

Hope House

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100516

Details

Status Received

Registered 2014-11-12

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

Contact

Address 1 Brownsbay Drive
Islandmagee
Larne
Bt40 3ru
BT40 3RU

Phone 077644406646

Email info@hopehouseireland.org

Website hopehouseireland.org

Activities

Purposes: The aim of the Group shall be to provide a quiet, stress free environment which would be beneficial to cancer patients and their families in order to provide respite and recuperation breaks .

What the charity does: The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

How the charity works: Accommodation/housing,Counselling/support,Medical/health/sickness

Who the charity helps: Carers,General public,Older people

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£136,839	£129,604	£0	1

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Louise Mcgreevy		
Mr Roy Mcconnell		
Mrs Dawn Mcconnell		
Mrs Jacqueline Mccullough		
Samuel Mccullough		

Hope House

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100516

Accounts

Hope House Ireland

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 December 2024

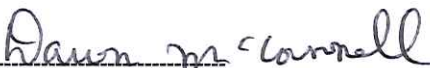
	Unrestricted funds	
	2024	2023
	£	£
<u>Receipts</u>		
Donations	135,398	104,715
Sponsorship	0	0
Sundry income	0	0
Bank interest	1,441	636
	<u>136,839</u>	<u>105,351</u>
<u>Payments</u>		
Wages	13,471	17,268
Utility charges	2,761	3,980
Insurance	3,040	3,229
Telephone & internet	1,993	1,401
Repairs & Renewals	1,225	757
Motor Expenses	736	249
Printing & stationery	321	1,114
Advertising	1,085	0
Computer costs	464	1,583
Guest expenses	2,771	2,840
House exp & white goods	3,199	2,662
Cleaning	15,655	15,411
Legal & prof fees	161	123
Bank fees etc	791	689
Miscellaneous expenses	446	30
Garden room & office	81,485	
	<u>129,604</u>	<u>51,336</u>
Net receipts	7,235	54,015
Surplus for the year	<u>7,235</u>	<u>54,015</u>
Surplus brought forward	559,984	505,969
Surplus carried forward	<u><u>567,219</u></u>	<u><u>559,984</u></u>

Hope House Ireland

Statement of assets & liabilities as at 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
<u>1. Bank Accounts & cash</u>		
Current account	203,628	116,413
Investment account	29,845	109,889
PayPal account	632	568
Petty cash	41	41
<u>Total bank & cash</u>	<u>234,146</u>	<u>226,911</u>
<u>2. Fixed assets</u>	£	£
Property	324,636	324,636
Fixtures & fittings	8,437	8,437
	<u>333,073</u>	<u>333,073</u>
<u>3. Total fund balances</u>	<u>567,219</u>	<u>559,984</u>
<u>4. Reconciliation of fund balances</u>	£	£
<u>Represented by</u>		
Bank & cash balances	234,146	226,911
Fixed assets	333,073	333,073
	<u>567,219</u>	<u>559,984</u>

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 18 September 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:


Dawn McConnell


Jacqueline McCullough

Hope House

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100516

Accounts

Hope House Ireland

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 December 2023

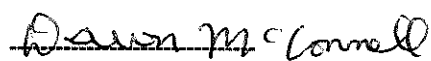
	Unrestricted funds	
	2023	2022
	£	£
<u>Receipts</u>		
Donations	104,715	105,688
Sponsorship	0	0
Sundry income	0	0
Bank interest	636	11
	<u>105,351</u>	<u>105,699</u>
<u>Payments</u>		
Wages	17,268	4,063
Utility charges	3,980	3,922
Insurance	3,229	2,644
Telephone & internet	1,401	1,103
Repairs & Renewals	757	19,863
Motor Expenses	249	562
Printing & stationery	1,114	647
Computer costs	1,583	809
Guest expenses	2,840	1,671
House exp & white goods	2,662	4,183
Cleaning	15,411	11,790
Legal & prof fees	123	0
Bank fees etc	689	729
Miscellaneous expenses	30	1,209
	<u>51,336</u>	<u>53,195</u>
Net receipts	54,015	52,504
Surplus for the year	<u>54,015</u>	<u>52,504</u>
Surplus brought forward	505,969	453,465
Surplus carried forward	<u><u>559,984</u></u>	<u><u>505,969</u></u>

