

Ardoyne Association

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100243

Details

Status	Received
Registered	2014-07-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	10 Deerpark Mews Belfast Bt14 7rb BT14 7RB
Phone	02890 715165
Email	elaine@ardoynassociation.org

Activities

Purposes: The Association is established to relieve poverty, sickness and the aged and to promote the benefit of the Inhabitants of the Ardoyne Area and district area of Belfast and its environs(hereinafter described as "the area of benefit") without distinction of age, gender, race, political, religious or other opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education, and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

What the charity does: The prevention or relief of poverty, The advancement of education, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage, Other charitable purposes

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information, Community development, Relief of poverty

Who the charity helps: Carers, General public, Older people, Unemployed/low income

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£347,998	£283,778	£-266,226	9

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ailisa Frame		
Dr Ciara Fitzpatrick		
Joseph Blair		
Mr Paul Shevlin		
Mrs Marian Kane		
Mrs Marie O'neill		
Mrs Una Mc Roberts		
Ms Gemma Mulholland		
Ms Marie Coleman		
Ms Orla Mccallin		
Ms Tammy-Lee Burns		

Ardoyne Association

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100243

Accounts

Company Number: NI 642518
Charity Number: NIC100243
HMRC Charity Number: NI01076

Ardoyne Association

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31/03/25

A company limited by guarantee without share capital

Ardoyne Association

Information

Chair	Marion Kane
Secretary	Anne Marie (Una) McRoberts
Treasurer	Marie Colman
Address	111 Etna Drive Belfast BT14 7NN
Accountants	Insight Business Services 53 Bernice Road Newtownabbey BT36 4QZ
Bankers	Ulster Bank Crumlin Road 171/175 Crumlin Road Belfast BT13 1FE

Ardoyne Association

	Page
Trustees' Report	4
Accountant's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Trustees Statement	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9-11

Ardoyne Association

Directors' Report

For the Period Ended 31/03/25

The Directors present their report and financial statements for the period ended 31/03/25

Principal activity

The principal activity of the charity is to provide advice, welfare and charitable services, to promote community development in the Ardoyne area (the area of benefit) and to improve residents' quality of life

From April 2017, the activities of Ardoyne Association were taken on by Ardoyne Association, a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.

Directors

The Directors who served during the period are as stated below:

Chair	Marian Kane
Secretary	Anne Marie (Una) McRoberts
Treasurer	Marie Colman
Directors	Joe Blair
	Dr Ciara Fitzpatrick
	Orla McCallin
	Tammy-Lee Burns
	Marie O'Neill
	Gemma Mulholland
	Paul Shevlin

Annual Report

A full copy of the annual report of activities and achievements in the year is set out in the appendices.

Structure, Governance and Management

The organisation is a charity and is governed under its constitution.

The Directors are also the charity trustees for the purposes of charity law.

All Directors give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

Our financial performance has been positive. Total income has increased due to the community response to the Covid pandemic and expenditure has also risen but finances have been managed to ensure that we have a surplus to cover ongoing needs. Capital expenditure was completed on the new offices.

This report was approved by the Committee on 26 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Signed



Name

Marion Kane

Ardoyne Association

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of
charitable company**

Ardoyne Association

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended
on pages 6 – 11.

31/03/25 , which are set out

Respective responsibilities of Directors and examiner

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Derek Browne ACMA
Insight Business Services

53 Bernice Road
Newtownabbey, BT36 4QZ

Ardoyne Association

Statement of Financial Activities for the period ended 31/03/25

		2025			2024
	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total £	£
Incoming Resources					
Grant	2	289,794.22	49,352.00	339,146.22	345,858
Other Income (inc donations)		<u>0.00</u>	<u>8,851.58</u>	<u>8,851.58</u>	<u>30,203</u>
Total Income		289,794.22	58,203.58	347,997.80	376,061
Expenditure					
Charitable Activities		281,577.83	0.00	281,577.83	275,317
Administrative Expenses		<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,200.00</u>	2,200.00	4,320
Total Expenditure		<u>281,577.83</u>	<u>2,200.00</u>	283,777.83	279,637
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources		<u>8,216.39</u>	<u>56,003.58</u>	64,219.97	96,424
Net Movement of Funds in the Period		8,216.39	56,003.58	64,219.97	96,424

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the profit or loss for the above finan
All activities relate to continuing operations

Ardoyne Association

Balance Sheet As at 31/03/25

		2025		2024
Notes	£	£	£	
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets		264,026.00		264,026
Current Assets				
Debtors	5	13,244.07		19,717
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>292,780.07</u>		<u>229,993</u>
		306,024.14		249,710
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year				
	6	2,200.00		1,800
Net Current Assets			<u>303,824.14</u>	<u>247,910</u>
Total Assets less current liabilities			567,850.14	511,936
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year				
Deferred grant income		0.00		0
Grants capitalised		264,026.00		<u>264,026</u>
Net Assets			303,824.14	247,910
Capital and Reserves				
Reserve Fund		147,909.20		152,978
Restricted Reserves		48,216.39		70,542
General Funds		107,697.55		24,390
Total Funds		303,823.14		247,910

The directors' statements are shown on page 12 which forms part of **this Balance Sheet**

Ardoyne Association

Balance sheet (continued)

Directors' statements for the year ended 31/03/25

In approving these financial statements as directors of the charity we hereby confirm:

For the year ending 31/03/25 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Article 257A(3) of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 ; and

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Article 257B(2)

Director's responsibilities;

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question,
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 26 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Signature

Name Marion Kane

M. Kane

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31/03/25

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) (effective January 2015), and the requirements of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) (effective January 2015) (Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102)).

1.2 Incoming resources

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated assets are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable.

1.3 Resources Expended

Resources expended are recognised in the year in which they are incurred.

Management and administration costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.4 Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets other than freehold land are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

Ardoyne Association

**Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31/03/25**

2. Grant Income		
	2025	2024
	£	£
Government and other Grants	339,147	345,858
3. Operating gain/(deficit)		
	2025	2024
Operating gain is stated after charging:	£	£
Depreciation and other amounts written off	0	0
Accountant's remuneration	2,200	1,800
4. Employees		
	2025	2024
Number of employees		
The average monthly number of employees (excluding the Directors) during the year were:	9	10
5. Debtors		
	2025	2024
Trade Debtors	13,244	19,717
Other Debtors	0	0
6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	0	0
Other Creditors	2,200	1,800
Other taxes and social security costs	0	0
Accruals and deferred income	0	0
	2,200	1,800

Ardoyne Association

The following does not form part of the statutory accounts.

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31/03/25

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income		
Belfast City Council	69,227	67,220
NIHE	25,519	50,003
DFC/ Neighbourhood Renewal	24,817	17,921
NBAP	2,360	3,652
Flax Trust	20,000	18,650
Newington Housing	4,060	5,000
DFC Jobstart	0	10,511
Halifax	19,999	0
Lottery	98,648	100,000
Awards for All	18,950	0
CFNI	10,000	0
Urban Villages	0	40,671
PHA	5,000	0
Garfield Weston	30,000	30,000
Other Income	19,419	32,434
Total Income	347,999	376,062
Expenditure		
Repairs	810	2,378
Insurance	1,869	1,823
Salaries	227,939	194,732
Staff Expenses	507	0
Telephone	3,434	2,300
Printing, stationery & postage	4,376	6,167
IT	4,241	4,862
Heat & Light	4,331	5,064
Volunteer Expenses	5,276	5,987
Accounts	3,889	2,520
Bank Charges	165	213
Programmes	24,321	50,462
Equipment	0	720
Consultancy	2,430	2,218
Sundry Items	191	191
Depreciation	0	0
Total Expenditure	283,779	279,637
Surplus/Deficit	64,220	96,425

Ardoyne Association

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100243

Accounts

Company Number: NI 642518
Charity Number: NIC100243
HMRC Charity Number: NI01076

Ardoyne Association

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31/03/24

A company limited by guarantee without share capital

Ardoyne Association

Information

Chair	Marion Kane
Secretary	Anne Marie (Una) McRoberts
Treasurer	Marie Colman
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Ardoyne Association

	Page
Trustees' Report	4
Accountant's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Trustees Statement	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9-11

Ardoyne Association

Directors' Report

For the Period Ended 31/03/24

The Directors present their report and financial statements for the period ended 31/03/24

Principal activity

The principal activity of the charity is to provide advice, welfare and charitable services, to promote community development in the Ardoyne area (the area of benefit) and to improve residents' quality of life

From April 2017, the activities of Ardoyne Association were taken on by Ardoyne Association, a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.

Directors

The Directors who served during the period are as stated below:

Chair	Marian Kane
Secretary	Anne Marie (Una) McRoberts
Treasurer	Marie Colman
Directors	Joe Blair Nuala Kane Dr Ciara Fitzpatrick Orla McCallin Tammy-Lee Burns Marie O'Neill Gemma Mulholland

Annual Report

A full copy of the annual report of activities and achievements in the year is set out in the appendices.

Structure, Governance and Management

The organisation is a charity and is governed under its constitution. The Directors are also the charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. All Directors give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

Our financial performance has been positive. Total income has increased due to the community response to the Covid pandemic and expenditure has also risen but finances have been managed to ensure that we have a surplus to cover ongoing needs. Capital expenditure was completed on the new offices.

This report was approved by the Committee on 26 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Signed *Marion Kane*

Name Marion Kane

Ardoyne Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of charitable company

Ardoyne Association

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended
on pages 6 – 11.

31/03/24 , which are set out

Respective responsibilities of Directors and examiner

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Derek Browne ACMA
Insight Business Services

53 Bernice Road
Newtownabbey, BT36 4QZ

Ardoyne Association

Statement of Financial Activities for the period ended 31/03/24

		2024			2023
	Notes	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total £	£
Incoming Resources					
Grant	2	345,858.48	0.00	345,858.48	322,351
Other Income (inc donations)		<u>0.00</u>	<u>30,203.18</u>	<u>30,203.18</u>	<u>19,392</u>
Total Income		345,858.48	30,203.18	376,061.66	341,743
Expenditure					
Charitable Activities		275,316.84	0.00	275,316.84	300,225
Administrative Expenses		<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,320.00</u>	<u>4,320.00</u>	<u>5,261</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>275,316.84</u>	<u>4,320.00</u>	<u>279,636.84</u>	<u>305,486</u>
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources		<u>70,541.64</u>	<u>25,883.18</u>	<u>96,424.82</u>	<u>36,257</u>
Net Movement of Funds in the Period		70,541.64	25,883.18	96,424.82	36,257

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the profit or loss for the above financial period.
All activities relate to continuing operations

Ardoyne Association

Balance Sheet As at 31/03/24

	Notes	2024		2023
		£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets			264,026.00	264,026
Current Assets				
Debtors	5	19,716.81		5,000
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>229,993.36</u>		<u>139,978</u>
		249,710.17		144,978
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year				
	6	1,800.00		1,800
Net Current Assets			<u>247,910.17</u>	<u>143,178</u>
Total Assets less current liabilities			511,936.17	407,204
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year				
Deferred grant income			0.00	0
Grants capitalised			264,026.00	<u>254,225</u>
Net Assets			<u>247,910.17</u>	<u>152,979</u>
Capital and Reserves				
Reserve Fund			152,978.20	116,722
Restricted Reserves			70,541.64	0
General Funds			<u>24,390.33</u>	<u>36,257</u>
Total Funds			<u>247,910.17</u>	<u>152,979</u>

The directors' statements are shown on page 12 which forms part of **this Balance Sheet**

Ardoyne Association

Balance sheet (continued)

Directors' statements for the year ended 31/03/24

In approving these financial statements as directors of the charity we hereby confirm:

For the year ending 31/03/24 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Article 257A(3) of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 ; and

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Article 257B(2)

Director's responsibilities;

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question,
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 26 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Signature *Marion Kane*

Name Marion Kane

Ardoyne Association

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31/03/24

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) (effective January 2015), and the requirements of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) (effective January 2015) (Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102)).

