

ENGAGE WITH AGE

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100718

Details

Status Received

Company number [39665](#)

Registered 2015-01-16

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

Contact

Address East Belfast Network Centre
55 Templemore Avenue
Belfast
BT5 4fp
BT5 4FP

Phone 02890 735696

Email info@engagewithage.org.uk

Website www.engagewithage.org.uk

Activities

Purposes: The purposes of Engage With Age are to work in partnership with organisations which promote health, wellbeing, interests and alleviate loneliness, isolation and exclusion of the aged living within Greater Belfast (the area of benefit) without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, caring responsibilities, race, or political religious or other opinions by associating together the said inhabitants, local authorities, public agencies, and voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to relieve poverty, preserve and protect health, advance education with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said beneficiaries.

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

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information, Arts, Community development, Education/training, Welfare/benevolent

Who the charity helps: Adult training, Mental health, Older people, Voluntary and community sector, Volunteers

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£368,449	£336,599	£-16,962	8

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anne Marie Mccartney		
Charlie Bradford-Gibbs		
Christina Johnston		
Deborah Wilkinson		
Gillian Graham		
Gillian Mcevoy		
John Wisoner		
Leigh Greer		
Margy Washbrook		
Marianne Skelcher		
Mrs Anne Greenan		

ENGAGE WITH AGE

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100718

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI039665
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 100718

Engage with Age
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
31 March 2025

Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Engage with Age
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
Year ended 31 March 2025

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Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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 31 March 2025.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Engage with Age
Charity registration number	100718
Company registration number	NI039665
Principal office and registered office	East Belfast Network Centre 55 Templemore Avenue Belfast BT5 4FP

The trustees

A Greenan	
GS McEvoy	
G Graham	(Appointed 28 November 2024)
AL Greer	
RJ Hagan	(Resigned 28 November 2024)
CS Hyndman	
F Hughes	
J McEwan	(Resigned 28 November 2024)
Z Rowe	(Resigned 28 November 2024)
M Skelcher	
D Wilkinson	
AM McCartney	
P Newman	
J Wisoner	(Appointed 28 November 2024)

Company secretary Michelle Bolton

Auditor Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

Structure, governance and management

Background to Engage with Age:

Engage with Age (EWA) was established as a charity and a company limited by guarantee in November 2000. EWA is a community development organisation working to empower and support older people.

Engage with Age seeks to enable sustainable benefits for older people and the community. It operates multi-agency partnerships to ensure joined up and collaborative working. Partnerships are active from a governance level down to operational and daily activities.

Governance and Management:

Engage with Age is governed by a Board of Trustees that meets quarterly. Trustees come from a range of older people's and community organisations, older people's forums, as well individuals from the business, public sector and individual older people. The Board is supported by a Finance and Operations Sub-Group that meets six times per year, and a Governance Committee that supports the role and responsibilities of Trustees and CEO.

The management of Engage with Age formally reports to the Board and the Finance and Operations Committee and has delegated responsibility for delivering the company's programme of work at an operational level. The staff team is composed of a CEO, Operations Manager, and Development Officers that deliver the company's programmes. Engage with Age has sub-contracted an external accountancy company to undertake its finance administration and engages several other service providers.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

Objectives and activities

As described in the Articles and Memorandum of Association, Engage with Age's objects ('Objects') are to promote the health, wellbeing, interests and alleviate loneliness, isolation and exclusion of older people living in Northern Ireland,(the area of benefit) without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, caring responsibilities, race, or political, religious, or other opinions by associating together the said inhabitants, local authorities, public agencies and voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to relieve poverty, preserve and protect health, advance education with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said beneficiaries.

Strategic Planning 2023-26

Engage with Age held several workshops with key stakeholders and older people to review its work, discuss its performance, and plan for the future. These workshops affirmed the value and importance of Engage with Age's existing activities. Engage with Age provides unique opportunities for older people to engage in. However gaps in service provision still exist and can be piecemeal at times, depending on funding streams available. Throughout the 2023-26 period Engage with Age will review opportunities to reach out to more older people, and during the period will seek to expand its activities in a sustainable way and in partnership with other stakeholders and agencies.

Company Mission

Through the strategic planning process, Engage with Age refined its purpose confirming that the company's mission is "to empower older people to live happy, healthy, independent and connected lives".

Values

Our values guide us in our work and our relationships. They guide our behaviour, our attitudes, the decisions we make and what we expect from one another. Engage with Age values are based on community development principles. We put older people at the centre of all that we do, believing in self-determination and the right to make their own choices.

Our values, which were revised and renewed during the Strategic Planning process, are: Being older people-led; Empowering older people; Treating everyone with respect; Working closely with other organisations; Ensuring everyone has the right to take part in stimulating activities and have fun.

Engage with Age is committed to working in partnership, believing in the strength of the contribution of many agencies, of people and of volunteers working collaboratively to make a real difference.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance

For the 2023-26 period, Engage with Age has revised its strategic aims, seeking to support the lives of older people and make communities stronger. Engage with Age's work builds from working with individuals through to affecting wider society.

The four main strategic aims for 2023-26 are:

1. To empower older people to reduce the impact of loneliness and isolation on peer individuals within their communities and neighbourhoods.
2. To empower older people to improve their own health and wellbeing.
3. To strengthen communities and neighbourhoods by supporting and empowering older people's groups and forums.
4. To empower older people so they can shape matters that affect their lives.

These strategic aims work towards a vision of society in which all older people are respected, valued and listened to in society, and actively involved in shaping the world.

Addressing the impact of Isolation and Loneliness on older people

Engage with Age seeks to empower older people to address the impact of loneliness and isolation on peer individuals within their communities and neighbourhoods. EWA has decades of experience addressing loneliness. The current programme supporting this aim is The PAL Project. The programme mixes activity groups and telephone befriending to support lonely older people. Older people take a leading role in volunteering, running groups, and providing telephone-based befriending.

The programme had been delivered on a part-time basis and in March 2023 EWA successfully raised funds from the Lottery Community Fund for a three-year programme providing full-time staff for activity groups and befriending. A full-time activity groups Development Officer was appointed in October 2023, and part-time job share Development Officers for telephone befriending were appointed in November 2023.

This programme refined its connections for recruiting older people who have experienced loneliness within the Health and Age sectors. The operation and methods were also reviewed and refined. The PAL Programme continues to be delivered in partnership with a wide range of organisations. Every week activity groups meet and up to 60 telephone befriending calls are made by volunteers. A significant volunteering campaign took place in February and March in 2025, this included promotion internally with our existing participants and externally through other organisations. We also advertised using paid social media ads in June 2025. By the end of the reporting period increased numbers of Befriendees were being supported by new Befrienders, and new activity groups were started. Existing activity groups were also strengthened and revitalised, and participant numbers increased significantly.

EWA also took a leading role in representing the needs of older people at sector level as a member of the Action Committee for the NI Assembly All Party Group on Loneliness and Isolation, and the Belfast City Council City-Wide Group on Loneliness and Isolation. In this reporting period there were approximately 10,000 engagements at activity groups and over 2,500 telephone befriending phone calls made.

Promoting good physical and mental health

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

Engage with Age seeks to empower older people to improve their own Health and Wellbeing.

