

Erne East Community Partnership Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 28 April 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 28 April 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Erne East Community Partnership Limited
Charity registration number	NIC100296
Company registration number	NI037202
Principal office and registered office	Lite House Cross Street Lisnaskea County Fermanagh BT92 0JE

The trustees

Mrs K Breen	
Mr T O Reilly	
Mr O McLoughlin	(Retired 14 June 2022)
Mr B Cosgrove	
Mrs A McAdam	
Mr J Beattie	(Retired 14 June 2022)
Mr Thomas Campbell	

Company secretary	Kathleen Breen
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Auditor	SP McCaffrey & Co Chartered accountants & statutory auditor 50 Campsie Road Omagh Co Tyrone BT79 0AG
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Bankers	Bank of Ireland Townhall Street Enniskillen Co Fermanagh BT74 7BD
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Solicitors	Murphy & McManus Solicitors 143 Main Street Lisnaskea Co Fermanagh BT92 0JE
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Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Erne East Community Partnership is a company limited by guarantee (Registration number NI037202). The company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The company is recognised as a charity by the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland (Ref: NIC100296).

Governance

The governance function of Erne East Community Partnership is fulfilled through its Board of Trustees. The trustees are charged with overall responsibility for the Company. The Board members give their time voluntarily and receive no dividend from the Charity. Any benefits which obtained are incidental. The Board of trustees of Erne East Community Partnership are responsible for the overall legal and financial management of the community. The work of implementing most of their policies is carried out by the Manager, to which the Board has delegated responsibility. We employ staff which are necessary to further the Company's purpose. Staff receive a private benefit in the form of payment in wages. This is justified as it is necessary and incidental in advancing the charity's purpose. Erne East Community Partnership has a responsibility to conduct its business efficiently. The establishment of, and the strict adherence to sound financial management policies is an integral part of the organisation. The Board of trustees and Management Committee of Erne East Community Partnership are committed to establishing, maintaining and applying all necessary good practice to ensure that their duty of care to the management of finances of the organisation are fulfilled. It is essential that Erne East Community Partnership control all operational risks as far as is possible. This includes the participation of all those involved directly or indirectly with the banking arrangements for the organisation. Along with the financial systems of the organisation, this policy aims to detail responsibilities, risk management and internal controls.

Statement of risks

The Trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. A risk register has been established and is updated at least annually. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which will allow for the diversification of funding and activities - hence the reserves policy. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the centre. The Trustees acknowledge that Erne East Community Partnership has acquired immense knowledge, and experience in meeting the challenges of demand, complexity, resource limitations, financial pressures, quality assurance, regulation, while promoting best practise. It was also considered that the Company management team has the ability to continue to provide Community led projects and has in place systems of work to set and achieve goals and targets, monitor, assess and review performance and act on findings to continually improve service quality and performance in the best interest of its beneficiaries and stakeholders. Erne East Community Partnership complies with all current employment and equality legislation including 1974 Health & Safety at Work Act and anti-discrimination legislation as enacted in Northern Ireland and takes all reasonable steps to secure the observance of this condition by all its staff or agents employed in the performance of his/her duties. The Company has a strong community ethos accompanied with sound business acumen and is committed to providing best value and highest professional standards in all we do.

Objectives and activities

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

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Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Principal activity

The principal activity of the company is to promote, maintain and advance the provision of social services, childcare and family services, addiction services, welfare rights, educational programmes, recreational facilities, health and well-being programmes, group capacity building support and practical assistance for the residents of Erne East and surrounding areas. In addition, the company will seek where possible to build strategic partnerships with compatible organisations throughout Fermanagh and further afield in advancing health and wellbeing and social development.

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Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Details of significant activities

During the year to the 28th April 2023 a total of 9394 individuals benefited from health and well-being activities a significant increase from the 1286 reported the previous year and more on a par to good performances in previous years. The PHA reporting system was used to describe performance in various areas relating to health improvement and wellbeing.

Theme 1. Give every Child and Young Person the Best Start - A total of 3423 people participated in interventions or activities addressing this theme.

Theme 2. Mental Health - A total of 2880 participants took part in interventions or activities addressing this theme during the period.