1.2 Incoming resources

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated assets are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable.

1.3 Resources Expended

Resources expended are recognised in the year in which they are incurred.

Management and administration costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.4 Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets other than freehold land are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Property improvements	10% straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

Ardoyne Association

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31/03/24

2. Grant Income	2024	2023
	£	£
Government and other Grants	345,858	294,351
3. Operating gain/(deficit)	2024	2023
Operating gain is stated after charging:	£	£
Depreciation and other amounts written off	0	0
Accountant's remuneration	1,800	1,800
4. Employees	2024	2023
Number of employees		
The average monthly number of employees (excluding the Directors) during the year were:	10	6
5. Debtors	2024	2023
Trade Debtors	19,717	5,000
Other Debtors	0	0
6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	0	0
Other Creditors	1,800	1,800
Other taxes and social security costs	0	0
Accruals and deferred income	0	0
	1,800	1,800

Ardoyne Association

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100243

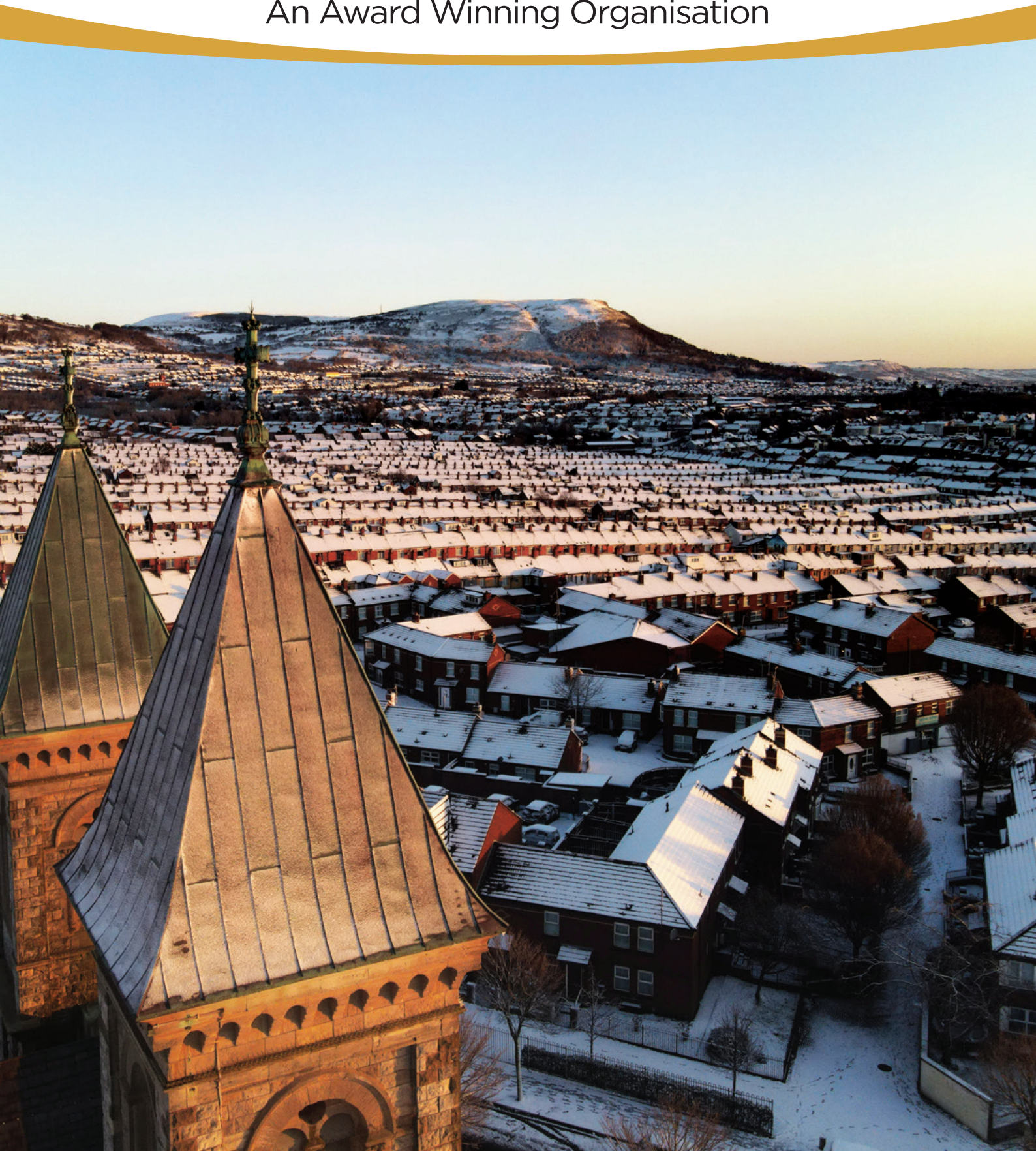
Annual report



KAVANAGH HOUSE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

An Award Winning Organisation





Chairpersons Address

**Our aim is to
facilitate the
economic and
social up-liftment
of the people
of Ardoyne.**

Ardoyne Association

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the Ardoyne Association's AGM 2024. I am delighted to see so many of you here today, and a special welcome to our invited guests and our valued funders.

This year holds particular significance as our Association approaches its 50th year of service to the community. Over the past year, we have been busier than ever, as you will see in the following reports.

Our commitment to working closely with the Statutory Agencies that serve this area remains steadfast, and we continue to be actively involved in all development efforts within Ardoyne and the surrounding areas.

I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude to my fellow Board members, our dedicated Street Reps, our hardworking staff, and our incredible volunteers. Your dedication and efforts over the past year have been nothing short of extraordinary.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the work we will accomplish together on our next 10-year strategic plan.

Marian Kane
Chairperson

House Manager Report



Elaine Burns
House Manager

Key Services and Achievements

The Ardoyne Association remains a vital service for the community in North Belfast. This annual report reflects on the past 12 months of work and programmes delivered, highlighting our commitment to transforming Lives, Maximising Household income and supporting individuals in Crisis or their employment pursuits.

Advice Services

Independent, Professional Advice: We offer high-quality, independent advice to ensure our users receive the correct benefits, enhancing their financial stability.

Universal Credit and Online Benefit Café: Our service helps individuals claim and maintain Universal Credit, providing constant support for vulnerable persons.

Income Maximisation: Our income generated primarily comes from effectively delivering advice services and helping our clients access benefit income. Through our advice service, we have substantially boosted household incomes for many families across our community. We managed a caseload of 2,430 and have brought £6.5 million into the pockets of our clients and the community.

Department for Communities: We are actively involved in the Voluntary and Community Sector Support Programme, contributing to the development of a new independent advice and debt policy framework.

Training & Employment Programmes

Skills Development: We provide formal and informal training to address isolation and loneliness to skill and reskill individuals, aiding their employment prospects.

Educational Support: Our programmes enhance educational journeys, supporting individuals and their families to lift them out of poverty.

Community Programmes

Housing and Environmental Initiatives: We focus on housing needs, community safety, and environmental issues, addressing isolation and loneliness in the community.

Health and Wellbeing: We promote positive physical and mental health through our diverse range of programmes.



Additional Support Programmes

Social Supermarket: Launched in 2024, it supports families in crisis, particularly those transitioning from legacy benefits to Universal Credit.

Community Larder: Operating throughout the week, it redistributes food that would otherwise end up in landfill, meeting our environmental objectives and reducing CO2 emissions.

Cost of Living Support

Charity Shop and Uniform Freecycle Shop: Our volunteers have worked tirelessly to manage these initiatives, providing essential support to families facing financial stress.

Holy Communion Project: Launched this year, this project has enabled boys and girls to enjoy their special day despite financial constraints.

Partnership and Collaborations

University of Ulster: We collaborate with a wide range of partners, including those in the advice sector, community sector, local government, universities, and more.

NIHE: Our long-standing partnership with NIHE focuses on addressing housing needs and environmental works.

Conclusion

The demand for our services continues to grow, a testament to the dedication and compassion of our incredible staff. We urge the Department to invest more in the sector, ensuring job security and retaining experienced staff within the Advice Sector.

Acknowledgements

We express our gratitude to our funders, Board members, staff team, volunteers, and Street representatives who make the effective delivery of our services possible.



Ardoyne Association Advice Statistics



Cases Opened Last 12 Months

- Not Specified 7
- Community Care 4
- Debt 9
- Education 3
- Employment 3
- Family 1
- General 12
- Housing 62



- Legal 3
- Mental Health 3
- Miscellaneous 311
- Signposting 3
- Universal Credit 569
- Victims Payment Scheme 1
- Warm Well Connected 2
- Welfare Rights 1583

Report Total **2576**

Universal Credit and Online Benefit Clinic **supported 471 individuals**

Additional Support Programmes



Uniform Freecycle
425 children supported



Christmas with Dignity
300 children with Toys



Community Larder
Adults 2070 and Children 2184



Social Supermarket
135 Households 291 individuals supported

Ardoyne Association Income Generation

1086
CLIENTS

2430
CASES

2447
COMPLETED

803
WR CLAIMS

WR Summary Sum Financial Cain

£6,466,947.46



Holiday Hunger Programme
Easter Break supported 25 families with Gas, Electric and 55 children received Easter Eggs



Holy Communion Project
10 children with outfits and accessories

Our Charity Shop raised - £2025
this money went towards the **Community Larder**

North Belfast Advice Partnership

As members of NBAP, we collectively work to deliver an effective Advice Service across North Belfast.

Benefit Maximization

£21,132,908

8,688  **Benefit Claims**

 **194** **Housing Claims**

35  **Benefit Appeals**

Can I talk to anyone about my claim?

