI), Sisters of Mercy & City Hibernian. We had a spend of £30,179 and ended the year with a bank balance of £18,371

Approved by the Trustees on 14.2.23 and signed on their behalf by

  
(Chairperson Signature)

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**  
**YEAR ENDED: 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

**NIC: 100189**

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**Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of New lodge Housing Forum**

Star Neighbourhood Centre report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 4

**Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is Star Neighbourhood Centres responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

Star Neighbourhood centre have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and an examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

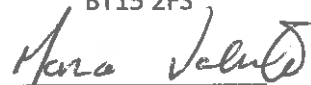
My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

**Independent Examiners Statement**

Star Neighbourhood Centre have completed an examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above in connection with following the Directions of the Charity commission NI have no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: Maria Valente  
Company: Star Neighbourhood Centre  
Address: 79-83 Hillman Street  
Belfast  
BT15 2FS

Signed: 

Date: 14/2/23

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

NIC:100189

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Rent				
Housing Executive	32,244.00		32,244.00	24,333.34
Grant/Donation		7,350.00	7,350.00	3,800.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32,244.00</b>	<b>7,350.00</b>	<b>39,594.00</b>	<b>28133.34</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Salaries/HMRC	25,294.80		25,294.80	24000.00
Fees		60.00	60.00	60.00
Gas/Electric/Tele/water		1,409.71	1,409.71	803.76
Bank Fees		305.97	305.97	105.09
Petty Cash		486.22	486.22	0.00
Insurance		260.31	260.31	302.74
Resources/Materials		2,362.97	2,362.97	90.12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,294.80</b>	<b>4,885.18</b>	<b>30,179.98</b>	<b>25,961.71</b>
<b>Net Receipts/Payments</b>	<b>6,949.20</b>	<b>2,464.82</b>	<b>9,414.02</b>	<b>2,171.63</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit for the year</b>	<b>6,949.20</b>	<b>2,464.82</b>	<b>9,414.02</b>	<b>2,171.63</b>
<b>Reconciliation at 31st December 2021</b>				
Surplus/deficit this year end	6,949.20	2,464.82	9,414.02	2,171.63
bank Balance at 31st December 2021	4,158.44	4,798.96	8,957.40	6,785.77
<b>Bank Balance at 31st December 2022</b>	<b>11,107.64</b>	<b>7,263.78</b>	<b>18,371.42</b>	<b>8,957.40</b>

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES - YEAR ENDED: 31 DECEMBER 2022**

NIC: 100189

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2021	Total 2020
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>				
opening bank balance	4,158.44	4,798.96	8,957.40	6,785.77

Surplus/Deficit this year end                      6,949.20                      2,464.82                      9,414.02                      2,171.63

Closing Bank Balance	11,107.64	7,263.78	18,371.42	8,957.40
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**Other assets**  
Computer/Laptop  
Printer  
photocopier

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on

14 Feb. 2023.  
(Date)

and signed on their behalf by:

Kate Clark  
(Treasurer's Signature)

[Signature]  
(Chairperson's signature)

**NIC: 100189**

**1 Basis of Preparation**

These accounts are produced on a Receipts and Payments basis.

**2 Trustee remuneration and Expenses**

Trustees received no remuneration for their services, and no Trustees were employed by the charity

**NIC: 100189**

**1 Basis of Preparation**

These accounts are produced on a Receipts and Payments basis

**2 Trustee remuneration and Expenses**

Trustees received no remuneration for their services, and no Trustees were employed by the charity

**3**

	opening balance	receipts	payments	Closing Balance
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	4,798.96	7,350.00	4,885.18	7,263.78
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	4,158.44	32,244.00	25,294.80	11,107.64
housing Executive				
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	4,158.44	32,244.00	25,294.80	11,107.64
<b>Total Funds</b>	8,957.40	39,594.00	30,179.98	18,371.42

**4 Fund Purposes**

Housing Executive support salaries of the Newlodge Worker