Hope House Ireland

Statement of assets & liabilities as at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
<u>1. Bank Accounts & cash</u>		
Current account	116,413	162,562
Investment account	109,889	9,203
PayPal account	568	1,131
Petty cash	41	0
<u>Total bank & cash</u>	<u>226,911</u>	<u>172,896</u>
<u>2. Fixed assets</u>	£	£
Property	324,636	324,636
Fixtures & fittings	8,437	8,437
	<u>333,073</u>	<u>333,073</u>
<u>3. Total fund balances</u>	<u>559,984</u>	<u>505,969</u>
<u>4. Reconciliation of fund balances</u>	£	£
<u>Represented by</u>		
Bank & cash balances	226,911	172,896
Fixed assets	333,073	333,073
	<u>559,984</u>	<u>505,969</u>

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 16/10/2024 and are signed on their behalf by:


Dawn McConnell


Jacqueline McCullough

Hope House

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100516

Annual report

Hope House Ireland

Charity Reference and Administrative Details

Year Ended 31 December 2023

Charity registration number

NIC100516

Trustees

Dawn McConnell
Roy McConnell
Jacqueline McConnell
Sam McCullough
Joan Crothers

Principal address

Hope House
1 Browns Bay Drive
Islandmagee
Larne
Co. Antrim
BT40 3RU

Independent examiner

Guardian
Chartered Accountants
2 William Street
Newtownards
Co. Down
BT23 4AH

Bankers

Danske Bank
Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

Hope House

NI Charity Commission registration number NIC 100516

Trustees Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present their report for the above year.

Trustees

Trustees who served during the year were:

Dawn McConnell

Roy McConnell

Jacqueline McCullough

Samuel McCullough

Joan Crothers appointed 26 February 2024

Objectives

The objectives of Hope House are to provide rest, recuperation, and support to members of the Northern Ireland public with a cancer diagnosis and their families and carers.

We provide

- FREE Self-Catering accommodation in two beachfront properties in Browns Bay. The properties and their location enhances physical and emotional wellbeing - reducing stress, enabling our service users to feel supported, cared for, and valued at a very vulnerable time. We bring HOPE!!
- Respite for family and carers, knowing that their loved-one is in a safe, comfortable, and relaxing location.

Hope House is by the sea – a place of sanctuary in the storm that living with a cancer diagnosis can bring into the lives of families navigating a cancer journey.

Achievements and public benefit activities

During the year, the following were achieved

- One of the highlights of the year was our founder and Chair Mrs Dawn McConnell was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) from His Majesty King Charles III. Dawn received the Honour in recognition of the work she did in establishing Hope House and to bring the charity to where it is today.
- The Charity was also honoured to receive another award - Dawn and founder member Mr Roy McConnell were presented with the 'Points of Lights Award' by the former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. This award is given by the UK Prime Minister to recognise outstanding individual volunteers - people who are making a real change in their communities.

We are very proud of all these achievements and building on the honour of Hope House receiving our late Queens Award in 2022.

- Hope House was delighted to be chosen by two organisations as their 'Charity of the Year', they were:
 - Lady Captains Charity for Larne Golf Club
 - President's Captains Charity for Cairndhu Golf Club
- There was a significant increase in funds raised during the year due to Hope House being supported by many of our local businesses, such as Spar, Tesco, SuperValu, Eurospar, and also by local Schools & Sports Clubs. We applaud all our fundraisers, sponsors and businesses, and because of these collective endeavours - such as cycle rides, mountain climbs, marathons, swimathons and sponsored walks, this has helped to make this a very successful year.
- One of the developments this year has been to earmark new space that will give us two new purpose-built rooms. This will hopefully enable us to extend our services greatly and provide some much-needed office space. After the year end, we were delighted to obtain planning approval and hope to have this work completed by late 2024.
- The number of people accessing our service has grown significantly. We were able to provide 342 guests with recuperation breaks due to the addition of the Alan Baillie Lodge and the many contacts we have built with social workers, Cancer Centres, specialist nurses and Community nurses, e.g. Marie Currie, NI Hospice, and MacMillan. Because of the improved facilities we now provide, we have been able to offer more recuperation breaks to people who have received a terminal diagnosis.