Yes... Let's make a plan together


Claim Type	Number of Claims
Benefits	8,688
Housing	194
Consumer	5
Health	0
Employment	16
Money	32
Appeals	35
Tribunals	0
Other Enquiries	340
Housing Benefit	0
Benefit Claims	£21,132,908
Total Enquiries	9,296
Total Clients	4,145
Direct Referrals To Other Support	0
Average Volunteers	0
Benefit Maximization	£21,132,908

North Belfast Advice Debt and Money Management

Total debt was

£227,874

26  **Clients**

35  **Cases Files**

Total Debt levels Personal Debt - April 23 to March 24

Debts Debt Type	Debts Sum Outstanding Balance	Debts Count Number Debts	Debts Average Outstanding Balance
Bank Loan	£3,553.00	2	£1,776.50
Budgeting Loan	£600.00	1	£600.00
Buy now pay later	£6,043.00	5	£1,208.60
Cable/Satellite TV	£369.00	2	£184.50
Catalogue	£5,908.19	4	£1,477.05
Court Fines Capital	£923.90	4	£230.98
Credit Card	£17,836.16	15	£1,189.08
Credit Union	£7,584.76	1	£7,584.76
Discretionary Support	£426.58	2	£213.29
Door step lender	£1,159.30	2	£579.65
Electricity	£10,127.53	1	£10,127.53
Family & Friends	£4,000.00	1	£4,000.00
Hire purchase or conditional sale	£6,823.00	1	£6,823.00
Housing Benefit Overpayment	£1,917.14	1	£1,917.14
Insurance	£447.11	1	£447.11
Mobile Phone	£2,338.00	5	£467.60
Overdraft	£4,199.00	4	£1,049.75
Parking Penalty Charges	£80.00	1	£80.00
Payday Loans	£412.00	2	£206.00
Personal Loan	£88,542.98	11	£8,049.36
Rent Arrears	£55,515.52	12	£4,626.29
Social Fund	£630.00	1	£630.00
Store Card	£100.00	1	£100.00
Tax Credit Overpayment	£7,000.00	1	£7,000.00
UC Advance	£1,338.55	3	£446.18
Report Total	£227,874.72	84	£2,712.79

Feedback From Our Partner Organisations

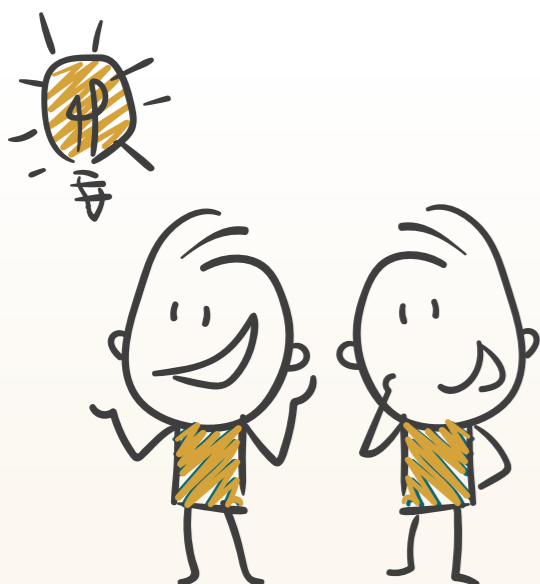


Susie Morrow, Lead for Social Work Assessed Year in Employment, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

I coordinate a programme of support for newly qualified social work staff in the Belfast Trust. As part of this we consider the impact of wider societal issues on the people we work with.

For the past few years we have asked Elaine to come along and talk about how the Ardoyne Association responds to the impact of poverty through the services it provides, and how social workers in statutory teams can work in partnership with the Ardoyne Association and similar services, in the best interests of service users.

This is always a very popular session where Elaine brings to life the reality of living with poverty and outlines some of the innovative ways the Association responds to the challenges people face. Newly qualified staff always report that this is one of the most helpful and inspiring sessions in our programme, and we are grateful to Elaine and the Association for continuing to provide this input for us.



Dr Fiona Bloomer, Course Director, Health and Social Care Policy, Ulster University

The Health and Social Care Policy degree at Ulster University provides in-depth learning on a range of issues impacting health, social care and welfare sectors in our society.

A core commitment to this is ensuring students gain real-world experience to see how theory and policy are implemented in organisations throughout Northern Ireland. We are proud to have a long-established relationship with the Ardoyne Association which has provided excellent opportunities for our students to gain this valuable experience.

A six-week placement for second-year students enables them to apply learning from modules on social security, policy for children and families, adult social care and research methods and to complete a project for the organisation as part of this. Students work alongside Ardoyne Association staff who are supporting families accessing a range of social security benefits, providing advice on a wide range of issues such as housing, health, employment, debt and practical tasks such as managing the food larder. This experience is invaluable allowing students to understand the issues impacting families and communities and significantly enhances their knowledge of policy implementation, being able to critique government policy and understand the valuable role played by Ardoyne Association in supporting the community. The course team are very grateful for the commitment of the organisation to providing placements and hope this relationship will continue to develop.



Dr Esther McGuinness, Dr Esther McGuinness is Head of School of Law at Ulster University. She is a founding member and Co Director of the Ulster Law Clinic, where she supervises LLM students and practices/advises on all areas of employment law. A qualified mediator, with 20+ years' experience in the employment law field, she is also a founding member of the Social Justice Hub/Foyle Family Justice Centre, which specialises in providing advice and support to survivors of domestic violence and their families.

The School of Law at Ulster University in tandem with the Ulster University Law Clinic has enjoyed a working relationship with the North Belfast Advice Partnership for several years.

Clinical legal education (CLE) is the defining term for a form of education which exposes university students to the practical application of law. The concept of CLE, which first emerged in the United States in the 1960s, was that law students would work on legal simulations in order to apply their legal knowledge to problems across a diverse range of areas from family law to social security. Since then, CLE pedagogy has pushed the boundaries of skills based legal education, and the accompanying narratives around employability and civic engagement, by facilitating the creation of law clinics which are at the forefront of pro bono work and access to justice campaigns.

The overall aim of our engagement with NBAP is to collaborate with the advice team to help provide University students with opportunities to engage in real life learning experiences under the supervision of trained community advisors and legal practitioners, the latter of which are based in the University Law Clinic.

The NBAP provides a unique experience for our students to work closely with supervisors in order to learn how to manage clients in a sensitive and professional way, regardless of circumstance. Critically, the learning opportunities which NBAP provides offers

students an insight into the valuable and relentless work which community organisations face on a daily basis and challenges them to think about future employment opportunities this field of work offers in terms of roles in advice, policy and political lobbying.

In a sense, allowing the Law School to work with NBAP and the wider advice sector, created a degree of succession planning for future roles within the sector, which is critical, particularly when the demands for NBAP's services are higher than ever.

Student engagement with NBAP is premised on students completing an assessed formative reflective learning journal and a research/policy document, in collaboration with the leadership team at NBAP. This provides a 'capstone' learning experience for students and encourages them to consider the valuable contribution which organisations such as NBAP, bring to their local communities.

It also ensures that key policy areas can be highlighted and used by the NBAP team as necessary to inform future objectives. This symbiotic relationship is nurtured by Elaine Burns and the team at NBAP to ensure that students complete their 12 week placement more knowledgeable about socio-legal policy issues impacting communities, more experienced in the field of advice and more empathetic when managing client cases. In facilitating this opportunity, Elaine and her team underpin what real life learning encapsulates.

Feedback From Our Partner Organisations



Una Mc Roberts
Project Manager

Ardoyne Shankill Healthy Living Centre has invited Ardoyne Association on several occasions to provide updated information and advice on benefits. The sessions provide the service users with quality information and support on a wide range of welfare rights benefits and many issues including living on a budget, disability and carers, housing, employment, environment and many other worrying issues that people may be concerned about. The association also give advice on certified training courses that they provide for all age groups.

The group sessions are delivered in a relaxed and enjoyable setting where people feel safe while learning something new and gaining the confidence, knowledge and the skills to take charge of their own matters.

We at ASHP would like to thank the staff of Ardoyne Association for their commitment and dedication to the project in providing this service which we hope to expand further and hopefully continue the much needed partnership into the future.



Steph O'Rourke
Deputy Director

The service provided by Ardoyne Association has had a major positive impact on the lives of the young people we work with in Springboard.

Providing an in-house worker has removed so many barriers for young people who are experiencing disadvantage allowing them to access the right benefit supports, gain advice and overcome challenges they were facing.

We are so grateful to the team at Ardoyne Association who provide a highly supportive, professional and needs-led service.'



Paul McCusker
Project Manager

Peoples Kitchen Belfast is a service that provides support to those experiencing homelessness and poverty, we are continuing to see a rise in the amount of individuals and families who present to our services and often in crisis. Our role is to help them through the crisis and assisting them out of the situation they find themselves in. Our partnership with the Ardoyne Association is crucial as it allows the individual the opportunity to seek advice on their benefits and housing related issues and help them recover from the crisis that they are experiencing, partnerships are vitally important in responding to the needs of those in the community who experience homelessness and poverty.

Sustaining Tenancies Programme

This program has now concluded, during its 2 year operation, it successfully helped tenants sustain their tenancies by maximising household income, promoting healthier lifestyles, and addressing mental health and social isolation.

We are proud of the positive impact it had on our community and will continue to build on its successes in future initiatives.

The Advice Worker managed a caseload of	538
Total Number of Beneficiaries supported	730
Income Generated £1.7M	

Programmes	
Money Management Programme 100 individuals completed.	Reel Cardio 30 individuals.
Eat for the Seasons 100 families.	Boxercise 30 individuals.
Walk and Talk 80 Adults and 61 children.	Dance Club (Older Tenants) 30 individuals.

Social Return on Investment (SROI) is a way to measure the value of things that don't usually show up in financial reports, like the positive impact on people, the community, and the environment. It's a method used to put a number on the social benefits that an organization or project brings. SROI helps organizations, whether they're public, private, or voluntary, to show and enhance the good they do for society, the environment, and the economy, making it easier to share these benefits with others.

Sustainable Development Goals	
3. Sustainable Development Goals	£29,070.00
4. Quality Education	£12,802.20
8. Decent Work & Economic Growth	£6,902.70
12. Responsible Consumption and Production	£24,384.75
Total	£73,159.65



£3.93 per £1

Every £1.00 spent on this program had a return of £3.93

Net Present Value:
£52,685.65

Some Feedback and Comments on the Sustaining Tenancies Programme

"Very good and informative, a lot to take in."

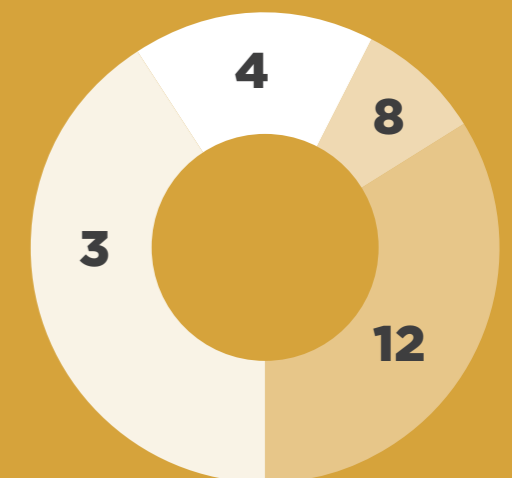
"Learnt quite a few money saving tips."

"The Advice and Benefit Support given really changed my life and my families."

"Really enjoyable and met new people."

"Receiving the Food Vouchers was a wonderful support to me and my family."

"Love the Fitbit, getting my 10000 steps in daily."



Urban Villages Connected Futures

At the end of another successful training year, we reflect on the progress made, as well as preparing for our future direction without Urban Villages as we have now reached the end of the 3-year contract. I would like to reflect on how we developed our role in the Urban Village Connected Futures.

A key element of the success of the Urban Villages Connected Futures Programme has been the respectful, collaborative and sustainable partnerships that have been developed with community-based organisations, who are working on the front line of communities, empowering and encouraging them to willingly work together, to fulfil the communities needs and goals. Grassroots engagement is crucial (and will always be) and involves a great deal of time and talking.

Many participants on our training cite lack of qualifications and skills, poverty and educational disadvantage as factors contribute to contested space within communities. Through the Connected Futures programme we have been tackling these disadvantages and providing safe, secure places for people to train in and provide the building blocks to employability.

We offered people hope that their lives can get better, even if they'd given up on formal education. Encouraging, supporting, and empowering people to choose a pathway to recovery, and finally people get a new goal or vision for themselves and their families. The pathways cover the whole person, their mental health as well as their economic and social

welfare. We begin with their lived experience; we add theory to that experience and prepare them for working outside the home. So, a benefit check can be as important as a skills development, and finding a safe place to live can be as valuable as finding a job. As more people got local jobs from the training and a confidence and hope manifested itself.

