

Hope House Ireland

Charity Reference and Administrative Details

Year Ended 31 December 2024

Charity registration number

NIC100516

Trustees

Dawn McConnell
Roy McConnell
Jacqueline McCullough
Sam McCullough
Louise McGreevey

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 2024

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

Louise McGreevey

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 enhance physical and emotional wellbeing - reducing stress, enabling our service users to feel supported, cared for, and valued at a very vulnerable time, bringing hope to cope.
- 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 great highlights this year was to see the start of the building of our new HOPE Hub. This will provide us with two new rooms which will give us a very much needed office space and a multi-purpose room that will enable us to increase the services we offer to clients.

The effort needed to manage Hope House had increased significantly this year, due to the growth of the charity and the number of clients who exceeded our recuperation breaks this year, rising from 342 to 530, an almost 200 increases from the previous year confirmed. It was decided that we now urgently need a fulltime employee based on site to enable the smooth running of our operations as we seek to further develop the services we provide.

Roy and I were also honoured to receive an invitation to Downing St to attend the 'Celebration of Culture of Northern Ireland' because of the 'Points of Lights' award we had received earlier in the year, and we also had an invite to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace but sadly due to my ongoing health issues we were unable to attend.

We have seen a significant increase in our fundraising this year due to the many families from across Northern Ireland who used our service and wanted to help support others to benefit in the same way from our unique recuperation breaks. And we are delighted to see many health professionals within the Northern Ireland trusts now promoting our service to cancer patients in their areas.

We were delighted to have been one of the 5 charities that were chosen by the GAA to receive £2,540 from their marathon fundraising in recognition of the experience of one of their members who was a guest in Hope House before her passing.

We also received funds from Belfast International Airport this year and we were also chosen as the Music and Mind charity to receive funds from there 24hr cyclotrons. Also, we had entrants in 3 different marathons this year and the Whitehead community centre chose us as their summer food festival charity, along with the A2 Aces Scooter Club's ride out.

We were also thrilled to have been chosen as the charity of the year for:

Rotary Club Larne

Solicitors – McCartan Turkington Breen

Legalese Riding School

We are so grateful to all the many Hope House Champions who have fundraised and made donations, as it is only because of the generosity and great kindness that we receive from the public, that we can continue to develop and deliver our services.

The amount of terminally ill people that are accessing our service has grown significantly. This is due to the many new contacts we now have with Social Workers in many of the hospitals and in Community Nursing across Northern Ireland. Also, referrals from Marie Currie, NI Hospice, MacMillan, and Specialist Nurses.

The increased fundraising, we have received this year, continues to show how the people who have used our service has appreciated and benefited from the therapeutic breaks that we have provided to help them make precious memories together. We have seen a significant increase in the many family members and friends, putting on fundraising events such as, cycle rides, mountain climbs, marathon's, swimathon's and sponsor walks.

Our service continues to receive the support of our local businesses, Spar, Tesco, Super Value and Eurospar. We have also had many more School and Sport Clubs supporting us this year.

We regularly receive lovely letters and cards from our services users expressing how much our support meant to them. Please see the following for a few examples:

Guest comments

From Joan

"Thank you all for giving Paddy and I the opportunity to spend time at the Lodge. Words seem inadequate to describe how incredible your kindness towards us has been. From the moment you responded to us, we received the warmest of welcomes, our hearts and spirits have been lifted.

The cancer journey as you know only too well, can zap the body, mind and heart. Dark days overwhelm. However, the experience of Hope House shines a beacon of hope that gives a boost to keep on going and to have hope and positive expectations.

The Lodge has enveloped us with love, the breath-taking scenery has calmed our troubled minds the rhythms of the waves has provided a sense of perception that one can move through whatever is to be and to have trust that there is always hope.

Hope House is such an amazing place, but it also is an invitation to enter into a state of being – for this we are truly grateful and thankful. Angels manifest themselves in different ways and each of you has been our angel of comfort and solace when the past months have been so tough. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts".

Joan x

From Emma

"Chemotherapy takes it out of you, and I was feeling really quite poorly. However, the weekend was just what I needed.

When you're living with cancer, you have to juggle your health issues, your life at home, all the hospital appointments, and, for me, putting on a brave face in front of my daughter.

Having some time at Hope House meant I didn't have anything else to worry about for those four days except my health. It also gave me the chance to have conversations with my husband that we simply hadn't had the opportunity to have in recent weeks.

I used the stay as a mental reset, reflecting on my chemotherapy journey and preparing for my upcoming surgery, which removed the cancer

One of my biggest worries was finances, because you just don't know what's around the corner, and that means you don't want to commit any money towards a short break.

I was so proud to complete a sponsored fundraising walk as I wanted to give something back to the charity to enable them to continue providing recuperation breaks for free.

Emma

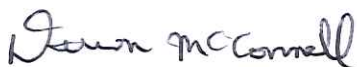
My grateful thanks go to everyone involved with our amazing charity and our success is the result of the collective endeavour that we all continually commit too.

I applaud all our Fundraisers, Sponsors and Businesses who have helped to make this another very successful year.

Well Done Team Hope!!

Financial Review

In 2024 income was £136,839 (£105,351). 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 £234,146 (2023 - £226,911) and no debt.



Dawn McConnell BEM

Date: 18 September 2025

Founder Trustee – Hope House

Registered Charity No 100516