EWA health promotion programmes in South and East Belfast all exceeded the targets set by the Public Health Agency and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. A significant range of physical health and mental health programmes operated throughout east and south Belfast. Emphasis was placed on encouraging older people to re-engage with their communities and EWA supported efforts to grow membership for local groups. EWA worked in partnership with local health agencies to identify gaps in provision, meaning that EWA resources were deployed in neighbourhoods experiencing health inequalities with poor access to services for older people, this included warm packs being distributed to participants. Partnerships with community centres and supported housing suppliers developed, offering a range of social engagement, creative activities, and increasing skills and knowledge of local health opportunities. Older people also had the opportunity to report to the older people's parliament. Opportunities for older people and health messages were promoted directly through our East and South Belfast Programmes with over 50 health initiatives publicised throughout the year.

EWA participants were supported to have their voice heard in key campaigns in the year, such as Anti-poverty consultation, senior voices input into the emergency department, charity commissioned visit to Engage with Age office and meet participants, consultations on nursing equipment to name a few. In 2024/25, over 4,500 people benefitted from health improvement initiatives, participating in over 300 activities.

Supporting Older People's Groups and Forums

Engage with Age aims to strengthen communities and neighbourhoods by supporting and empowering older people's groups and forums.

2024/25 has seen continued strengthening of groups as a direct result of a mentoring style of capacity building support provided by EWA. This approach emphasised encouraging participation and making groups more interesting and attractive to members. EWA took over 70 sessions that offered new programme ideas, developed leaders, and empowered groups to manage their affairs effectively. EWA has continued to conduct annual health checks for groups in East and South Belfast and continued collaborative work between different groups has increased confidence and inter-community links. Engagement levels were double the target number required by our funder Belfast City Council.

EWA's support of Older People's Forums continued with member numbers at the East and South Belfast Forums increasing. All forums undertook training to improve their operation, and throughout the year over 30 different public agencies learned of the needs of older people.

Supporting the voice of older people to influence matters that affect them

Engage with Age seeks to empower older people so they can shape matters that affect their lives. This aim was delivered in a range of ways throughout the year.

EWA supported the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum (G6) to represent the views of the forums and older people it supports across Belfast. The G6 delivered an Annual Action Plan campaigning on Fuel Poverty, Access to Transport, and Access to Health Services. In 2024-25, G6 actively promoted services and represented the views of older people to 37 organisations including the pensioners parliament in Stormont older people's voices and views, including a visit and view of the new central transport hub. EWA lead G6 members in key strategies effecting older people. Input into consultations included, the renters voice consultation, the BHSCT Health and Wellbeing booklet, Falls prevention uptake, Dementia clinics attended, Deaf blind UK support. They also helped shape care for the Elderly workshop, and involvement in the Positive Ageing Month activities lead by the Belfast

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

Age Friendly Coordinator.

The Dementia Friendly Artist in Residence programme continued engaging over 200 people affected by dementia with art exhibitions to audiences of over 20,000 people, including training to carers to have a lasting legacy to the work. Every month the PAL Gazette newspaper highlighted the views and creativity of older people to over 3,500 readers, and EWA produced the monthly Dementia Friendly East Belfast What's On Guide, promoting over 50 events and information articles every month.

Developing the Governance and Operation of Engage with Age

The ongoing business of governance and management of Engage with Age continued successfully throughout the reporting period. Every contract and funding agreement was fulfilled. Finances were managed effectively with income secured from a range of sources, some of which were new. In this period the charity secured £0.5 million of three-year funding from the Community Lottery Fund and Belfast City Council, providing significant stability for its work. Communications promoting our services increased significantly. The work of the Board of Trustees governing the corporate development of Engage with Age was furthered through the Governance and the Finance and Operations sub-committees. This activity included the initiation of a company-wide Governance Health Check, regular board meetings, and ongoing contact with staff. Within this period two new trustees were recruited to Engage with Age.

Summary

Engage with Age is a small but mighty organisation that continues to exceed expectations and deliver a big impact. In 2024/25, EWA provided over 15,000 opportunities for older people to take part in our activities, alongside an estimated 20,000 attendances at exhibitions and 10,000 online engagements. These impressive figures demonstrate a growing awareness of Engage with Age's profile and reach across the community.

This has been a successful and inspiring year, reflecting not only the dedication of our team and volunteers but also the increasing ambition of the organisation to grow, innovate, and make an even greater difference in the lives of older people across Belfast.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

Financial review

Engage with Age maintained support from key funders and raised income from new funders in 2024-2025. Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, the Public Health Agency, Belfast City Council, and Lottery Community maintained their support of Engage with age. Correspondingly, Engage with Age maintained strong control over expenditure. At the end of the financial year 31 March 2025 Engage with Age had total funds of £150,197 which is composed of an unrestricted fund of £82,447 and a restricted reserve of £67,750.

Reserves policy and going concern

Reserves are needed to bridge the timing gap between spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned temporary shortfalls in income should they arise. Holding adequate reserves safeguards the provision of our services in the event of unexpected significant financial pressures. Historically, Engage with Age had also built up its own unrestricted funds. The trustees have decided to allocate a fund of £11,737 to cover the survivability gap between income and expenditure for the 2024-2025 financial year budget (Designated Survivability Fund), and hold unrestricted reserves for winding up and running costs to the value of £70,710 (General Reserve Fund).

Engage with Age has established a policy whereby the funds it holds, which are not committed or invested in tangible assets, should be within 1-3 months expenditure. The target reserves range is between £30,000 – £90,000. Unrestricted reserves are freely available to spend, therefore excluding fixed assets and restricted reserves amounted to £69,103.

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).

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.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2025

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.

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 26 November 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



M Skelcher
Trustee

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age

Year ended 31 March 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Engage with Age (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK). Those standards require us to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC's) Ethical Standard for Auditors', in the circumstances set out in note 24 to the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the remuneration policies, key drivers for directors' remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether management were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether management have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and relevant internal specialists, including tax and valuations specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks in operation, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included ongoing compliance with the UK Companies Act and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental for their ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement (set out on page 7), the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK). Those standards require us to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC's) Ethical Standard for Auditors', in the circumstances set out in note 24 to the financial statements.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Paul Dolan FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

26 November 2025

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2025

		2025	2024		
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	18,688	–	18,688	2,621
Charitable activities	6	–	347,361	347,361	322,167
Other trading activities	7	1,400	1,000	2,400	3,045
Total income		<u>20,088</u>	<u>348,361</u>	<u>368,449</u>	<u>327,833</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	8,9	1,288	335,311	336,599	305,047
Total expenditure		<u>1,288</u>	<u>335,311</u>	<u>336,599</u>	<u>305,047</u>
Net income		<u>18,800</u>	<u>13,050</u>	<u>31,850</u>	<u>22,786</u>
Transfers between funds		(2,791)	2,791	–	–
Net movement in funds		<u>16,009</u>	<u>15,841</u>	<u>31,850</u>	<u>22,786</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		66,438	51,909	118,347	95,561
Total funds carried forward		<u>82,447</u>	<u>67,750</u>	<u>150,197</u>	<u>118,347</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 17 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Engage with Age
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Position
31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	15	1,607	2,932
Current assets			
Debtors	16	8,732	8,290
Cash at bank and in hand		156,820	121,816
		<u>165,552</u>	<u>130,106</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(16,962)</u>	<u>(14,691)</u>
Net current assets		<u>148,590</u>	<u>115,415</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>150,197</u>	<u>118,347</u>
Net assets		<u>150,197</u>	<u>118,347</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		67,750	51,909
Unrestricted funds		<u>82,447</u>	<u>66,438</u>
Total charity funds	20	<u>150,197</u>	<u>118,347</u>

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 26 November 2025, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