In our final year with Urban Villages, we celebrated the following: 21 people completed a three-hour introduction training in ADHD with Belfast Met. 17 completed the 5 week OCN level 2 ADHD Participants came from diverse areas across North Belfast, majority (56%) this time came from the PUL communities of Ballygomartin, Ballysillan, and Shankill.

Participants reaction who attended the training "very well delivered, informative session, learnt a lot", "Amazing class, very good company, can't wait for the next class" "Tutor friendly and helpful" "really enjoyed the training, very interesting" "I've learnt a lot, which I can adopt to real life" 76% said they met someone new at the training. 94% felt that the facilities were a safe place to learn in. 88% would recommend the training to a friend. 100% benefited from taking part.



To celebrate the training success, a Graduation ceremony was held at the Lansdowne Hotel, on the Antrim Road, which was attended by Funders, Tutors, Political Representatives, Trainees as well as the Ardoyne Associations Board members and Staff.



One of our trainees Lynsey wrote...

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone at the Ardoyne Association, especially the Training and Community Contact Team. You truly are an outstanding group. Since that rainy morning in January when I first arrived, I've felt so welcomed and supported.

Though I didn't have to walk far thanks to the Training Officer coming to personally collect me, I'm so glad I decided to step through your doors. I first heard about the "Intro to ADHD" course and the five-week NVQ Level 2 in ADHD from a relative who shared the information with me. Even though I had never been inside your welcoming yellow building before, I jumped at the chance to join.

I'm so glad I did because not only did I meet some truly wonderful people, but I also earned an NVQ Level 2 Qualification in ADHD. I wasn't sure if I still had the mental capacity for studying, especially after having kids and becoming a bit forgetful. However, the patience and encouragement I received from the staff made all the difference. I'm eternally grateful for the boost of confidence this experience gave me.

I also appreciate the help I received with emails, phone calls, texts, and printing documents. Your support made everything so much easier for me.

One of the most memorable classes I attended was a CPR course. The instructor had such a vibrant personality and shared so many interesting life stories that I couldn't help but feel more comfortable, even when I was nervous about some of the topics. Their reassurance and patience were truly appreciated.

Another course I attended was on Money Management, which was both informative and enjoyable. It was a short session, but I walked away with some practical tools, including a notepad, a piggy bank, and even a voucher, which was a lovely surprise!

I'm excited to see what the rest of 2024 and 2025 hold for me at the Ardoyne Association. You can be sure that this isn't the last you'll see of me!

From the bottom of my heart, thank you all so much!

Lynsey

74 74 people completed the Introduction to ADHD, Autism and STL (Classroom assistant training) with Belfast Met. 19 then completed the Level 2 Managing Challenging Behaviours training with Belfast Met. This training will qualify people to seek employment as classroom assistants.

15 15 people completed Level 2 Food & Hygiene training with Workforce, this is essential for working with the community Food Larder.

17 17 people completed their First Aid Certificate training, which is certified for the next 3 years. This was conducted in partnership with the Ballysillan Community Forum.

38 38 people attended craft workshops and our Office community garden. 13 people spent six weeks learning new skills in Irish and Guitar. We are also supporting another 2 participants completing Open University Access training.

13 13 participants have attended OCN Level 3 Certificate in Generalist Advice training which was delivered by the Law Centre. This training qualifies participants to seek employment as advice workers. The participants come from a wide area of North Belfast including NBAP Advice Centres. To date 8 have been employed within the sector.

32 32 completed the Driving Theory Test preparations, 28% have so far passed the driving theory test. 100% felt this was a safe place to train in. 86% benefited from taking part in the training. 40% said they met someone new.

17 This year we ran more than 17 training programmes with over 466 participants. Including Driving Theory test preparation, Family First Aid, Irish and Guitar classes, mental health and wellbeing classes.



Community Contact & Engagement

During this period, we've had two Community Contact & Engagement workers in post. Community engagement involves building positive relationships, implementing clear lines of communication, community safety, crime prevention, housing and environmental issues and to report on safer neighbourhood initiatives.



6 An Estate Inspection was carried out in February 2024, Street Reps together with a range of agencies we spent time walking around the area highlighting issues and areas of concern.

6 Housing and Environmental meetings, hosted and chaired by the Association addressing the outcomes of the Estate Inspection and other Housing or Environmental concerns that maybe raised.

6 6 meetings held to deal with ASB.

40 Street Reps reported ASB e.g. drug dealing in alleys.

20 20 supported through crime prevention initiatives.

80 80 Street Reps were invited to workshops to upskill and update them on their roles and responsibilities.

70 70 adults consulted on issues e.g. rise in rat infestation, dog fouling, drug abuse.

70 70 Street Reps - Explored race issues with people from different community backgrounds.

The positive outcome of this is there has been an increase in engagement from ethnic minorities coming to Ardoyne Association for a range of support and services.



78 78 Street Reps delivered leaflets and posters for dog fouling and recycling.

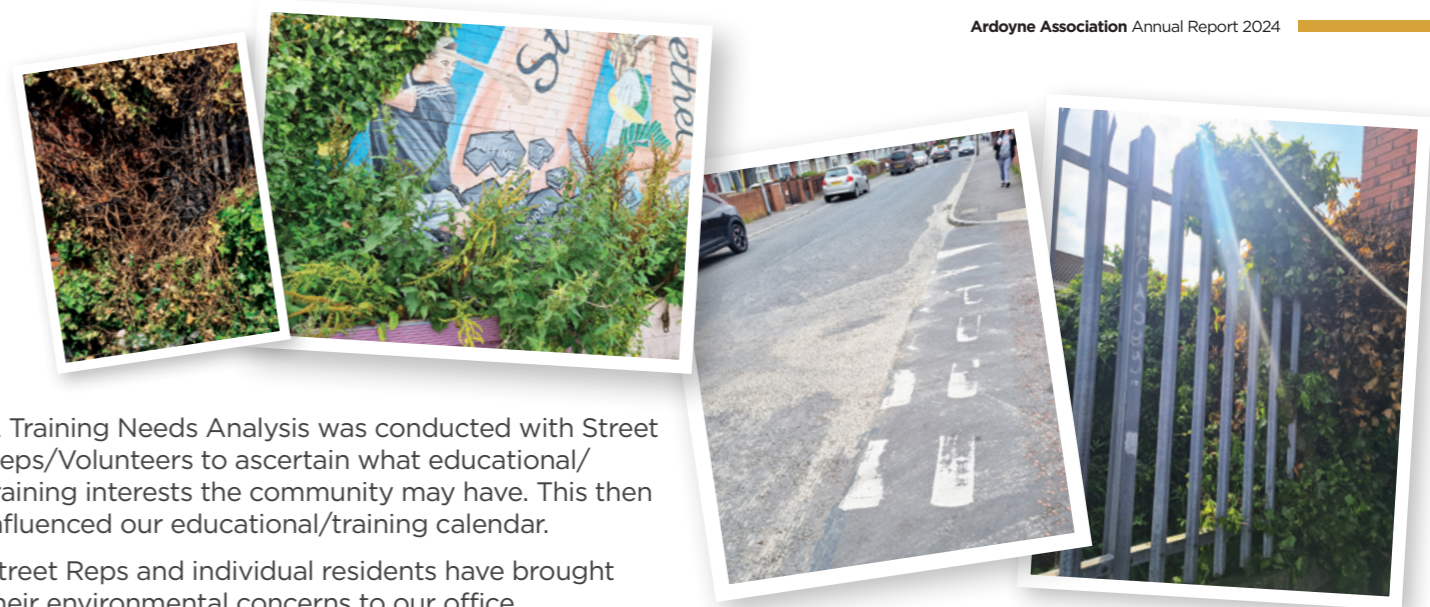
This has been successful as many residents are calling into the office requesting "poo bags".eted the Level 2 Managing Challenging Behaviours training with Belfast Met. This training will qualify people to seek employment as classroom assistants.

A new litter bin has also been installed at Etna Drive to support and encourage residents, including dog-walkers, to avail themselves of it. 70 people have collected "poo bags"

50 50 families took part in our community walk and talk.

The event was very successful, residents received information about local resources and services.'New to the area families' stated it was particularly useful to them to learn about the support available within the area.

100% found that the event improved their knowledge of the work and services within the area. 67% met new people from the community. 95% of the people found the time meaningful.



A Training Needs Analysis was conducted with Street Reps/Volunteers to ascertain what educational/training interests the community may have. This then influenced our educational/training calendar.

Street Reps and individual residents have brought their environmental concerns to our office.

1. Abandoned cars.
2. Abandoned properties.
3. Unkempt gardens with overgrown shrubbery/trees/rubbish - causing neighbour disputes.
4. Sewage overflow.
5. Broken/missing manholes.
6. Residents reporting witnessing drug use/evidence of drug paraphernalia in residential area.
7. Housing issues regarding mould/infestations/repair maintenance/loose or broken chimneys.
8. Residents reporting ASB among youth in Ardoyne Avenue/Galgani Crescent/Flax Street/Cliftonpark Avenue. Collaboration with BCC/youth groups/PSNI/Clanmil/NB Housing and Housing Executive.
9. Missing bollards encouraging vehicles to drive through pedestrian areas.
10. Home Energy Saving Schemes/Boiler replacements/Cavity wall insulation.
11. Traffic calming/signage.
12. Increase in traffic in built up areas after Peace Gate opened.
13. Residents' issues with new builds' lack of boundary gates/fences.
14. Large, gated Electricity Boxes with surrounding area overgrown and becoming a fly tipping point and ASB/burning pallets and rubbish.

Our Community Contact workers engaged in various training from Asylum/Refugee Training and Housing Rights Training boosting their ability to understand some of the issues faced by ethnic minority families.

Case Study

The initial referral was from the Housing Executive who had received concerns from neighbours about an increase in rats in and around their homes.

An elderly lady who lived alone was suffering from frequent ASB from youths throwing eggs and bottles at her property, which was singled out as the blame of the increase in vermin because she was struggling to maintain her property. After the first home visit, it became apparent that there were issues of hoarding and an inability to resolve this issue because of frailty.

The Community Contact worker spent time building rapport and trust with the resident who then agreed to avail of having a benefit check from Ardoyne Association and additional referrals made for further support. The Community Contact worker then developed communication pathways between a range of agencies to provide the overall support required for this lady.



STOCK PHOTOS

ABC Hub Phase 2



The Ardoyne Association's Collaborative Efforts in North Belfast Community Development. The Ardoyne Association is proud to continue its collaborative efforts with the ABC Trust on the second phase of the Health and Leisure Hub for the North Belfast community. It has been a pleasure to provide administrative and financial support for this significant project, ensuring its smooth progression and success.

New Housing Development at the Flax Centre Site

In addition to the Health and Leisure Hub, the Ardoyne Association is working alongside a Developer to plan 45 new housing units on the current Flax Centre site. This development aims to address the housing needs of the community by providing modern and affordable housing solutions.

Creation of a New Shopping Area at the Old St. Gemma's School Site

The Ardoyne Association has also been engaged in supporting the Developer in creating a new shopping area on the site of the old St. Gemma's School. This project is expected to enhance the local economy and provide residents with improved access to retail services.

Community Engagement and Representation

Actively engaging with all housing associations, the Ardoyne Association represents the community on various fora. These engagements focus on addressing the community's needs and ensuring effective service delivery by all agencies involved in servicing the North Belfast community.

Through these initiatives, the Ardoyne Association continues to demonstrate its commitment to the development and well-being of the North Belfast community.



Finance Report 2024

Ardoyne Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of charitable company

Ardoyne Association

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended on pages 6 – 11.

