

# South East Fermanagh Foundation

## Director's and Trustees Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Directors of the charitable company (who are also Trustees for the purposes of charity law) present their annual report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are included on page 2 of the Accounts.

The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

### **Structure, governance, and management Constitution**

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 11 March 2011. It is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under charity number NIC 100538. The company is a private limited company by guarantee without share capital use of 'Limited' exemption. The charity is also known as SEFF.

### **Purposes of the Charity**

The main purposes are:

To represent and lobby on behalf of the innocent victims and survivors of terrorism in effecting positive change for such individuals around the areas of Truth, Justice, Acknowledgement, and overall Service provision.

To develop services and programmes which improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the innocent victims and survivors of terrorism.

To develop Transgenerational/Youth services which seek to educate society as to the on-going legacy of 40 plus years of terrorism.

To improve the financial circumstances of innocent victims and survivors of terrorism through tailored welfare services and skills-based programmes.

To develop strategic partnerships with community/voluntary/statutory sector-based organisations for the purpose of ensuring quality and sustainable services are provided for the innocent victims and survivors of terrorism.

To offer services in an accessible, localised manner which will enable the individual needs of innocent victims and survivors of terrorism to be best met.

To provide opportunities for Volunteers to develop their skills, so enabling them to be an intrinsic part of the overall service delivery model within SEFF

To empower those whom we support to make the transition from 'Victim' to 'Survivor' as part of an overall process of individual healing and recovery.

To strengthen the organisation's ties within the broader community and to develop and/or participate in initiatives which help deliver a Shared Future.

### **Organisational Structure and Decision Making**

The governance of the charitable company is the responsibility of the Directors who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association. Directors are appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Public Benefit**

The Directors and Trustees believe that both our purposes and the activities undertaken in this last financial year satisfy the public benefit requirement. These are noted in pages 4 to 21.

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## Statement of Public Benefit

The main public benefits the charity aims to achieve are:

The prevention or relief of poverty is one of the charity's main purpose. Through offering a Welfare/Benefits and Welfare Appeals advice service and other complementary interventions the organisation has stayed true to this objective. The inclusion of skills-based Training programmes and the work of Health and Wellbeing Caseworkers also contributes towards this objective. The Public benefit achieved via this is that levels of financial/economic deprivation faced by victims/survivors is reduced.

The advancement of education. SEFF offers a wide range of services and programmes which strive to advance the Education-based opportunities of beneficiaries. Such services include offering educational and recreational based courses and classes, Research and Development, the establishment of Border Trails, our 'Troubles Educational Resource pack' for Schools etc. SEFF also engages with local Schools through a range of good relations and culturally based programmes as well as Citizenship-based activities and initiatives. The Public benefit achieved via the advancement of education is the empowerment of victims/survivors and their increased awareness to play an active role within wider, mainstream society.

The advancement of health or the saving of lives. SEFF seeks to advance the Mental Health and emotional wellbeing of its' beneficiaries via offering services such as Counselling, Peer to Peer Support, Telephone calling services, Befriending, Stress Management, Active and Healthy living Programmes, provision of a support service involving outreach health and wellbeing caseworkers and other advice seminars etc. All SEFF's programmes and services are delivered with the promotion of positive health and wellbeing at their heart, and the wellbeing of the individual. The public benefit achieved is the facilitation of victims/survivors to become happier, healthier, and more fulfilled citizens. SEFF's overall Programme runs under the mission - The Living, not Existing Project. In plain speak this means; we aim to support victims/survivors to reach a point where they enjoy a quality of life/living as opposed to merely having an existence.

The advancement of citizenship or community development. SEFF offers a range of programmes spiralling Summer Schools, Good Relations-themed identity and culture initiatives, engagement with the Churches, Schools, and wider civic Society. The Public benefit achieved is the fostering of a strong community spirit and the empowerment of victims/survivors and other public beneficiaries to lead active and healthy lives.

The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage, or science. Through the provision of courses, seminars, our community allotments project, production of memorial quilts, photography classes, art pieces etc. We also have a wide range of historical talks which promote our rich heritage. As stated above the organisation also offers a wide variety of cultural-themed interventions connecting with key dates in the year i.e. St Patrick's Day, Burns Night etc. The Public benefit obtained is the increased capacity of victims/survivors and the wider community whereby they have an appreciation for the divergence of cultures which comprise in Northern Ireland. Ultimately this has a knock-on benefit for the objective of building Peace within this Society.