M Skelcher
Trustee

The notes on pages 17 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland and a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is East Belfast Network Centre, 55 Templemore Avenue, Belfast, BT5 4FP.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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 (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Tangible assets *(continued)*

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	-	20% straight line
Equipment	-	20% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by guarantee

Engage with Age is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Donations			
Donations	7,688	–	7,688
Grants			
CB and HH Taylor Trust	1,000	–	1,000
Esmee Mitchell Trust	4,000	–	4,000
Thompson Trust	3,000	–	3,000
Truemark Trust	3,000	–	3,000
	<u>18,688</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>18,688</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Donations	121	–	121
Grants			
CB and HH Taylor Trust	–	1,000	1,000
Esmee Mitchell Trust	–	–	–
Thompson Trust	–	1,500	1,500
Truemark Trust	–	–	–
	<u>121</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,621</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
DFEB Sales	–	–	100	100
Halifax	5,000	5,000	–	–
LFT Trust	7,500	7,500	–	–
Belfast City Council	32,143	32,143	36,529	36,529
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	57,091	57,091	53,255	53,255
Lottery Community fund	136,963	136,963	137,580	137,580
Public Health Agency	103,664	103,664	85,589	85,589
Arts Council NI	5,000	5,000	9,114	9,114
	<u>347,361</u>	<u>347,361</u>	<u>322,167</u>	<u>322,167</u>

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

7. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Other Income	<u>1,400</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>2,400</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Other Income	<u>–</u>	<u>3,045</u>	<u>3,045</u>

8. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Promote Health and Wellbeing	1,182	283,127	284,309
Support costs	106	52,184	52,290
	<u>1,288</u>	<u>335,311</u>	<u>336,599</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Promote Health and Wellbeing	19,412	247,209	266,621
Support costs	1,689	36,737	38,426
	<u>21,101</u>	<u>283,946</u>	<u>305,047</u>

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total funds 2025	Total fund 2024
	£	£	£	£
Promote Health and Wellbeing	284,309	49,399	333,708	301,923
Governance costs	–	2,891	2,891	3,124
	<u>284,309</u>	<u>52,290</u>	<u>336,599</u>	<u>305,047</u>

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

10. Analysis of support costs

	Analysis of Support Costs £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	31,532	31,532	24,320
Premises	6,004	6,004	5,641
General office	11,863	11,863	5,341
Finance costs	106	106	99
Governance costs	<u>2,785</u>	<u>2,785</u>	<u>3,025</u>
	<u>52,290</u>	<u>52,290</u>	<u>38,426</u>

11. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>1,325</u>	<u>1,288</u>

12. Auditors remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	<u>2,785</u>	<u>3,025</u>

13. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	184,146	142,660
Social security costs	10,476	7,376
Employer contributions to pension plans	<u>9,186</u>	<u>7,099</u>
	<u>203,808</u>	<u>157,135</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 9 (2024: 6).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2024: Nil).

Key Management Personnel

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the part time Director and Operations Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity total £58,941 (2024: £57,169)

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

14. Trustee remuneration and expenses

The Charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2024: £NIL). They were not reimbursed for travel expense during the year (2024: NIL). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024: £NIL).

15. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	18,641	13,878	32,519
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	18,641	10,946	29,587
Charge for the year	–	1,325	1,325
At 31 March 2025	18,641	12,271	30,912
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2025	–	1,607	1,607
At 31 March 2024	–	2,932	2,932

16. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	1,250	160
Prepayments and accrued income	7,482	8,130
	8,732	8,290

17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	5,569	5,109
Accruals and deferred income	7,478	7,290
Other creditors	3,915	2,292
	16,962	14,691

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

18. Deferred income

	2025	2024
	£	£
At 1 April 2024	4,445	4,293
Amount released to income	(4,445)	(4,293)
Amount deferred in year	4,693	4,445
At 31 March 2025	<u>4,693</u>	<u>4,445</u>

19. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £9,186 (2024: £7,099).

20. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2024	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated Fund (Note A)	11,737	–	–	–	11,737
General Funds (Note B)	54,701	20,088	(1,288)	(2,791)	70,710
	<u>66,438</u>	<u>20,088</u>	<u>(1,288)</u>	<u>(2,791)</u>	<u>82,447</u>

	At 1 April 2023	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated Fund (Note A)	11,737	–	–	–	11,737
General Funds (Note B)	76,095	121	(21,101)	(414)	54,701
	<u>87,832</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>(21,101)</u>	<u>(414)</u>	<u>66,438</u>

The Trustees have decided to allocate a fund of £11,737 to cover the sustainability gap between income and expenditure for the 2024-2025 financial year budget (Note A) and hold unrestricted designated reserves for winding up and running costs to the value of £54,701 (Note B)

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

20. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
BHSCT	–	57,091	(57,091)	–	–
Public Health Agency	–	103,664	(98,060)	–	5,604
Comic Relief	–	–	–	–	–
DFEB	–	2,000	(4,791)	2,791	–
Halifax	–	5,000	(5,000)	–	–
Thompson Trust	–	–	–	–	–
Belfast City Council	–	31,143	(31,143)	–	–
BCC- Medium	–	–	–	–	–
LFT	–	7,500	(5,883)	–	1,617
Arts Council NI	–	5,000	(4,952)	–	48
CB and HH Taylor Trust	1,000	–	–	–	1,000
Lottery Community Fund	50,909	136,963	(128,391)	–	59,481
	<u>51,909</u>	<u>348,361</u>	<u>(335,311)</u>	<u>2,791</u>	<u>67,750</u>

	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
BHSCT	–	53,255	(53,255)	–	–
Public Health Agency	2,072	85,589	(87,661)	–	–
Comic Relief	1,462	–	(1,462)	–	–
DFEB	3,195	2,985	(6,180)	–	–
Halifax	–	–	–	–	–
Thompson Trust	–	1,500	(1,500)	–	–
Belfast City Council	–	31,689	(31,689)	–	–
BCC- Medium	–	5,000	(5,000)	–	–
LFT	–	–	–	–	–
Arts Council NI	–	9,114	(9,528)	414	–
CB and HH Taylor Trust	1,000	1,000	(1,000)	–	1,000
Lottery Community Fund	–	137,580	(86,671)	–	50,909
	<u>7,729</u>	<u>327,712</u>	<u>(283,946)</u>	<u>414</u>	<u>51,909</u>

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,607	–	1,607
Current assets	88,965	76,587	165,552
Creditors less than 1 year	(8,125)	(8,837)	(16,962)
Net assets	<u>82,447</u>	<u>67,750</u>	<u>150,197</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	2,932	–	2,932
Current assets	72,614	57,492	130,106
Creditors less than 1 year	(9,108)	(5,583)	(14,691)
Net assets	<u>66,438</u>	<u>51,909</u>	<u>118,347</u>

22. Taxation

The Company is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to tax exemptions on income and profits in furtherance of the charity's primary objectives.

23. Contingencies

A contingent liability exists to repay grants and Trust monies received should certain conditions not be fulfilled by the charity. In the opinion of the Trustees, the terms of the Letters of Offers have been, or will be, complied with and no liability is expected.