31/03/24, which are set out

Respective responsibilities of Directors and examiner

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Derek Browne ACMA
Insight Business Services

53 Bernice Road
Newtownabbey, BT36 4QZ

Minutes of AGM 2023

Thursday 28th September 2023

Venue: Ardoyne Community Centre



Opening Blessing

Fr Myles Ardoyne Associations Honorary President open the proceedings with a Blessing on the work of the 12 months and praying for Gods continued blessings on the Associations growth and commitment going forward.

Welcome Address

The Chair Marian Kane welcomed and thanked those present for attending. The Chair gave an overview of the work during 2022/2023. As always, we've had a very busy time since our last AGM. The theme of this year AGM is 'The Importance of Independent Advice - To meet local need', and the board and I are extremely proud of all the team at Ardoyne Association as they put local need, upfront and centre, and at the heart of our service.

We have witnessed significant changes over the last few years, with the introduction of Welfare Reform and Social Security Changes in 2016, the team have support people moving from DLA to PIP, the introduction of Universal Credit and changes to social fund. Ardoyne Association Advice team has played a key role in supporting local people through changes and in accessing new entitlements and support.

In March 2020, with the COVID19 Pandemic, the team, moved quickly to design and deliver a huge COVID Response and Recovery Project, ensuring local people were supported through lockdown, making sure no one was left behind in our community, keeping the doors open and continuing to provide advice and help.

And From COVID19, straight into a Cost-of-Living Crisis, the Association has once again, responded with a huge response, delivering Fuel and Energy Scheme, Christmas Support to families, School Uniform Shop, the Food Larder but more importantly providing people with advice on long term solutions, benefit checks, income maximisations and budgeting.

As we prepare for the next challenge, Moving to Universal Credit for people on Legacy Benefits starting next month for tax credit claimants, the team have already put in place a range of support services such as the UC Café in partnership with University of Ulster Law Students. Also providing local people with a range of Employment and training programmes and work with our local Jobs and Benefits Office, building relationships that will ensure seamless services to people and address their needs and concerns.

Behind the scenes the team at Ardoyne Association has gone from strength to strength, securing funding from the Big Lottery and NIHE Sustaining Tenancies, as well as continued support from our long-term funding partners DfC and Council, we have built a service to ensure we can serve this community and drive change to improve the quality of lives of people living here.

Secretary Report and Launch of Annual Report

Elaine gave those present time to read over the minutes of the 2022 AGM. It was agreed that the minutes were a true reflection of the previous AGM, and they were proposed by Sinead McKinley and seconded by Claire Kelly. Minutes were signed off by the Chairperson Marian Kane.

Elections

Two Board Members Sinead Mc Kinley and Carmel Holly were stepping down. The chairperson thanked them both for their service to the Association. The AGM was opened for nominations from the floor.

Gemma Mulholland nominated by Niamh Burns and seconded by Alisha Varndell

Tammy Lee Burns nominated by Claire Kelly and seconded by Doloras Murphy

Dr Ciara Fitzpatrick nominated by Sinead Mc Kinley and seconded by Emma McMeekin

Orla Mc Callin nominated by Sinead Mc Kinley and seconded by Ursula Short

Elaine congratulated the four new board members.

Finance Report

Derek Browne the Association's Accountant gave a comprehensive review of our accounts and supplied copies of the accounts for people to read. His examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. The Association's bank balance is healthy with positive net assets. Derek thanked Claire for keeping excellent financial records. Chairperson signed off on the accounts.

Patricia Mulligan

Independent advice agencies provide services in every community in every locality in Northern Ireland. Access to advice supports people to receive the benefits they are entitled to or resolve problems before they escalate. Timely debt advice, for example, enables people to alleviate their money problems and take charge of their financial future.

The independent advice sector plays a fundamental role in tackling poverty in NI: the service underpins all other work including community, health, education and economic / social wellbeing. Providing advice and information at the right time for people who need it, in a range of formats and through a range of channels, with benefit entitlement checks, income maximisation, debt advice, tribunal representation, housing and immigration advice (with access to interpretation services as required), allows people to then go on and fully engage and participate in society. But the experience of poverty is about more than this. Access to independent advice should be enshrined within the Anti-Poverty Strategy, it has been an essential service for communities and a lifeline for so many. Therefore, we believe that the strategic outcomes should include a further outcome to ensure independent advice is easily accessible to everyone. We propose the following Additional Outcome: The right to access independent, free, quality, confidential advice and information, that will provide people with access to a range of welfare support including social security benefits, debt, housing, immigration advice and tribunal representation. This provision should be made widely available across all council areas, with increased provision within areas of high deprivation, and including specialist help for specific social groups and for specific issues as required.

Nuala McKenna Voluntary & Community Division of DFC

Elaine introduced and welcomed Nuala McKenna of the Voluntary & Community Division of DFC and invited her to speak and give the AGM an update on Advice / Anti-poverty Strategy especially now in this 'Cost-of- Living' crisis.

Nuala introduced her role as lead for advice provision within the 'Financial inclusion Team' for DFC who provides funding through local councils for the provision of independent, community-based advice services, including representation for social security appeals and debt. She was aware of how vital the independent advice sector is to the communities in which they serve, and the difference the work of the Ardoyne Association makes to people's lives and the impact it makes within the local community.

The Department is currently undertaking a refresh of the overall policy framework for our support to the Community & Voluntary Sector. The Department is currently engaging with stakeholders, Councils,

regional and sub-regional advice services to consider how best to support advice provision in each Council area. This engagement is important to ensure all voices are heard.

Nuala concluded her presentation by presenting OCN Level 2 Certificates to several participants in our benefit training programme.

Flax Centre Redevelopment & Development of ABC Hub

Elaine gave a brief update on the ongoing developments on behalf of ABC Trust and the Developer, ABC Hub phase 1 is now complete, with newly built Construction Academy and the new Sports Hall currently the temporary home for the Irish Dancer and the Boxing Club. The redevelopment of the Flax Centre will see the development of 45 Housing Units, addressing high levels of housing stress in North Belfast.

Elaine also spoke about the ongoing campaign to protect GP services within Ardoyne area which is vital to local infrastructure and economy.

Q & A

A discussion around progress on the opening of the Flax Street Gates took place. DOJ have indicated that the new gates will be operational for the opening of the Brookfield Mill development and the moving in of 70 new families. Discussion took place on the possible location for the new GP Services.

Launch of Lottery Funded 5-year Programme

Seamus McKenna sent apologies for not being able to attend the AGM to Launch the new 5-year lottery Funded programme with the Ardoyne Association. Elaine spoke of how important this funding was to help the Association.

- **Sustaining our services.**
- **Launch our UC and Benefits Clinic in partnership with UU LLB students.**
- **Extend our opening hours.**
- **The posts include 2 new full time advice workers and a full-time development officer.**

AOB

No other business was discussed

Closing Remarks

The Chairperson Marian Kane thanked the Lottery for their funding and looked forwarding to their partnership with the Ardoyne Association, she also thanked Derek (accountant), our guest speakers from DFC, and Elaine and her team for all their work and commitment to the Association. Finally, she thanked all those who attended and contributed to the AGM and those who received their certificates and welcomed them to volunteer with Association.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS.

We couldn't do the our work without their help



Housing Executive





FAREWELL SINEAD

NBAP CO ORDINATOR

Earlier this year, we bid farewell to Sinead McKinley, the Coordinator of the North Belfast Advice Partnership (NBAP). Sinead's unwavering dedication to ensuring clients could access social justice and navigate the often-complex benefits system was truly remarkable. Her commitment to training advice staff played a crucial role in delivering essential services to the people of North Belfast.

Sinead will be greatly missed, but we are thrilled to wish her the very best of luck as she embarks on a new journey, managing her own advice service. The Ardoyne Association extends heartfelt thanks for her invaluable contributions as a Board Member.

BOARD MEMBERS 2023/24

Marian Kane - *Chairperson*

Una Mc Roberts - *Secretary*

Marie Coleman - *Treasurer*

Joe Blair

Marie O'Neill

Dr Ciara Fitzpatrick

Tammi Lee Stewart

Gemma Mulholland

Orla McCallin

STAFF MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

Elaine Burns
*Centre Manager and
Advice Worker*

Laura Ward
Advice Worker

Niamh Burns
Advice Worker

Kevin McGarry
*Training and Community
Development Co Ordinator*

Claire Kelly
*Finance Officer and
Advice Worker*

Catherine Ferrin
*Community Contact &
Engagement Worker*

Deirbhile Johnston
*Community Contact &
Engagement*

Maeve Murphy
Advice Volunteer

Alisha Varndell
Community Larder Volunteer

Jennifer McGlinchey
Community Larder Volunteer

Shauna Gargan
Advice Worker

Emma Mc Meekin
Advice Worker

Rebecca Mc Allister
Reception Volunteer

Ardoyne Association

111 Etna Drive

Belfast

BT14 7NN

T: (028) 9071 5165



Ardoyne Association

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100243

Annual return

Ardoyne Association

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of
charitable company**

Ardoyne Association

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31/03/24 , which are set out on pages 6 - 11.

Respective responsibilities of Directors and examiner

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.


Derek Browne ACMA
Insight Business Services

53 Bernice Road
Newtownabbey, BT36 4QZ

Ardoyne Association

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100243

Accounts

Company No. NI 642518
Charity No: NIC100243

Ardoyne Association

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31/03/23

A company limited by guarantee without share capital

Ardoyne Association

Information

Chair	Marion Kane
Secretary	Anne Marie (Una) McRoberts
Treasurer	Marie Colman
Address	111 Etna Drive Belfast BT14 7NN
Accountants	Insight Business Services 53 Bernice Road Newtownabbey BT36 4QZ
Bankers	Ulster Bank Crumlin Road 171/175 Crumlin Road Belfast BT13 1FE

Ardoyne Association

	Page
Trustees' Report	4
Accountant's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Trustees Statement	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9-11

Ardoyne Association

Directors' Report

For the Period Ended 31/03/23

The Directors present their report and financial statements for the period ended 31/03/23

Principal activity

The principal activity of the charity is to provide advice, welfare and charitable services, to promote community development in the Ardoyne area (the area of benefit) and to improve residents' quality of life

From April 2017, the activities of Ardoyne Association were taken on by Ardoyne Association, a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.

Directors

The Directors who served during the period are as stated below:

Chair	Marian Kane	
Secretary	Anne Marie (Una) McRoberts	
Directors	Sinead McKinley Nuala Kane Ann Clarke Marie O'Neill	Marie Colman Patricia Carmel Holly

Annual Report

A full copy of the annual report of activities and achievements in 2022/23 is set out in the appendices.

Structure, Governance and Management

The organisation is a charity and is governed under its constitution. The Directors are also the charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. All Directors give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

Our financial performance has been positive. Total income has increased due to the community response to the Covid pandemic and expenditure has also risen but finances have been managed to ensure that we have a surplus to cover ongoing needs. Capital expenditure was completed on the new offices.

This report was approved by the Committee on and signed on its behalf by

Signed

Name

Ardoyne Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of charitable company

Ardoyne Association

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended
on pages 6 – 11.