For the family, carers and friends of patients - Hope House offers respite and peace, knowing that their loved-one is in a safe environment.

The facilities provide a comfortable and restful break in a beautiful setting, therefore creating a sense of calmness, hope and wellbeing.

Hope House is managed by local volunteers, all of whom have been affected by cancer. These volunteers offer their services FREE - meeting and greeting, providing transport, awareness raising, and fundraising etc.

Hope House helps very vulnerable individuals cope with their cancer journey. The growing demand for its services demonstrates the value placed on the services we provide. Hope House has had a significant impact in improving the lives of adults affected by cancer in Northern Ireland.

We regularly receive lovely letters and cards from families thanking us for the use of the Hope House facilities.

These notes from a very grateful service users really demonstrates all that we stand for and strive to achieve at Hope House:-

From Jane

"Myself & my husband have just had the most amazing, relaxed & soulful time at this outstanding house - HOPE is just what I needed following my diagnosis of breast cancer in June - surgery followed with chemotherapy & currently I am undergoing radiotherapy treatment.

This home provides a secure loving environment to aid healing & give adults the exclusive time they need at such a heartbreaking time in their life.

I cannot thank the team at Hope House enough for all they have done for me & my husband providing a warm, beautiful environment for us both to relax in & just take time to process all we have gone through as a family - Dawn is an inspiration to anyone who is lucky enough to meet her. Her passion & sheer determination to help others knows no bounds & during our stay at this beautiful home we felt the love from it & I personally felt it was hugging me & inspiring me on with positivity to enable me the strength to continue on my path.

A personal huge thank you to all who made this vision a reality & enabled us to avail of the time as a couple. We have 5 children & to just be able to reflect on my diagnosis & path so far together just us away was the heart-warming I needed to spur me on through my battle - thank you all so much."


Jane x

From Karen

"Sadly, my beloved husband passed away this year after a long battle with cancer.

We were extremely blessed to have found Hope House.

This amazing resource helped Dessie and me cope with the daily struggle and challenges facing us on our journey of managing our daily life with a cancer diagnosis.

Hope house provided a sanctuary for us, we found peace and tranquillity in this very special place in Browns bay. 

From the minute we arrived in Hope House until returning home, life was stress free and allowed us time together to make more very important memories.

We will never be able to thank everyone enough at hope house for providing this very unique facility.

Everyone will have a very individual story when they visit this special place, it was always our sanctuary and gave us so much strength"

Thank you for the precious memories."

Karen

This year we said goodbye to two of our members, Trustee Mr Jonathan Ogilby and Secretary Mrs Debbie Lennon who served the charity so well over the last five years.

We are so grateful and thankful to them both and MIS Insurance Group for their business advice, guidance, and funding support that has helped us grow the charity.

We were delighted to welcome two new Trustees to our board, Mr Sam McCullough and Joan Crothers into the roles of Treasurer and Secretary respectively, as we seek to implement the new strategies needed for the development and growth of Hope House.

Our heartfelt thanks to Mr Colin Stewart of Guardian Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors for their ongoing support during 2023.

Financial Review

In 2023 income was £104,715 (2022 £105,688). Funds were raised through community fundraising, events, and donations from groups and individuals. We are actively seeking additional funding streams to maintain and build on the services we provide. At the year end, the charity had funds of £226,911 (2022 - £172,896) and no debt.



Dawn McConnell BEM

Founder Trustee – Hope House

16/10/2024

Registered Charity No 100516

Hope House

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100516

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Hope House Ireland

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

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

It is 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 Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether any 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.

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

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

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

Independent 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.