24. Ethical standards

In common with many other businesses of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities and assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

Engage with Age
Company Limited by Guarantee
Management Information
Year ended 31 March 2025

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	7,688	121
CB and HH Taylor Trust	1,000	1,000
Esmee Mitchell Trust	4,000	–
Thompson Trust	3,000	1,500
Truemark Trust	3,000	–
	<u>18,688</u>	<u>2,621</u>
Charitable activities		
DFEB Sales	–	100
Halifax	5,000	–
LFT Trust	7,500	–
Belfast City Council	32,143	36,529
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	57,091	53,255
Lottery Community fund	136,963	137,580
Public Health Agency	103,664	85,589
Arts Council NI	5,000	9,114
	<u>347,361</u>	<u>322,167</u>
Other trading activities		
Other Income	<u>2,400</u>	<u>3,045</u>
Total income	<u>368,449</u>	<u>327,833</u>

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Promote Health and Wellbeing		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Wages & Salaries	155,373	120,369
Employers NIC	8,979	6,322
Pension Costs	7,924	6,124
Rent & Service Charge	11,586	10,887
Outsourcing Fees	11,736	14,278
Repairs & Cleaning	120	120
Insurance	687	604
Programme Costs	75,170	94,589
IT Support & Maintenance	4,910	1,468
Staff Travel	3,941	1,849
Consultancy	200	800
Telephone	1,689	1,369
Office Costs	–	1,200
Volunteer Expenses	36	–
Affiliation Fees	496	516
Publicity	1,462	6,126
	<u>284,309</u>	<u>266,621</u>
<i>Support costs</i>		
Wages & Salaries	28,773	22,291
Employers NIC	1,497	1,054
Pension Costs	1,262	975
Rent & Service Charge	6,004	5,641
Insurance	295	259
Staff Travel	207	97
Office Costs	7,711	1,560
Depreciation	1,325	1,288
Affiliation Fees	56	58
Sundries	2,269	2,079
	<u>49,399</u>	<u>35,302</u>
<i>Governance costs</i>		
Audit Fees	2,785	3,025
Bank Charges	106	99
	<u>2,891</u>	<u>3,124</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u><u>336,599</u></u>	<u><u>305,047</u></u>

ENGAGE WITH AGE

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100718

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI039665
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 100718

Engage with Age
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
31 March 2024

Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Engage with Age
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
Year ended 31 March 2024

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Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

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 31 March 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Engage with Age
Charity registration number 100718
Company registration number NI039665
Principal office and registered office East Belfast Network Centre
55 Templemore Avenue
Belfast
BT5 4FP

The trustees

A Greenan
GS McEvoy
NW Menhinick (Resigned 2 December 2023)
AP Barclay (Resigned 17 May 2023)
AL Greer
RJ Hagan
CS Hyndman
F Hughes
PA Matthews (Resigned 17 May 2023)
J McEwan
Z Rowe
M Skelcher
D Wilkinson (Appointed 7 February 2024)
AM McCartney (Appointed 8 February 2024)
P Newman (Appointed 2 December 2023)

Company secretary Eamon Quinn

Auditor Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, governance and management

Background to Engage with Age:

Engage with Age (EWA) was established as a charity and a company limited by guarantee in November 2000. EWA is a community development organisation working to empower and support older people.

Engage with Age seeks to enable sustainable benefits for older people and the community. It operates multi-agency partnerships to ensure joined-up and collaborative working. Partnerships are active from a governance level down to operational and daily activities.

Governance and Management:

Engage with Age is governed by a Board of Trustees that meets quarterly. Trustees come from a range of older people's and community organisations, older people's forums, as well individuals from the business, public sector and individual older people. The Board is supported by a Finance and Operations Sub-Group that meets six times per year, and a Governance Committee that supports the role and responsibilities of Trustees and Director.

The management of Engage with Age formally reports to the Board and the Finance and Operations Committee, and has delegated responsibility for delivering the company's programme of work at an operational level. The staff team is composed of a Director, Operations Manager, and Development Officers that deliver the company's programmes. Engage with Age has sub-contracted an external accountancy company to undertake its finance administration and engages a number of other service providers.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

As described in the Articles and Memorandum of Association, Engage with Age's objects ('Objects') are to promote the health, wellbeing, interests and alleviate loneliness, isolation and exclusion of older people living in Northern Ireland (the area of benefit) without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, caring responsibilities, race, or political, religious, or other opinions by associating together the said inhabitants, local authorities, public agencies and voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to relieve poverty, preserve and protect health, advance education with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said beneficiaries.

Strategic Planning 2023-26

In early 2023 Engage with Age held workshops with stake holders and older people to review its work, discuss its performance, and plan for the future. These workshops affirmed the value and importance of Engage with Age's existing activities. The charity also considered the unique character of some of its programmes and the gaps in provision that exist across the rest of Belfast. Throughout the 2023-26 period Engage with Age will review opportunities to reach out to more older people, and during the period will seek to expand its activities in a sustainable way and in partnership with other stakeholders and agencies.

Company Mission

Through the strategic planning process, Engage with Age refined its purpose confirming that the company's mission is "to empower older people to live happy, healthy, independent and connected lives".

Values

Our values guide us in our work and our relationships. They guide our behaviour, our attitudes, the decisions we make and what we expect from one another. Engage with Age values are based on community development principles. We put older people at the centre of all that we do, believing in self-determination and the right to make their own choices.

Our values, which were revised and renewed during the Strategic Planning process, are: Being older people-led; Empowering older people; Treating everyone with respect; Working closely with other organisations; Ensuring everyone has the right to take part in stimulating activities and have fun.

Engage with Age is committed to working in partnership, believing in the strength of the contribution of many agencies, of people and of volunteers working collaboratively to make a real difference.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and performance

For the 2023-26 period, Engage with Age has revised its strategic aims, seeking to support the lives of older people and make communities stronger. Engage with Age's work builds from working with individuals through to affecting wider society.

The four main strategic aims for 2023-26 are:

1. To empower older people to reduce the impact of loneliness and isolation on peer individuals within their communities and neighbourhoods.
2. To empower older people to improve their own health and wellbeing.
3. To strengthen communities and neighbourhoods by supporting and empowering older people's groups and forums.
4. To empower older people so they can shape matters that affect their lives.

These strategic aims work towards a vision of society in which all older people are respected, valued and listened to in society, and actively involved in shaping the world.

Addressing the impact of Isolation and Loneliness on older people

Engage with Age seeks to empower older people to address the impact of loneliness and isolation on peer individuals within their communities and neighbourhoods. EWA has decades of experience addressing loneliness. The current programme supporting this aim is The PAL Project. The programme mixes activity groups and telephone befriending to support lonely older people. Older people take a leading role in volunteering, running groups, and providing telephone based befriending.

The programme had been delivered on a part-time basis and in March 2023 EWA successfully raised funds from the Lottery Community Fund for a three-year programme providing full-time staff for activity groups and befriending. A full-time activity groups Development Officer was appointed in October 2023, and part-time job share Development Officers for telephone befriending were appointed in November 2023.

This programme refined its connections for recruiting older people who have experienced loneliness within the Health and Age sectors. The operation and methods were also reviewed and refined. The PAL Programme continues to be delivered in partnership with a wide range of organisations. Every week activity groups meet and up to 60 telephone befriending calls are made by volunteers. A significant volunteering campaign took place in January 2024. By the end of the reporting period increased numbers of Befriendees were being supported by new Befrienders, and new activity groups were started. Existing activity groups were also strengthened and revitalised, and participant numbers increased significantly.

EWA also took a leading role in representing the needs of older people at sector level as a member of the Action Committee for the NI Assembly All Party Group on Loneliness and Isolation, and the Belfast City Council City-Wide Group on Loneliness and Isolation.

In this reporting period there were nearly 6,000 engagements at activity groups and over 1,500 telephone befriending phone calls made.