31/03/23 , which are set out

Respective responsibilities of Directors and examiner

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Derek Browne ACMA
Insight Business Services

53 Bernice Road
Newtownabbey, BT36 4QZ

Ardoyne Association

Statement of Financial Activities for the period ended 31/03/23

	Notes	2023			2022
		Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total £	£
Incoming Resources					
Grant	2	290,851.17	31,500.00	322,351.17	220,623
Other Income (inc donations)		<u>0.00</u>	<u>19,391.80</u>	<u>19,391.80</u>	<u>119,706</u>
Total Income		290,851.17	50,891.80	341,742.97	340,329
Expenditure					
Charitable Activities		290,851.17	9,373.41	300,224.58	323,675
Administrative Expenses		<u>0.00</u>	<u>5,261.00</u>	<u>5,261.00</u>	<u>5,897</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>290,851.17</u>	<u>14,634.41</u>	<u>305,485.58</u>	<u>329,572</u>
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources		<u>0.00</u>	<u>36,257.39</u>	<u>36,257.39</u>	<u>10,757</u>
Net Movement of Funds in the Period		0.00	36,257.39	36,257.39	10,757

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the profit or loss for the above financial activities.
All activities relate to continuing operations

Ardoyne Association

Balance Sheet As at 31/03/23

	Notes	2023		2022
		£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets			264,025.81	254,225
Current Assets				
Debtors	5	5,000.00		0
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>139,978.35</u>		<u>118,686</u>
		144,978.35		118,686
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	1,800.00		1,963
Net Current Assets			<u>143,178.35</u>	<u>116,723</u>
Total Assets less current liabilities			407,204.16	370,948
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year				
Deferred grant income			0.00	0
Grants capitalised			254,224.57	<u>254,225</u>
Net Assets			152,979.59	116,723
Capital and Reserves				
Reserve Fund			116,722.20	105,966
Restricted Reserves			0.00	0
General Funds			36,257.39	10,757
Total Funds			152,979.59	116,723

The directors' statements are shown on page 12 which forms part of **this Balance Sheet**

Ardoyne Association

Balance sheet (continued)

Directors' statements for the year ended 31/03/23

In approving these financial statements as directors of the charity we hereby confirm:

For the year ending 31/03/23 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Article 257A(3) of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 ; and

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Article 257B(2)

Director's responsibilities;

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question,
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board on and signed on its behalf by

Signature

Name

Ardoyne Association

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31/03/23

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) (effective January 2015), and the requirements of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) (effective January 2015) (Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102)).

1.2 Incoming resources

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated assets are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable.

1.3 Resources Expended

Resources expended are recognised in the year in which they are incurred.

Management and administration costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.4 Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets other than freehold land are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Property improvements	10% straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

Ardoyne Association

**Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31/03/23**

2. Grant Income	2023	2022
	£	£
Government and other Grants	294,351	220,622
3. Operating gain/(deficit)	2023	2022
Operating gain is stated after charging:	£	£
Depreciation and other amounts written off	0	0
Accountant's remuneration	1,800	1,680
4. Employees	2023	2022
Number of employees		
The average monthly number of employees (excluding the Directors) during the year were:	6	5
5. Debtors	2023	2022
Trade Debtors	5000	0
Other Debtors	0	0
6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	0	0
Other Creditors	1,800	1,680
Other taxes and social security costs	0	0
Accruals and deferred income	0	283
	1,800	1,963

Ardoyne Association

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100243

Annual report



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

An Award Winning Organisation





Chairpersons Address

Good morning, everyone and Welcome to the Ardoyne Association AGM. A very special Welcome to our invited guests and our funders.

The Association is fast approaching 50 years of service to the community.

As a founder member I am especially delighted to be addressing you all today as the Chairperson of the association. It has been a privilege for me to be a part of this great organization. I want to acknowledge the wonderful people who were part of the foundation of the organization and over the years the many wonderful people who have played their part in delivering its aims and objectives. I want to also take a moment to remember all those who are sadly no longer with us, but have left a lasting impact on the organization and the community.

We have had a very busy and successful year since our last AGM, supporting over 4000 people through a range of programmes, advice, training, COL crisis support, all made possible with additional funding secured from a range of funders. The funding has allowed the Association to recruit an additional 2 full-time advisors and a 1 training development officer for 5 years.

We launched our Universal Credit & Online Benefit Cafe Clinic in Nov 2022. On a weekly bases we assist and support clients to claim and maintain their online benefit claims. We are currently working in partnership with the University of Ulster Law School and having students on placement in our office as part of their postgraduate degree course, they provide additional support to clients progressing their UC claims, whilst enhancing their knowledge and understanding of Social Security Law.

We continue to support owner occupiers, private tenants, and social tenants with a range of Housing and Environmental issues, from housing applications, homelessness, repairs, common selection scheme, planned maintenance programmes, affordable warmth scheme and more.

Our Training and Employability programmes are person centred and support individuals to aquire a new skill or qualification, we support them to find and sustain new employment.

We continue to work closely with the statutory agencies who service this area. We continue to be part of all developments within Ardoyne and surrounding areas.

I wish to thank, my fellow Board Members all our Street Reps and our Staff and Volunteers for their sterling work over the past year.

I look forward to seeing the special documentary we made for our 50th anniversary and I look forward to the future.

Thank you all.

ADVICE SERVICE REPORT

We are extremely proud of our Generalist Advice Service, vast approaching 45 years of delivering Welfare Rights to the local Community and the wider Belfast Area, through (NBAP) North Belfast Advice Partnership

The aim of our service is to Maximise Household Income for all, the employed, self-employed on low income, the unemployed and those seeking work, the Retired, Carers and those who are unable to work due to Sickness or Disability.

We continue to manage and deliver a professional, high quality, confidential service to all.

Our Advisors continue to train and update their training on an annual basis.

We aim to support our clients through a Benefit System that can be complex and confusing.

At this time the Association would like to pay tribute to our team of Advisors including our Volunteer Advice and Admin / Reception Team, without their support our service would struggle to meet demand.

In 2022 we secured funding from the National Lottery People and Places and the NIHE Sustaining Tenancies Fund, this allowed the organisation to recruited additional Advice Workers to manage the increased demand and workload.

We have a proud history of lobbying, and as members of North Belfast Advice Partnership and AdviceNI we use our strong voice to lobby for funding and action to combat poverty and welfare issues. As a lead member of NBAP we are one of Belfast City Councils 9 strategic partners for the city and have delivered extensively on a range of COVID19 and Cost of Living Crisis programmes. Additional funding from Cask for Kids, Urban Villages and others have allowed the Advice Service to support an additional 1000 + individuals and their families with a range of Cost-of-Living support.

At the end of February 2022, we launched our Community Larder and in the first month we supported 382 Adults and 795 Children. The Larder is managed by a wonderful Volunteer Team and this service is vital to all who use it.

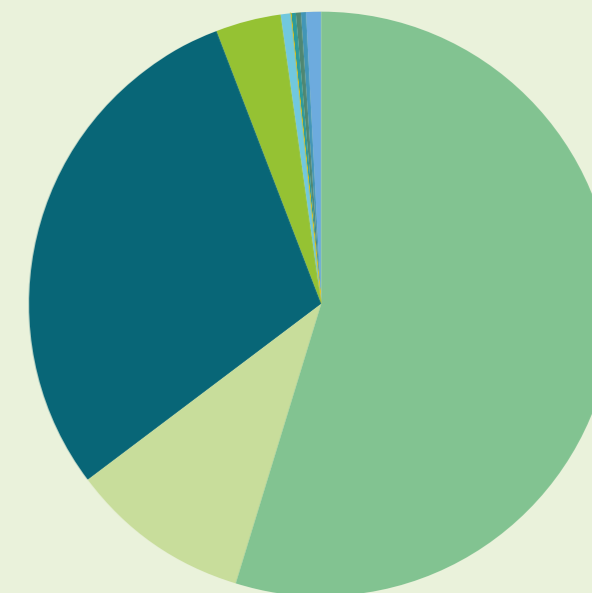
The additional funding secured has enabled us to launch and deliver the very first Universal Credit and Online Benefits Café Clinic here in Belfast, this weekly drop in service is now delivered in partnership with the University of Ulster Law School, were post graduate student receive real world benefit training with face 2 face learning and experience of our more complex cases and supporting some of the most vulnerable clients in receipt of Universal Credit. Since its launch in November 2022 to March 2023, we have supported 152 individuals with Universal Credit Claims, but more importantly maintaining their claims.

Our extended opening hours service was also launched in November 2022. The Association offer a Wednesday evening and a Saturday morning Advice Clinic. This service was launched after the findings of a needs analysis survey was completed by current users of the service, especially for those in employment. The uptake for the service has been slow and the organisation will keep under review before taking any final decision on its future.

Throughout the year our team deliver and attend a range of health and welfare information meetings and sessions from, The Trusted Partners Meeting @ DfC, North Belfast JOB Office and UC Team to Health and Social Care Workers to Community Groups, Schools, Surestart Programmes, and Older people services.

CASES OPENED LAST 12 MONTHS

- Welfare Rights (Case): **1760**
- Universal Credit (Case): **318**
- (Miscellaneous) (Case): **951**
- Housing (Case): **115**
- General (Case): **13**
- Employment (Case): **4**
- Debt (Case): **8**
- Community Care (Case): **5**
- Not Specified (Case): **14**
- Welfare Rights (Equiry): **20**

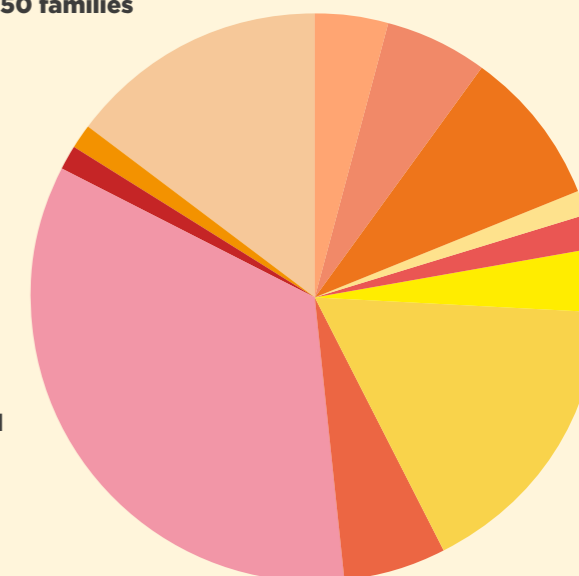


Income Generated directly by our service totals

£4,970,279.00

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

- Universal Credit Café Clinic: **152**
- BCC Fuel Hardship Fund: **200 Households**
- Christmas with Dignity Appeal Toys and Hampers: **300 Families**
- Halloween Pumpkin Patch & Mid Term Break Support: **50 families**
- Return to School Packs: **70 children**
- Fuel and Food Support Voucher: **120 Families**
- Uniform Freecycle: **575 children**
- Kettle Bags: **200 individuals/couples**
- Community Larder: **382 Adults and 795 Children**
- Baby Packs: **50**
- Cleaning Packs: **50**
- Flax Educational Support Programme: **500 household**



North Belfast Advice Partnership



8833 : **27255** : **303**
 CLIENTS : ISSUES : CRISIS INTERVENTION

24 MILLION

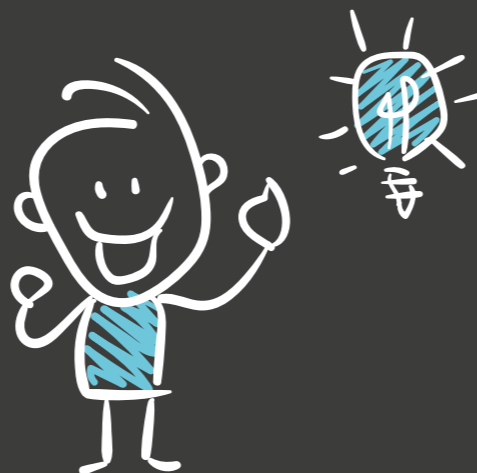
MONEY BACK

As members of NBAP, we collectively work to deliver an effective Advice Service across North Belfast.