Signed:

 R. Colin Stewart.

Colin Stewart FCA

Relevant professional qualification or body:

FCA – Fellow of Chartered Accountants Ireland

Address:

Guardian Chartered Accountants
2 William Street
Newtownards
Co Down
BT23 4AH

Date: 16 / 10 / 2024

Hope House

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100516

Accounts

Registered charity
NIC100516

Hope House Ireland

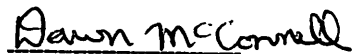
Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

Hope House Ireland

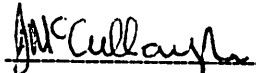
Statement of assets & liabilities as at 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
<u>1. Bank Accounts & cash</u>		
Current account	109,723	56,136
Investment account	9,192	61,666
PayPal account	1,477	1,433
<u>Total bank & cash</u>	<u>120,392</u>	<u>119,235</u>
<u>2. Fixed assets</u>	£	£
Property	324,636	215,000
Fixtures & fittings	8,437	8,437
	<u>333,073</u>	<u>223,437</u>
<u>3. Reconciliation of fund balances</u>	£	£
Unrestricted funds	<u>453,465</u>	<u>342,672</u>
<u>Represented by</u>		
Bank & cash balances	120,392	119,235
Fixed assets	333,073	223,437
	<u>453,465</u>	<u>342,672</u>

These accounts were approved by the trustees on _____ and are signed on their behalf by:



Dawn McConnell



Jacqueline McCullough

Hope House

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100516

Annual report

Hope House
Registration Number: NIC100516
Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2021

Structure, Governance and Management

Hope House Ireland is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and is governed by the terms of its constitution.

The Charity consists of Volunteers, Members and Trustees.

Individuals wishing to be involved with the operation of the charity will normally serve as a volunteer for a minimum of 12 months after which they may be invited to become a member of the charity.

Trustees will be elected from the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

The Trustees who served during the year were:

- Dawn McConnell
- Roy McConnell
- Jaqueline McCullough
- Jonathan Ogilby

Objectives

The Objectives of Hope House are to provide rest, recuperation and support to members of the Northern Ireland public who have received a cancer diagnosis and their families and carers.

We provide:

- Free accommodation in our house in Browns Bay, Islandmagee. The house and its seafront location enhance physical and emotional wellbeing, reduce stress and allow cancer sufferers to feel supported, cared for and valued.
- Respite for family and carers whilst knowing their loved one are in a safe, comfortable and relaxing location.
- Engagement with the local Cancer Charities such as Macmillan Cancer Care and Marie Curie.

Hope House is located by the sea and is a sanctuary in the storm of a cancer diagnosis.

Achievements

We have had many achievements this year despite Covid which continued to bring many challenges but we are delighted to have navigated very well. We purchased a fogging machine in November 2020 which is used between every booking. All of our guests have commented on how confident they have felt staying with us and had peace of mind that all regulations were being adhered to. Our housekeeper goes above and beyond to ensure the very highest standard of cleanliness is achieved for every guest, giving many voluntary hours on top of her paid time.

We were delighted to be able to continue with our services whilst many other cancer services had to close. This was especially appreciated by the terminally ill patients and their families for providing them with this support at a time when so little was available to them. We have received numerous testimonies and thank you letters from families saying how grateful they were to us for helping make their relatives last days precious by giving them quality time away from hospitals.

This year was particularly hard for our team as we felt the personal pain of losing a very special person. We met Lyndsey five years ago at the start of her cancer journey along with her husband Thomas and they became very dear friends & avid fundraisers for Hope House. It has been a privilege and honour to have been able to walk alongside them offering them much needed support at various stages of Lyndey's journey. When Cancer Focus was making a book of her memories and asked where her favourite place was, she replied that it was "Hope House". We can place this comment from Lyndsey on our list of greatest achievements knowing that we made it possible for her to spend her last days at Hope House with her young family making memories in her favourite place. She will be greatly missed by us all and Lyndsey's story mirrors the effect that Hope House has had on many of our visitors this year.

We have continued this year with providing welcome packs of flowers and small gifts to our guests and where we know there is a financial need, we have also provided food vouchers.

Probably our biggest achievement this year was the addition of a fabulous second accommodation at the Browns Bay site which allows us to provide disabled access to those who couldn't navigate the stairs in the cottage. The work commenced in February to renovate the existing garage and we quietly opened the doors of the Alan Baillie Lodge in December thanks to our wonderful building team. Our Trustee, Jonathan Ogilby oversaw this project, giving a huge amount of his time and expertise totally on a voluntary basis. We were delighted to have a family stay in the new Lodge over Christmas providing them with gifts, a turkey & a food hamper.