Promoting good physical and mental health

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Engage with Age seeks to empower older people to improve their own Health and Wellbeing.

EWA health promotion programmes in South and East Belfast all exceeded the targets set by the Public Health Agency and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. A significant range of physical health and mental health programmes operated throughout east and south Belfast. Particular emphasis was placed on encouraging older people to re-engage with their communities and EWA supported efforts to grow membership for local groups. EWA worked in partnership with local health agencies to identify gaps in provision, meaning that EWA resources were deployed in neighbourhoods experiencing health inequalities with poor access to services for older people. Partnerships with community centres and supported housing suppliers developed, offering a range of social engagement, creative activities, and increasing skills and knowledge of local health opportunities.

EWA delivered a Cost of Living Crisis programme composed of information sharing and engagement with advice agencies. Over 80 keep warm packs were distributed by EWA to vulnerable older people across South and East Belfast. Opportunities for older people and health messages were promoted directly through our East and South Belfast Programmes with over 50 health initiatives publicised throughout the year.

In 2023-24, 4,500 people benefitted from health improvement initiatives, participating in over 300 activities.

Supporting Older People's Groups and Forums

Engage with Age aims to strengthen communities and neighbourhoods by supporting and empowering older people's groups and forums.

The Covid-19 Pandemic caused serious damage to the health of older people's groups. In 2021 EWA surveyed 90 groups in South and East Belfast and found that a third of the groups were experiencing difficulties and a further third were in crisis. All of this was directly related to the impact of not going out due to Covid-19 and its associated health risks. Two years later, in this reporting period, we undertook surveys again and found that groups have experienced significant improvements, with fewer groups reporting difficulties and very few in crisis.

Improvements to the health of groups was the result of a mentoring style of capacity building support provided by EWA. This approach emphasised encouraging participation and making groups more interesting and attractive to members. EWA took over 70 sessions that offered new programme ideas, developed leaders, and empowered groups to manage their affairs effectively. Several "Group MOT" sessions took place in East and South Belfast, and there was regular inter-group activity to build confidence and inter-community links. Engagement levels were double the target number required by our funder Belfast City Council.

EWA's support of Older People's Forums continued with member numbers at the East and South Belfast Forums increasing. All forums undertook training to improve their operation, and throughout the year over 30 different public agencies learned of the needs of older people.

Supporting the voice of older people to influence matters that affect them

Engage with Age seeks to empower older people so they can shape matters that affect their lives. This aim was delivered in a range of ways throughout the year.

EWA supported the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum (G6) to represent the views of the forums and older people it supports across Belfast. The G6 delivered an annual Action Plan campaigning on Fuel

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Poverty, Access to Transport, and Access to Health Services. In 2023-24, G6 actively promoted services and represented the views of older people to 37 organisations including the PSNI, Department of Health, and Belfast Trust. EWA lead G6 members in very active opposition to plans to change the 60+ SmartPass, contributing over 200 consultation responses, issuing media statements and taking part in interviews, participating in protests and engaging directly with transport officials.

EWA continued to promote the needs and views of older people through ongoing consultations and responses to decisions affecting older people. EWA was active as a member of the Older People's All Party Reference Group at Stormont, and by contributing to action networks such as the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership. The Dementia Friendly Artist in Residence programme continued engaging over 100 people affected by dementia with art exhibitions to audiences of over 20,000 people. Every month the PAL Gazette newspaper highlighted the views and creativity of older people to over 3,500 readers, and EWA produced the monthly Dementia Friendly East Belfast What's On Guide, promoting over 50 events and information articles every month.

Developing the Governance and Operation of Engage with Age

The ongoing business of governance and management of Engage with Age continued successfully throughout the reporting period. Every contract and funding agreement was fulfilled. Finances were managed effectively with income secured from a range of sources, some of which were new. In this period the charity secured £0.5 million of three-year funding from the Community Lottery Fund and Belfast City Council, providing significant stability for its work. Communications promoting our services increased significantly. The work of the Board of Trustees governing the corporate development of Engage with Age was furthered through the Governance and the Finance and Operations sub-committees. This activity included the initiation of a company-wide Governance Health Check, regular board meetings, and ongoing contact with staff. Within this period three new trustees were recruited to Engage with Age.

Summary

In this year there were 15,000+ attendances/ engagements with older people at Engage with Age activities, plus a further estimated 20,000 attendances at exhibitions and 10,000 online. This is a significant increase on previous years and a firm basis from which the charity can continue to grow.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Financial review

Engage with Age maintained support from key funders and raised income from new funders in 2023-2024. Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, the Public Health Agency, and Belfast City Council maintained their support of Engage with age. Correspondingly, Engage with Age maintained strong control over expenditure. At the end of the financial year 31 March 2024 Engage with Age had reserves of £118,347 which is composed of an unrestricted reserve of £66,438 and a restricted reserve of £51,909.

Reserves policy and going concern

Reserves are needed to bridge the timing gap between spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned temporary shortfalls in income should they arise. Holding adequate reserves safeguards the provision of our services in the event of unexpected significant financial pressures. Historically, Engage with Age had also built up its own unrestricted funds. The trustees have decided to allocate a fund of £11,737 to cover the sustainability gap between income and expenditure for the 2024-2025 financial year budget (Designated Sustainability Fund), and hold unrestricted reserves for winding up and running costs to the value of £54,701 (General Reserve Fund).

The trustees consider that the ideal level of reserves would be the winding up costs of the charity plus between three and six months expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024 which would be between £76,262 and £152,524. Unrestricted reserves are freely available to spend, therefore excluding fixed assets and restricted reserves amounted to £63,506.

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).

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.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

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.

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 28 November 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



M Skelcher
Trustee

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age

Year ended 31 March 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Engage with Age (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the remuneration policies, key drivers for directors' remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether management were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether management have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and relevant internal specialists, including tax and valuations specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks in operation, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included ongoing compliance with the UK Companies Act and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental for their ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement (set out on page 7), the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK). Those standards require us to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC's) Ethical Standard for Auditors', in the circumstances set out in note 22 to the financial statements.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Paul Dolan (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

28 November 2024

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2024

			2024		2023
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	121	2,500	2,621	13,747
Charitable activities	6	–	322,167	322,167	212,390
Other trading activities	7	–	3,045	3,045	–
Total income		<u>121</u>	<u>327,712</u>	<u>327,833</u>	<u>226,137</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	8,9	<u>21,101</u>	<u>283,946</u>	<u>305,047</u>	<u>256,339</u>
Total expenditure		<u>21,101</u>	<u>283,946</u>	<u>305,047</u>	<u>256,339</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>(20,980)</u>	<u>43,766</u>	<u>22,786</u>	<u>(30,202)</u>
Transfers between funds		(414)	414	–	–
Net movement in funds		<u>(21,394)</u>	<u>44,180</u>	<u>22,786</u>	<u>(30,202)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>87,832</u>	<u>7,729</u>	<u>95,561</u>	<u>125,763</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>66,438</u>	<u>51,909</u>	<u>118,347</u>	<u>95,561</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 17 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

Engage with Age
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Position
31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	15	2,932	3,515
Current assets			
Debtors	16	8,290	35,464
Cash at bank and in hand		121,816	72,588
		<u>130,106</u>	<u>108,052</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(14,691)	(16,006)
Net current assets		<u>115,415</u>	<u>92,046</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>118,347</u>	<u>95,561</u>
Net assets		<u>118,347</u>	<u>95,561</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		51,909	7,729
Unrestricted funds		66,438	87,832
Total charity funds	20	<u>118,347</u>	<u>95,561</u>