A recent photo of NBAP Advice Team at a Thank You and Recognition Dinner.

The staff showed exemplary commitment, dedication, and care to all service users during COVID and all continue to do so now during this current Cost of Living Crisis.



SUSTAINING TENANCIES PROGRAMME

The aim of this programme is to provide the practical skills, tools and resources to prepare and enable new tenants to acceptance and manage their NIHE tenancy, it also supports current tenants to sustain their tenancy, by engaging with our programmes that will maximise household income through Full Benefit Checks, Money Management Programmes, Reduce the Carbon footprint through our Walking Club and our Eating for the Seasons programme. We aim to address mental health and wellbeing; social isolation and loneliness is a key factor of this project and to sustaining tenancies. Looking after the health and wellbeing of tenants is a key element of this programme.

Statistics

April 2022 - March 2023

Full Benefits checks: **447 Tenants with over 532 Beneficiaries**

Money Management Programme: **50**

Eat for the Seasons: **50 families**

Yoga: **33 participants**

Walk and Talk Group: **50 participants**



100% Benefitted from taking part

100% Learnt something new

100% Training reduced stress, worry or anxiety

80% Had fun at the training

75% Felt it brightened their mood

	Number Registered	Number Participated	HE Residents	Others
Money Management	40	32	25	1
Yoga	37	27	27	0
Eat for the seasons	50 households	132	50	0
Walk & Talk	35	25	22	3
Total	162	216	124	4

447 No. of Clients who received Full Benefit Checks

532 Total Number of Beneficiaries



We are members of Fareshare and Foodiverse, along with generous donations from a range of funders and individuals, this allows us to support so many due this Cost of Living Crisis.

Our Uniform Freecycle Shop - Managed by a team of volunteers the shop is open to all parents of nursery, primary and post primary school children. We provide uniforms and PE gear for schools across North Belfast. In 2022/23 - 517 children received full school uniforms, the Uniform Shop opens for 11 weeks May - August of each year.

Cash For Kids - Allowed us to purchase 70 School Bags and Essential School Items, all issued to support children returning to school across North Belfast.



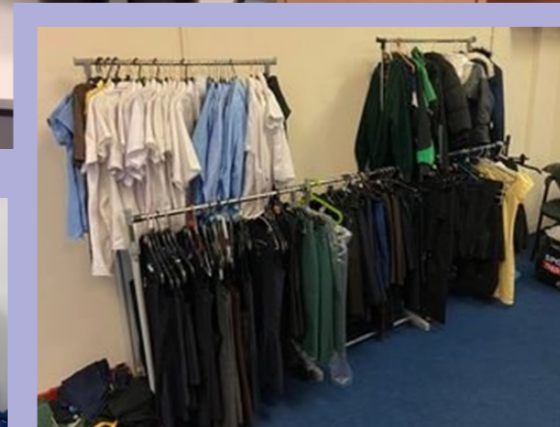
Additional community support projects



Uniform Freecycle Shop



Return to School Packs



Money Management Programme



Baby Packs



Christmas with Dignity Appeal



PROTEST

Save the Flax Medical Centre

The Flax Medical Centre is an important service for around 3000 people in the Ardoyne area but it is set to close.

WE NEED THE BELFAST TRUST TO STEP IN TO SAVE THIS SERVICE.

**FLAX MEDICAL CENTRE
FRIDAY 4TH NOV
1PM**

**SAVE OUR
GP SERVICE**

we campaigned tirelessly to save our service, with over 3000 patients registered at the practice, the Ardoyne Association led the campaign on behalf of the community.

We held public meetings, raised awareness and lobbied elected representatives, embarked on a media campaign to show our anger at the potential loss of such a service especially in an area with such high levels of Health Inequalities.

The people of Ardoyne are used to fighting for essential services and we are proud to say that our campaign was successful.

COMMITTED TO ADDRESSING COMMUNITY NEED THE ENVIRONMENT & NEW DEVELOPMENTS

St Reps Training Programme

This programme empowers our St Reps in several key areas, it enables them to provide low level advice and information to their neighbours, family and friends, areas covered in the training are the history of the Ardoyne Association, Introduction to Benefits, Introduction to Housing, Introduction to Employment Rights and the final session is on Empowering Women & Women in Politics. Our Street Representatives have really enjoyed this programme.

Review of Strategic Plan

2022 - 23 The Organisation carried out a review of its current Strategic Plan and we can confirm that the Association is well on target to meet all aims and objectives set out in the plan.

Ardoyne Association History Project

funded by BCC this programme has allowed the organisation to visually record founding members and their testimony, it captures the history and foundation of the organisation. The video includes interviews with current staff and new Street Reps. We hope to have an official launch during 2023.



Tina Leggs - Fundraising Event in Crumlin Star

FUND RAISING FOR THE ASSOCIATION

Tina Leggs hosted a Bingo Event to help support the work of the Ardoyne Association. Holy Cross Play and Learn, Unite the Union, Ben Madigan, Surestart and more all supported our Christmas with Dignity Appeal, making sure that children in crisis across our community had toys, gifts, and food for Christmas.



Holy Cross Play and Learn



The Community reacted quickly to support the people of Turkey and Syria after the disastrous earthquake which killed over 47,000 people and displaced millions. The Association, Social Clubs and Street Reps moved quickly to raise funds to support both countries, collectively we raised **£3774.05**





NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Challenging, Lobbying and raising awareness of our community's needs and infrastructure are a key objective of the organisation. Community Safety, Health and Welfare, Housing and Environmental Issues to Educational Needs and Provision.

Our long campaign to secure the reopening of Flax Street, which for our organisation was presenting a major health and safety issue for all residents, reducing traffic congestion, reducing times for emergency services accessing the area, residents accessing bus routes and access to wider retail services.

Working with Urban Villages and BCC on the redevelopment of Bonehills, this will see a functional outdoor sports facility, park and hub that will address the lack of amenities and outdoor space for our local sporting teams. For the daily users of the Park, they will experience a new and welcoming space to enjoy, all promoting positive physical and mental health and wellbeing.

We are also delighted to support ABC Trust in the current development of a new Health, Leisure and Educational Hub for the area, phase 1 of this complex is near completion and we look forward to supporting ABC Trust moving forward.

We work on a day-to-day bases with all Housing providers and developers who aim to assist with the regeneration of the area. Recently we worked with developers to deliver 2 major housing schemes for the area, Galgani and Brookfield Mill and are delighted to see families enjoying their new homes. We continue to engage with Developers and Elected Reps on the continued Transformation of Ardoyne Ave, we hope the next phase of redevelopment will include The Flax Centre leading down to the Shamrock Club.

We worked closely with Dfl on the resurfacing of Roads and Pathways in the area and continue to lobby for the rest of the area to receive the same level of improvements, we also engage with Dfl on Traffic Calming Measures and continue to be a voice for the community when it comes to safety of residents.

The Ardoyne Association are represented on a range of fora, ensuring effective service delivery from all statutory agencies.

HCN MEETINGS AND LOCAL HOUSING & ENVIRONMENTAL SUBGROUP MEETING



Bimonthly Meetings are held locally with St Reps, Housing Providers, BCC, Dfl and DoJ, this is an opportunity for our St Reps to raise concerns impacting their street and their area. We carry out Estate Inspections with a range of statutory agencies, issues raised must be addressed by the relevant agency and the inspection toolkit is reviewed regularly to make sure progress has been made.

The Housing Community Network is part of the NIHE structure, it's for staff and management of the Association to attend, this is were wider NIHE housing issues, programmes and scheme are discussed, reviewed, and monitored.





Gardens of Ardoyne Project

Saw the transformation of the office garden and several houses at either side of the property. Looking at biodiversity through growing your own fruit and vegetables this wonderful project has transformed this section of Etna Drive. This was thanks to BCC and the wonderful ladies who volunteered their time to complete this project.

Christmas Dinner for our Pensioners, Nurses, & Carer Workers

What a great night of food, music, and dance, celebrating our older residents and thanking our Nurses and Care Workers for all they do within and across our community.



Social Supermarket

The Association in partnership with the VINE Centre are currently exploring the opportunity to open a Social Supermarket. Currently we have been exploring and visiting several projects and aim to develop a firm business plan moving forward in 2023.



National Lottery Award at last years AGM



GFA 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The Association was involved with a range of media interviews regarding the anniversary; however, our Chairperson Marian Kane has been included in an exhibition at the Ulster Museum remembering a range of women and their contribution towards the Peace Process.



Dog fouling is dangerous and disgusting!

Please

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Dumping AND Dog Fouling continue to be a nuisance and we at the Association work closely with our Street Reps and Council Staff to address, identify and inform residents about Bin Collection Days, Special Collections Services, issues with Dog Fouling and we would like to thank BCC for their continued support on addressing this issue.



Dog Fouling

We ran a campaign within the community against Dog Fouling, in partnership with Belfast City Council;

200 PEOPLE

collected pack of 10 dog bags

2 NEW

dog poo boxes installed

10 reported to dog watcher

CONNECTED FUTURES REPORT AMG REPORT

Benefits Delivered through the project

The Connected Futures Programme report covers the period from April 2022 to March 2023. The Ardoyne Association and our partners Ballysillan Community Forum and NBAP have remained committed to delivering and promoting positive outcomes which improve the lives of local people and enable the communities of North Belfast to thrive. Creating pathways to employability has been the core focus of the programmes and training. Our main traditional route to employment was through the Nursing Homes and Advice Centers. Now we have been able to diversify our pathway to employment through Autism training with Belfast Met. We have participants doing introductions and Level 2, this will help to prepare people to work as future special needs classroom assistants. This will allow parents with Autistic children to work while their child is in school and be available during school holidays.

Quarter	Number of Participants Gaining Qualification	Course number and Information	Welfare Workshop Number gaining new skills
1	23	6. OCN Level 2 Benefits 7. Basic Care Training 9. First Aid Accredited 1. Open university Access course	0
2	12	7. OCN Level 2 Benefits 5. Basic Care Training	16
3	71	22. First Aid Accredited 34. Autism Introduction Belfast Met 9. Learning Disability training 6. OCN Level 2 Benefits	41
4	55	11. Autism Introduction Belfast Met 28. Autism Level 2 Belfast Met 14. OCN Level 3 Benefits 2. Open university Access course	59
Total	161		116

STRAND 1 16 participants attended OCN Level 3, Certificate in Generalist Advice training which was delivered by the Law Centre. This training qualifies participants to seek employment within the Advice Sector. The participants come from across North Belfast and from 3 of the 5 main NBAP Advice Centres. Emma a participant said "I found the course to be resourceful and very enlightening. It was great to meet up with like-minded people who were enthusiastic about the training, knowing the outcome could give us a little more knowledge in order that we may signpost or be of guidance to others. It certainly rocketed my confidence and understanding, and I was quite lucky because I got employment out of it"

We held 3 introduction sessions to Universal Credit, practical workshops Involving UC Staff, Ardoyne Association staff, Law students from Ulster University & 40 clients registered online to learn more about UC

STRAND 2 We reached our target outcomes for the Nursing Care Training Programme. It is part of our commitment to support participants through their job search journey. We hosted a graduation ceremony for all to receive certificates. We have identified new pathways into employment as classroom assistances through our Autism Training. Many classroom assistants work with children who have special needs, and this training is one of the core requirements for classroom assistance. 45 individuals have completed level 1 the Awareness of Autistic Spectrum Conditions facilitated by Belfast Met.