Theme 3. Physical Health/ Condition Management - A total of 1282 people participated in interventions or activities addressing physical health, good nutrition and condition management.

Theme 4. Smoking Intervention/Cessation - 752 beneficiaries were recorded on brief intervention workshops with 8 completing a 12 week group smoking cessation class.

Theme 5. Addictions - 618 benefited from interventions related to addiction this included attendance at a weekly drop-in centre for alcohol addiction and mental health.

Theme 6. Poverty - 327 benefited from various initiatives to address poverty and marginalised community groups including referrals for various benefits and schemes, a NIHE Homelessness Prevention Programme, F&ODC Anti-poverty Scheme, foodbank referrals, slow cooker and energy efficiency advice.

Theme 7. 112 individuals undertook volunteer and staff training on issues such as health and safety, community first responder (defibrillator scheme) and dementia training for family members.

Numbers of people using the centre increased significantly in the year. Individuals undertook volunteer and staff training on issues such as health and safety, community first responder (defibrillator scheme) and dementia training for family members.

This year's accounts indicate a surplus of £6,006. Income in the period rose/ by 18%. Some new contracts were secured to replace funding lost in 2021-2022.

Some underlying issues remained regarding the sustainability of the project. The final quarter of the year is largely reflective of other quarters in that 28 funding sources or projects without funding were operational in this 3 month period. This places a large administrative burden on staff. None of these funding sources were guaranteed in contracts that exceeded more than a year. Community benefit is ensured by the organisation taking on programme activities that tackle increasingly poor access to services and also poverty and cost of living issues in the locality. However, for many of these services the organisation receives marginal and sometimes no financial compensation. Key services such as community first responders, the drop-in centre for addictions, men's shed, Bryson Energy vouchers greatly benefit the community but are a financial cost to the organisation. This ensure some staff constantly work unpaid overtime and for many years have foregone salary increases.

During the financial year the Public Health Agency provided welcome funding for the organisation to recruit first responder volunteers and undertake a number of training initiatives to help insure good Health and Safety Practice and quality of service.

While numbers of participants increased substantially this year there are a number of concerns for management. The current lack of availability of funding either through E.U. or Stormont is creating a highly competitive funding environment for a reduced number of available contracts. The implications

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Objectives and activities *(continued)*

of the new health and well-being remit that the Fermanagh and Omagh is implementing is also unclear will they support existing providers including ourselves or seek develop a new model that may compete for scarce resources.

Many of these factors are beyond management control. However, management are keen that the organization adopts new and innovative ways of work to remain competitive and to try and secure our future. We observe that organizations that develop a social economy aspect to their funding streams and can generate some of their own income are more financially secure. In the 2023-24 financial year a bid by our organization has been accepted for a main street property in Lisnaskea. This fulfils a long term aim of the organization to own a building and avoid the expense of leasing premises. The size of the building will enable us to have all our services on the one site and develop new services to the advantage of the local community in Erne East. A main street property vacant for over 10 years will be brought back to life greatly improving the streetscape of Fermanagh's second town. The property could not have been secured without community donations and further support will be required. The new premises offer the opportunity to develop income generating capacity through social economy projects and improve our sustainability. We also hope the energy efficiency can be incorporated at the design stage.

The organization feels reenergized by this exciting development and are up to the undoubted challenges that sourcing funds and developing the new premises will require.

Financial review

Reserves Policy

The trustees of Erne East Community Partnership Limited have set up a reserves policy which requires that reserves be maintained, in unrestricted bank accounts at a level which ensures the Company's core activities could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. The trustees consider that this figure should be £195,000 and will endeavour to reach this figure in the next few years. The trustees review the Reserves Policy annually.

Plans for future periods

The trustees are fully aware of the importance in the upcoming year for the organisation to aggressively pursue other suitable fundraising opportunities and to actively review expenditure and resource allocation to ensure the charity will have a surplus.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

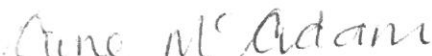
- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

The auditor is deemed to have been re-appointed in accordance with section 487 of the Companies Act 2006.

Small company provisions

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

The trustees' annual report was approved on 13 December 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:


Mrs A McAdam
Trustee