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 28 November 2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



M Skelcher
Trustee

The notes on pages 17 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland and a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is East Belfast Network Centre, 55 Templemore Avenue, Belfast, BT5 4FP.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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 (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Tangible assets *(continued)*

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	-	20% straight line
Equipment	-	20% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by guarantee

Engage with Age is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Donations	121	–	121
Grants			
CB and HH Taylor Trust	–	1,000	1,000
Esmee Mitchell Trust	–	–	–
Souter Trust	–	–	–
HDH Willis	–	–	–
Thompson Trust	–	1,500	1,500
St James' Place	–	–	–
	<u>121</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,621</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations			
Donations	1,800	352	2,152
Grants			
CB and HH Taylor Trust	–	1,000	1,000
Esmee Mitchell Trust	–	2,500	2,500
Souter Trust	4,000	–	4,000
HDH Willis	500	–	500
Thompson Trust	1,000	–	1,000
St James' Place	<u>2,595</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>2,595</u>
	<u>9,895</u>	<u>3,852</u>	<u>13,747</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
DFEB Sales	–	100	100
Enkalon	–	–	–
Awards for All	–	–	–
Belfast City Council	–	36,529	36,529
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	–	53,255	53,255
Lottery Community fund	–	137,580	137,580
Public Health Agency	–	85,589	85,589
Other Grants	–	–	–
Arts Council NI	–	9,114	9,114
	<u>–</u>	<u>322,167</u>	<u>322,167</u>

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

6. Charitable activities *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
DFEB Sales	–	–	–
Enkalon	–	666	666
Awards for All	–	45	45
Belfast City Council	5,838	33,309	39,147
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	400	52,119	52,519
Lottery Community fund	–	–	–
Public Health Agency	–	114,847	114,847
Other Grants	880	–	880
Arts Council NI	–	4,286	4,286
	<u>7,118</u>	<u>205,272</u>	<u>212,390</u>

7. Other trading activities

	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Other Income	<u>3,045</u>	<u>3,045</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>

8. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Promote Health and Wellbeing	19,412	247,209	266,621
Support costs	1,689	36,737	38,426
	<u>21,101</u>	<u>283,946</u>	<u>305,047</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Promote Health and Wellbeing	13,433	214,417	227,850
Support costs	7,251	21,238	28,489
	<u>20,684</u>	<u>235,655</u>	<u>256,339</u>

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total funds 2024	Total fund 2023
	£	£	£	£
Promote Health and Wellbeing	266,621	35,302	301,923	253,380
Governance costs	–	3,124	3,124	2,959
	<u>266,621</u>	<u>38,426</u>	<u>305,047</u>	<u>256,339</u>

10. Analysis of support costs

	Analysis of Support Costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Staff costs	24,320	24,320	15,895
Premises	5,641	5,641	5,625
General office	5,341	5,341	4,010
Finance costs	99	99	84
Governance costs	3,025	3,025	2,875
	<u>38,426</u>	<u>38,426</u>	<u>28,489</u>

11. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>1,288</u>	<u>1,051</u>

12. Auditors remuneration

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	<u>3,025</u>	<u>2,875</u>

13. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	142,660	94,899
Social security costs	7,376	3,035
Employer contributions to pension plans	7,099	4,606
	<u>157,135</u>	<u>102,540</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 6 (2023: 4).

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

13. Staff costs *(continued)*

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

Key Management Personnel

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the part time Director and Operations Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity total £57,169 (2023: £53,412)

14. Trustee remuneration and expenses

The Charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2023: £NIL). They were not reimbursed for travel expense during the year (2023: NIL). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: £NIL).

15. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	18,641	13,173	31,814
Additions	–	705	705
At 31 March 2024	<u>18,641</u>	<u>13,878</u>	<u>32,519</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	18,641	9,658	28,299
Charge for the year	–	1,288	1,288
At 31 March 2024	<u>18,641</u>	<u>10,946</u>	<u>29,587</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2024	<u>–</u>	<u>2,932</u>	<u>2,932</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>–</u>	<u>3,515</u>	<u>3,515</u>

16. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	160	2,000
Prepayments and accrued income	8,130	33,464
	<u>8,290</u>	<u>35,464</u>

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	5,109	8,485
Accruals and deferred income	7,290	6,993
Other creditors	2,292	528
	<u>14,691</u>	<u>16,006</u>

18. Deferred income

	2024	2023
	£	£
At 1 April 2023	4,293	4,131
Amount released to income	(4,293)	(4,131)
Amount deferred in year	4,445	4,293
At 31 March 2024	<u>4,445</u>	<u>4,293</u>

19. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £7,099 (2023: £4,606).

20. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Designated Fund (Note A)	11,737	–	–	–	11,737
General Funds (Note B)	76,095	121	(21,101)	(414)	54,701
	<u>87,832</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>(21,101)</u>	<u>(414)</u>	<u>66,438</u>

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
Designated Fund (Note A)	11,737	–	–	–	11,737
General Funds (Note B)	80,491	17,013	(20,684)	(725)	76,095
	<u>92,228</u>	<u>17,013</u>	<u>(20,684)</u>	<u>(725)</u>	<u>87,832</u>

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

20. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

The Trustees have decided to allocate a fund of £11,737 to cover the sustainability gap between income and expenditure for the 2024-2025 financial year budget (Note A) and hold unrestricted designated reserves for winding up and running costs to the value of £54,701 (Note B)

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
BHSCT	–	53,255	(53,255)	–	–
Belfast City Council	–	–	–	–	–
Public Health Agency	2,072	85,589	(87,661)	–	–
Enkalon Foundation	–	–	–	–	–
Comic Relief	1,462	–	(1,462)	–	–
Awards for All	–	–	–	–	–
DEFEB	3,195	2,985	(6,180)	–	–
Thompson Trust	–	1,500	(1,500)	–	–
Belfast City Council	–	31,689	(31,689)	–	–
BCC- Hug in a box	–	–	–	–	–
BCC- Medium	–	5,000	(5,000)	–	–
Haramead Trust	–	–	–	–	–
Arts Council NI	–	9,114	(9,528)	414	–
BCC - FOW	–	–	–	–	–
BCC - PAL	–	–	–	–	–
CB and HH Taylor Trust	1,000	1,000	(1,000)	–	1,000
Lottery Community Fund	–	137,580	(86,671)	–	50,909
	<u>7,729</u>	<u>327,712</u>	<u>(283,946)</u>	<u>414</u>	<u>51,909</u>

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
BHSCT	–	52,119	(52,119)	–	–
Belfast City Council	288	28,149	(28,437)	–	–
Public Health Agency	14,022	114,847	(126,797)	–	2,072
Enkalon Foundation	500	666	(1,166)	–	–
Comic Relief	2,068	–	(606)	–	1,462

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

20. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Awards for All	5,620	45	(5,665)	–	–
DEFEB	454	2,852	(111)	–	3,195
Thompson Trust	5,000	–	(5,000)	–	–
Belfast City Council	–	–	–	–	–
BCC- Hug in a box	583	250	(833)	–	–
BCC- Medium	–	–	–	–	–
Haramead Trust	5,000	–	(5,000)	–	–
Arts Council NI	–	4,286	(5,011)	725	–
BCC - FOW	–	2,470	(2,470)	–	–
BCC - PAL	–	2,440	(2,440)	–	–
CB and HH Taylor Trust	–	1,000	–	–	1,000
Lottery Community Fund	–	–	–	–	–
	<u>33,535</u>	<u>209,124</u>	<u>(235,655)</u>	<u>725</u>	<u>7,729</u>

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	2,932	–	2,932
Current assets	72,614	57,492	130,106
Creditors less than 1 year	(9,108)	(5,583)	(14,691)
Net assets	<u>66,438</u>	<u>51,909</u>	<u>118,347</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	3,515	–	3,515
Current assets	96,030	12,022	108,052
Creditors less than 1 year	(11,713)	(4,293)	(16,006)
Net assets	<u>87,832</u>	<u>7,729</u>	<u>95,561</u>

22. Taxation

The Company is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to tax exemptions on income and profits in furtherance of the charity's primary objectives.