Despite closing for 10 weeks due to the building works, we still managed to provide 210 people with a recuperation stay at Hope House between October 2020 to October 2021.

In June, we were chosen to be the beneficiary of £14,000 from local cancer charity 1in3 Cancer Support Group which was closing its doors. They wanted their remaining funds to go to a local charity that would be able to carry on with their great work within the community

so they chose us. We were truly honoured to receive this wonderful contribution to our new Lodge and the provision this would make to cancer patients. Also in June, our Chairperson Dawn McConnell was invited to speak at Carrickfergus Rotary Club where Jackie Stewart, OBE & Deputy Lieutenant of County Antrim was in attendance. Jackie was so impressed with what we were doing that she visited us in August to tell us that she was nominating our team to receive a Queens Award for Voluntary Service! The nomination alone is a fabulous honour and recognition of the work that we do.

In September, Dawn found out that she had also been nominated for a Pride of Britain Award for community service! Dawn was one of four finalists in the regional contest and came a very close second place. This provided us with a platform to share our work on UTV Live and following the publicity have been inundated with applications from palliative care patients.

We continued to enjoy guidance and support from MIS Claims, our long term sponsor, throughout 2021.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees of Hope House confirm that they have complied with their duty to have regard to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has dictated the activities of Hope House in the Year to the 31ST December 2021.

The services provided by Hope House are available free of charge to any individual or family member who has been affected by Cancer.

Future Objectives

Due to the nature of the illness that our guests suffer from, it is a sad reality that some guests are unable to use our service due to the long waiting list.

It is our aim of the Trustees to expand the capacity of the service and acknowledge that this will require the purchase / construction of an additional property in due course.

Financial Review

The Charity remains in a strong financial position and enjoyed an income of £151,632 throughout the financial year.

This income was not only used to pay for the day to day running of the Charity but also to finance the completion of our second property.

The total cash holdings have risen from £119,235 at the end of 2020 to £120,392 at the end of 2021.

The work of Hope House can only happen with the financial support of everyone who donates to the charity each year. The Trustees would like to recognise and thank each and every individual who have generously supported cancer patients through the work of Hope House.

The Trustees of Hope House will continue to seek additional funding streams to allow the Charity to increase its capacity and help more Cancer Patients than ever before.

Service User Comments

The following are examples of the feed back that has been left by our guests -

I was exhausted when I arrived at Hope House but after just one night in this enchanting place I awoke refreshed. In great need of the private family time this home provided, the place surrounds you with tranquillity and peace. It is inspirational and should be used as a template across Northern Ireland for the huge number of people who are suffering due to a cancer diagnosis.

I can truly say this place is steeped in a peace that enables you to feel all your worries and cares wash away as you gaze out at the beautiful sea views. I don't think you realise the massive impact you are making to many people's lives, it is such a wonderful place to retreat from the overwhelming impact of chemotherapy treatments and constant hospital appointments.

Thank you for providing such a valuable place.

Thank you for coming up with this wonderful project that has been beneficial to so many people.

Over the last few years stress and anxiety have been with us daily due to the battle with cancer.

To be able to leave that behind even for a short while is a gift that money cannot buy. We are truly grateful to have had this special time of renewal that has helped us to gain the strength we need for the journey ahead.

Principal Operating Address

The operating Address of the Charity is:

1 Browns Bay Drive

Islandmagee

BT40

This Trustees annual report was approved on ##### and signed on behalf of the board of Trustees by:

.....*Dawn McConnell*.....

Dawn McConnell

.....*Jonathan Ogilby*.....

Jonathan Ogilby

Hope House

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100516

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Hope House Ireland

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

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Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent 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.

Signed:

James Caldwell

James A Caldwell FCA

Relevant professional qualification or body:

FCA – Fellow of Chartered Accountants Ireland

Address:

Guardian Chartered Accountants
2 William Street
Newtownards
Co Down
BT23 4AH

Date: *12 October 2022*