The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity. A core aspect of SEFF's work is the furtherance of the human rights of the innocent victims and survivors of terrorism and other 'Troubles related violence.' SEFF pursues opportunities to have issues raised through various strategies ensuring that policy is developed in accordance with the needs of those to which it primarily affects. The organisation promotes equality and reconciliation and runs a range of programmes/services (including cross-border and International-themed projects) in advancing this objective. SEFF operates an Advocacy Support Service, enables victims/survivors to share their testimony, oral history projects, production of books and other literature plus reports. We continue to build on our partnership working with groups based internationally i.e. COVITE, Spain, 11M group, Spain and CARSA Ministries, Rwanda. We have organised a range of webinars and an in person seminar - Conversation with the Churches, building on from our Rwanda Project.

The public benefit obtained is that a historically marginalised group of victims/survivors are supported in having their rights represented and furthered, reducing social inequalities. Through providing Conflict Resolution and

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Reconciliation-based Programmes there is also a substantive public benefit for victims/survivors and the wider community in the furtherance of a Peaceful and more cohesive Society.

The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship, or other disadvantages. SEFF strives to work in meeting the requirements of section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act i.e. supporting under-represented groups and has developed a range of initiatives to support such affected individuals. The organisation has a range of Youth, Older people, disability-based supports, and interventions in operation. The groups raison d'être is the support of those who are vulnerable, isolated, marginalised and who have often experienced profound acts of injustice. As well as supporting its' core beneficiary constituency, SEFF also has supported members of the broader community, thus contributing towards the building of a resilient and resourced community. The Public benefit is the promotion of social inclusion and the increased involvement of under-represented groups which in turn has the impact of increasing levels of active citizenship. There is no private benefit or harm from the purposes.

### Objectives and Activities

The company's objects as noted above are specifically restricted to the relief of poverty, the advancement of education, the preservation and protection of health, the promotion of equality and diversity and the promotion of the benefit of victims and survivors of terrorism and other Troubles related violence and other inhabitants of local communities ("hereinafter called the beneficiaries") in particular, but not exclusively from the South East Fermanagh Area and its environs in County Fermanagh and wider Northern Ireland (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") without distinction of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education, to advocate, promote and foster a community spirit in favour of equality and diversity 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 and in particular:

- (a) to foster an atmosphere of mutual support and encouragement among people suffering from the effects of bereavement, injury or trauma as a direct or indirect result of the 'Troubles' in the area of benefit, and their relatives, and people in communities so affected;
- (b) to assist individuals and families affected by the 'Troubles' to address their own personal experiences of hurt, loss and trauma by communicating their experiences, to support those seeking truth, justice and public acknowledgement of what has happened, and provide opportunities for remembrance and mourning;
- (c) to alleviate suffering and trauma by the provision of a community-based drop-in-centre or centres offering emotional support and counselling services to individuals in need;
- (d) to develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community of the area of benefit in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society;
- (e) to advance education and raise public awareness of the effects of Terrorism and sectarianism violence in the area of benefit on individuals and communities;
- (f) to advance any other exclusively charitable purpose as the directors, may from time to time, decide in accordance with the law of the charity.

### Risk Management

The Directors have assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed, in particular those related to operations and finances, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. This can be evidenced through the development and adoption of a fresh Needs Analysis and Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

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## Financial Review

The charitable company receives its income mainly from grants and donations. The expenses of the charity were incurred in the running, staff, and programme costs of the projects.

The results for the year are set out in detail on pages 30 to 38. The charitable company returned a net income for the year of £63,041 (2023 – net income of £43,652).


At 31st March 2024 the total funds of the charity amounted to £258,287 (2023 - £195,246) comprising restricted funds of (£7,277) and unrestricted funds of £265,734. The Directors expect to apply the reserves to continue and expand the work of the charitable company.

By order of the Trustees



Director and Trustee  
Mr E Brown

23/10/24  
Date



Director and Trustee  
Mrs S Haire

23/10/24  
Date