23. Contingencies

A contingent liability exists to repay grants and Trust monies received should certain conditions not be fulfilled by the charity. In the opinion of the Trustees, the terms of the Letters of Offers have been, or will be, complied with and no liability is expected.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

24. Ethical standards

In common with many other businesses of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities and assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

ENGAGE WITH AGE

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100718

Annual report

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, governance and management

Background to Engage with Age:

Engage with Age (EWA) was established as a charity and a company limited by guarantee in November 2000. EWA is a community development organisation working to empower and support older people.

Engage with Age seeks to enable sustainable benefits for older people and the community. It operates multi-agency partnerships to ensure joined-up and collaborative working. Partnerships are active from a governance level down to operational and daily activities.

Governance and Management:

Engage with Age is governed by a Board of Trustees that meets quarterly. Trustees come from a range of older people's and community organisations, older people's forums, as well individuals from the business, public sector and individual older people. The Board is supported by a Finance and Operations Sub-Group that meets six times per year, and a Governance Committee that supports the role and responsibilities of Trustees and Director.

The management of Engage with Age formally reports to the Board and the Finance and Operations Committee, and has delegated responsibility for delivering the company's programme of work at an operational level. The staff team is composed of a Director, Operations Manager, and Development Officers that deliver the company's programmes. Engage with Age has sub-contracted an external accountancy company to undertake its finance administration and engages a number of other service providers.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

As described in the Articles and Memorandum of Association, Engage with Age's objects ('Objects') are to promote the health, wellbeing, interests and alleviate loneliness, isolation and exclusion of older people living in Northern Ireland (the area of benefit) without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, caring responsibilities, race, or political, religious, or other opinions by associating together the said inhabitants, local authorities, public agencies and voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to relieve poverty, preserve and protect health, advance education with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said beneficiaries.

Strategic Planning 2023-26

In early 2023 Engage with Age held workshops with stake holders and older people to review its work, discuss its performance, and plan for the future. These workshops affirmed the value and importance of Engage with Age's existing activities. The charity also considered the unique character of some of its programmes and the gaps in provision that exist across the rest of Belfast. Throughout the 2023-26 period Engage with Age will review opportunities to reach out to more older people, and during the period will seek to expand its activities in a sustainable way and in partnership with other stakeholders and agencies.

Company Mission

Through the strategic planning process, Engage with Age refined its purpose confirming that the company's mission is "to empower older people to live happy, healthy, independent and connected lives".

Values

Our values guide us in our work and our relationships. They guide our behaviour, our attitudes, the decisions we make and what we expect from one another. Engage with Age values are based on community development principles. We put older people at the centre of all that we do, believing in self-determination and the right to make their own choices.

Our values, which were revised and renewed during the Strategic Planning process, are: Being older people-led; Empowering older people; Treating everyone with respect; Working closely with other organisations; Ensuring everyone has the right to take part in stimulating activities and have fun.

Engage with Age is committed to working in partnership, believing in the strength of the contribution of many agencies, of people and of volunteers working collaboratively to make a real difference.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and performance

For the 2023-26 period, Engage with Age has revised its strategic aims, seeking to support the lives of older people and make communities stronger. Engage with Age's work builds from working with individuals through to affecting wider society.

The four main strategic aims for 2023-26 are:

1. To empower older people to reduce the impact of loneliness and isolation on peer individuals within their communities and neighbourhoods.
2. To empower older people to improve their own health and wellbeing.
3. To strengthen communities and neighbourhoods by supporting and empowering older people's groups and forums.
4. To empower older people so they can shape matters that affect their lives.

These strategic aims work towards a vision of society in which all older people are respected, valued and listened to in society, and actively involved in shaping the world.

Addressing the impact of Isolation and Loneliness on older people

Engage with Age seeks to empower older people to address the impact of loneliness and isolation on peer individuals within their communities and neighbourhoods. EWA has decades of experience addressing loneliness. The current programme supporting this aim is The PAL Project. The programme mixes activity groups and telephone befriending to support lonely older people. Older people take a leading role in volunteering, running groups, and providing telephone based befriending.

The programme had been delivered on a part-time basis and in March 2023 EWA successfully raised funds from the Lottery Community Fund for a three-year programme providing full-time staff for activity groups and befriending. A full-time activity groups Development Officer was appointed in October 2023, and part-time job share Development Officers for telephone befriending were appointed in November 2023.

This programme refined its connections for recruiting older people who have experienced loneliness within the Health and Age sectors. The operation and methods were also reviewed and refined. The PAL Programme continues to be delivered in partnership with a wide range of organisations. Every week activity groups meet and up to 60 telephone befriending calls are made by volunteers. A significant volunteering campaign took place in January 2024. By the end of the reporting period increased numbers of Befriendees were being supported by new Befrienders, and new activity groups were started. Existing activity groups were also strengthened and revitalised, and participant numbers increased significantly.

EWA also took a leading role in representing the needs of older people at sector level as a member of the Action Committee for the NI Assembly All Party Group on Loneliness and Isolation, and the Belfast City Council City-Wide Group on Loneliness and Isolation.

In this reporting period there were nearly 6,000 engagements at activity groups and over 1,500 telephone befriending phone calls made.

Promoting good physical and mental health

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Engage with Age seeks to empower older people to improve their own Health and Wellbeing.

EWA health promotion programmes in South and East Belfast all exceeded the targets set by the Public Health Agency and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. A significant range of physical health and mental health programmes operated throughout east and south Belfast. Particular emphasis was placed on encouraging older people to re-engage with their communities and EWA supported efforts to grow membership for local groups. EWA worked in partnership with local health agencies to identify gaps in provision, meaning that EWA resources were deployed in neighbourhoods experiencing health inequalities with poor access to services for older people. Partnerships with community centres and supported housing suppliers developed, offering a range of social engagement, creative activities, and increasing skills and knowledge of local health opportunities.

EWA delivered a Cost of Living Crisis programme composed of information sharing and engagement with advice agencies. Over 80 keep warm packs were distributed by EWA to vulnerable older people across South and East Belfast. Opportunities for older people and health messages were promoted directly through our East and South Belfast Programmes with over 50 health initiatives publicised throughout the year.

In 2023-24, 4,500 people benefitted from health improvement initiatives, participating in over 300 activities.

Supporting Older People's Groups and Forums

Engage with Age aims to strengthen communities and neighbourhoods by supporting and empowering older people's groups and forums.

The Covid-19 Pandemic caused serious damage to the health of older people's groups. In 2021 EWA surveyed 90 groups in South and East Belfast and found that a third of the groups were experiencing difficulties and a further third were in crisis. All of this was directly related to the impact of not going out due to Covid-19 and its associated health risks. Two years later, in this reporting period, we undertook surveys again and found that groups have experienced significant improvements, with fewer groups reporting difficulties and very few in crisis.