28 individuals attended the 10 weeks Level 2 Autistic Spectrum Conditions again facilitated by Belfast Met. Participants came from Ballysillan, Ligoniel, Ballygomartin, Shankill Road, Ardoyne, Oldpark, Bone and beyond. One of the class wrote **"Thank you so much Christine (Tutor) you've been brilliant from start to finish"**

- 100% that they have been treated well while taking part in the projects.
- 100% agreed that they have benefitted from taking part in the projects.
- 51% felt that the training brightened their mood and was good for their mental health and wellbeing
- 77% that they met new people
- 94% felt it was very useful

STRAND 3 We have 2 participants completing Open University Access Course. We had 31 participants participated in the BCF First Aid training programme. They receive their accredited First Aid certificates which are valid for 3 years. This strand received no funding, but it demonstrates the commitment of the community sector to enhance training and employability options for all our residents.

COMMUNITY CONTACT & ENGAGEMENT

During the period April 2022 to March 2023 we've had two Community Contact workers in post, they both worked very hard to build and develop relationships between the Street Reps, the Ardoyne Association, its Volunteers and Statutory Agencies. Their role involved building positive relationships, implementing clear lines of communication, community safety and crime prevention initiatives and to report on safer neighbourhood initiatives. Some of the statics are as follows;



90

volunteer Street Reps delivered leaflets and posters for dumping and rubbish

41

attended welfare workshops

11

volunteers worked in Uniform freecycle shop

5

new Street Reps with English as a second language

70

street reps involved in St Patricks day street celebrations

10

new reps from new families in the community

Those who attended the welfare workshops and registered for the Universal Credit workshops, felt very relieved. 100% Agreed the event improved their knowledge of the work and services provided by the organisation. 89% Agreed that they have benefitted from taking part in the training. 100% Agreed that they learnt something new from the training and 88% Agreed that taking part in this event has reduced stress, worry or anxiety.

Many Street Reps renewed their commitment to the service of their streets and the Association. We continue to seek new Street Reps especially for streets without representatives and we've managed to secure 5 new Street Reps with English as a second language and 10 new reps from new families in the community.

We hosted a welcome event for new families moving into the area, This good relations event was delivered in partnership with various Housing Associations, Youth Providers, Schools, Autism Groups, Welfare Rights and Community Groups. This information evening and a, " getting to know the community" We identified organisations and facilities that were within walking distance of the area, we compiled a directory and issued over 30 Information and Welcome Packs at the event.

Social Renewal - Safe Neighbourhoods

230

residents engaged in community safety projects

10

supported through 1 crime prevention initiative

5

meetings held to deal with ASB

30

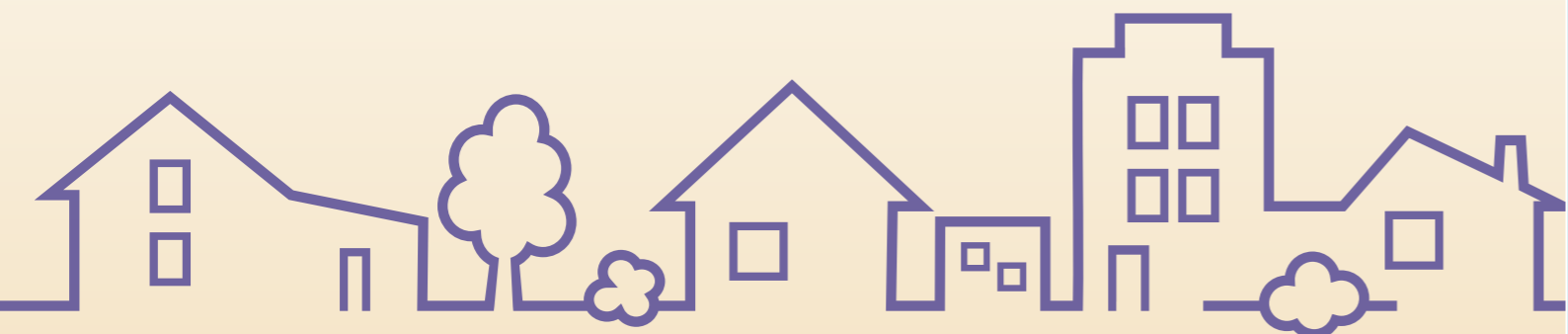
Street reps reported some sort of ASB

130

Fire safety devices supplied and installed to local residents homes.

60

community safety surveys completed in the area in partnership with CCRF



FINANCE REPORT

Ardoyne Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of charitable company

Ardoyne Association

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended on pages 6 - 11.

31/03/23, which are set out

Respective responsibilities of Directors and examiner

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Charities 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Derek Browne ACMA
Insight Business Services
13/09/2022

53 Bernice Road
Newtownabbey, BT36 4QZ

MINUTES OF AGM 2022

Thursday 3rd November 2022

Venue: Flax Day Centre

AGM BUSINESS

- Staff Members – Elaine Burns (Manager) Claire Kelly, Niamh Burns, Laura Ward, Shauna Gargan, Rebecca McAllister, Gemma Mulholland, Conal Matthews, Kevin McGarry,
- Accountant – Derek Browne

WELCOME ADDRESS

The Chair Marian Kane welcomed and thanked those present for attending. She asked us to remember our previous Chair Colin Caruth who passed away only a few weeks ago. The Chair gave an overview of the work during 2021/2022. As always, we've had a very busy time since our last AGM. We've settled into our newly refurbished and extended premises in Etna Drive.

The Cost-of-Living crisis, people are now experiencing the highest rise in electric and gas prices ever, however, the Association is working to provide additional support to those in need, details of which are included in the annual report. We also continued with our extensive training and employability programmes, from our Connected Futures Programme to our newly launched NIHE Sustaining Tenancies programmes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff, Street Reps, and volunteers who continue to do dedicated sterling work for the Association. I also want to thank all our funders. We continue to work closely with all statutory agencies, involved in the area and we're also involved with ABC Trust in the development of the St Gemma's site, the Flax shopping Centre and Brookfield Mill development.

The Association will be celebrating 50 years in existence next year, and for the occasion we are compiling a history project with founder members and look forward to publishing a book on our many achievements.

Finally, I have brilliant news to share, our Association has successfully obtained funding from the Lottery People and Places Programme to the value of half a million pounds. This funding allows us to sustain and secure our work over the next 5 years. The posts include 2 new full time advice workers and a full-time development officer.

Secretary Reports - Elaine gave those present time to read over the minutes of the 2021 AGM. It was agreed that the minutes were a true reflection of the previous AGM, and they were proposed by Paul Clarke and seconded by Carmel Holly. Minutes were signed off by the Chairperson Marian Kane.

Finance Report - Derek Browne the Association's Accountant gave a comprehensive review of our accounts and supplied copies of the accounts for people to read. His examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. The Association's bank balance is healthy with positive net assets. Income for the year was £340,000 and expenditure over the same period was £330,000. Derek thanked Claire for keeping excellent financial records. Chairperson signed off on the accounts.

Elections – No elections took place as no Board Members were stepping down.

Launch of Annual Report - Those present received the Annual Report and Elaine gave a short review of the report.

Kerr Property Developers - Elaine gave a brief update on the ongoing developments on behalf of Kerr Properties, who apologised for not attending the AGM because they were lock in negotiations with lawyers on the development of the Flax Centre and GP services. Elaine also spoke about the ongoing campaign to protect GP services within Ardoyne area which is vital to local infrastructure and economy.

Q & A - A discussion around progress on the opening of the Flax Street Gates took place. DOJ have indicated that the new gates will be operational for the opening of the Brookfield Mill development and the moving in of 70 new families. Discussion took place on the possible location and type of facilities to be built for the new GP Services, this should include a Day Centre, Alternative Therapies, Counselling services etc.

Nuala McKenna Voluntary & Community Division of DFC - Elaine introduced and welcomed Nuala McKenna of the Voluntary & Community Division of DFC and invited her to speak and give the AGM an update on Advice / Anti-poverty Strategy especially now in this 'Cost-of- Living' crisis.

Nuala introduced her role as lead for the advice side within the 'Financial inclusion Team' and the DFC provides funding through our local government partners for the provision of independent, community-based advice services, including representation for social security appeals and help with problem debt. She was aware of how vital the independent advice sector is to the communities in which they serve, and the difference the work of the Ardoyne Association makes to people's lives and the impact it makes within the local community.

The Department is currently undertaking a refresh of the overall policy framework for our support to the Community & Voluntary Sector. The Department is currently engaging with stakeholders, Councils, regional and sub-regional advice services to consider how best to support advice provision in each Council area. This engagement is important to ensure all voices are heard.

Nuala concluded her presentation by presenting OCN Level 2 Certificates to several participants in our benefit training programme.

Launch of Lottery Funded 5-year Programme - Seamus McKenna sent apologies for not being able to attend the AGM to Launch the new 5-year lottery Funded programme with the Ardoyne Association. Elaine spoke of how important this funding was to help the Association.

- Sustaining our services
- Launch our UC and Benefits Clinic in partnership with UU LLB students
- Extend our opening hours
- The posts include 2 new full time advice workers and a full-time development officer.

AOB - No other business was discussed.

Closing Remarks

The Chairperson Marian Kane thanked the Lottery for their funding and looked forward to a working partnership with the Ardoyne Association, she also thanked Derek (accountant), Nuala McKenna of DFC, and Elaine and her team for all their work and commitment to the Association. Finally, she thanked all those who attended and contributed to the AGM and those who received their certificates and welcomed them to volunteer with Association.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS.

We couldn't do the our
work without their help



**Housing
Executive**





FR MYLES

The Ardoyne Association would like to pay tribute, recognition & thanks to our Honorary President, Fr Myles, he is a great Visionary and we thank him for his Dedication and Commitment to the, reconciliation of a divided community through economic and social development, bringing peace to both communities, one person and one job at a time.

BOARD MEMBERS 2022/23

Marian Kane - *Chairperson*

Joe Blair

Carmel Holly

Una Mc Roberts - *Secretary*

Nuala Kane

Marie O'Neill

Marie Coleman - *Treasurer*

Sinead Mc Kinley

STAFF MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

Elaine Burns
*Centre Manager and
Advice Worker*

Conor Lawlor
*Strategic Planning &
Community Contact*

Danielle Fisher
Community Larder Volunteer

Laura Ward
Advice Worker

Gemma Mulholland
Community Contact Worker

Alisha Varndell
Community Larder Volunteer

Niamh Burns
Advice Worker

Claire Kelly
*Finance Officer and
Advice Worker*

Jennifer McGinley
Community Larder Volunteer

Kevin McGarry
*Training and Community
Development Co Ordinator*

Maeve Murphy
Advice Volunteer

Shauna Gargan
Advice Worker

Conal Matthews
Admin & Reception

Marian Kane
Advice Volunteer

Emma Mc Meekin
Advice Worker

Rebecca Mc Allister
Reception Volunteer

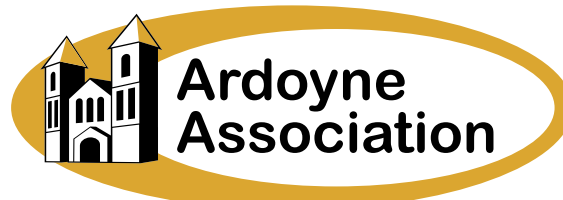
Ardoyne Association

111 Etna Drive

Belfast

BT14 7NN

T: (028) 9071 5165



Ardoyne Association

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100243

Annual return

Ardoyne Association

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charitable company**

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Insight Business Services

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