Improvements to the health of groups was the result of a mentoring style of capacity building support provided by EWA. This approach emphasised encouraging participation and making groups more interesting and attractive to members. EWA took over 70 sessions that offered new programme ideas, developed leaders, and empowered groups to manage their affairs effectively. Several "Group MOT" sessions took place in East and South Belfast, and there was regular inter-group activity to build confidence and inter-community links. Engagement levels were double the target number required by our funder Belfast City Council.

EWA's support of Older People's Forums continued with member numbers at the East and South Belfast Forums increasing. All forums undertook training to improve their operation, and throughout the year over 30 different public agencies learned of the needs of older people.

Supporting the voice of older people to influence matters that affect them

Engage with Age seeks to empower older people so they can shape matters that affect their lives. This aim was delivered in a range of ways throughout the year.

EWA supported the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum (G6) to represent the views of the forums and older people it supports across Belfast. The G6 delivered an annual Action Plan campaigning on Fuel

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Poverty, Access to Transport, and Access to Health Services. In 2023-24, G6 actively promoted services and represented the views of older people to 37 organisations including the PSNI, Department of Health, and Belfast Trust. EWA lead G6 members in very active opposition to plans to change the 60+ SmartPass, contributing over 200 consultation responses, issuing media statements and taking part in interviews, participating in protests and engaging directly with transport officials.

EWA continued to promote the needs and views of older people through ongoing consultations and responses to decisions affecting older people. EWA was active as a member of the Older People's All Party Reference Group at Stormont, and by contributing to action networks such as the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership. The Dementia Friendly Artist in Residence programme continued engaging over 100 people affected by dementia with art exhibitions to audiences of over 20,000 people. Every month the PAL Gazette newspaper highlighted the views and creativity of older people to over 3,500 readers, and EWA produced the monthly Dementia Friendly East Belfast What's On Guide, promoting over 50 events and information articles every month.

Developing the Governance and Operation of Engage with Age

The ongoing business of governance and management of Engage with Age continued successfully throughout the reporting period. Every contract and funding agreement was fulfilled. Finances were managed effectively with income secured from a range of sources, some of which were new. In this period the charity secured £0.5 million of three-year funding from the Community Lottery Fund and Belfast City Council, providing significant stability for its work. Communications promoting our services increased significantly. The work of the Board of Trustees governing the corporate development of Engage with Age was furthered through the Governance and the Finance and Operations sub-committees. This activity included the initiation of a company-wide Governance Health Check, regular board meetings, and ongoing contact with staff. Within this period three new trustees were recruited to Engage with Age.

Summary

In this year there were 15,000+ attendances/ engagements with older people at Engage with Age activities, plus a further estimated 20,000 attendances at exhibitions and 10,000 online. This is a significant increase on previous years and a firm basis from which the charity can continue to grow.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

Financial review

Engage with Age maintained support from key funders and raised income from new funders in 2023-2024. Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, the Public Health Agency, and Belfast City Council maintained their support of Engage with age. Correspondingly, Engage with Age maintained strong control over expenditure. At the end of the financial year 31 March 2024 Engage with Age had reserves of £118,347 which is composed of an unrestricted reserve of £66,438 and a restricted reserve of £51,909.

Reserves policy and going concern

Reserves are needed to bridge the timing gap between spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned temporary shortfalls in income should they arise. Holding adequate reserves safeguards the provision of our services in the event of unexpected significant financial pressures. Historically, Engage with Age had also built up its own unrestricted funds. The trustees have decided to allocate a fund of £11,737 to cover the sustainability gap between income and expenditure for the 2024-2025 financial year budget (Designated Sustainability Fund), and hold unrestricted reserves for winding up and running costs to the value of £54,701 (General Reserve Fund).

The trustees consider that the ideal level of reserves would be the winding up costs of the charity plus between three and six months expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2024 which would be between £76,262 and £152,524. Unrestricted reserves are freely available to spend, therefore excluding fixed assets and restricted reserves amounted to £63,506.

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).

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.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2024

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.

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 28 November 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



M Skelcher
Trustee

ENGAGE WITH AGE

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100718

Annual return

Our Ref: 6745/PD/MMCM
Date: 18/11/24



Private & Confidential

Board of Trustees
Engage with Age
East Belfast Network Centre
55 Templemore Avenue
Belfast
Co. Antrim
BT5 4FPX

Dear Sirs/Madams,

REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

The audit of the financial statements of Engage with Age for the year ended 31st March 2024 is complete. In line with Auditing Standards, we are writing to advise you of audit conclusions, significant matters arising during the course of the audit and other matters which are significant to the financial reporting process.

As auditors, we are responsible for forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared with the oversight of those charged with governance. As such, our tests are designed to assist us in forming our opinion and should not be relied upon to disclose all errors, irregularities or control deficiencies that exist. The audit does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities.

Audit opinion

The results of our audit work indicate that the financial statements presented are free of material misstatements and are represented fairly in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Thus we have issued an unqualified audit report on the financial statements.

Going concern

During the course of the audit, we did not identify or become aware of any events or conditions that may cast a significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. As a result, we concur with your assessment that the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements.

Fraud

Auditing standards require us to report any identified frauds, indications of fraud or any other relevant matters related to fraud. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Laws and regulations

No matters involving non-compliance with laws and regulations came to our attention during the course of the audit apart from those raised within the body of this report.

This report has been prepared for the sole use of those charged with governance of Engage with Age and must not be shown to third parties without our prior consent. No responsibility is assumed by Finegan Gibson Ltd towards any third party acting or refraining from action as a result of this report.

Misstatements

During the course of the audit, no material misstatements were identified.

Related parties

No significant matters arose during the audit in connection with related parties.

Subsequent events

We performed procedures designed to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that all events occurring between the date of the financial statements and the date of the audit report that require adjustment, or disclosure in, the financial statements have been identified. Audit procedures identified no subsequent events.

Internal control

During the course of the audit we identified a number of recommendations in relation to improving the internal control framework of the organisation. In summary, no priority 1, two priority 2 and one priority 3 observations were noted. These are set out in detail at Appendix 2.

We have graded our management report observations as follows:

Priority 1	An issue which requires urgent management decision and action without which there is a substantial risk to the achievement of key business/system objectives, or to the reputation of the organisation.
Priority 2	An issue which requires prompt attention, as failure to do so could lead to a more serious risk exposure.
Priority 3	Improvements that will enhance the existing control framework and/or represent best practice.

Acknowledgement

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the courtesy and assistance extended to us by Engage with Age personnel during the course of our audit.

Yours faithfully,

Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors

This report has been prepared for the sole use of those charged with governance of Engage with Age and must not be shown to third parties without our prior consent. No responsibility is assumed by Finegan Gibson Ltd towards any third party acting or refraining from action as a result of this report.

APPENDIX 1: Schedule of Adjustments

Adjusted audit differences:

No.	Account	Nature/ Reason	Adjusting journals		Adjusted SOFA effect £	Adjusted B/S effect £
			Dr	Cr		
1	Deferred Income	Correction of Deferred income and lottery income	£50,250			-£50,250
	Income - Lottery	Correction of Deferred income and lottery income		£50,250	£50,250	
<i>Being the correction of lottery income received in the year</i>						
2	Accruals	Increasing the audit fee accrual		£325		£325
	Audit fee	Increasing the audit fee accrual	£325		£325	
<i>Being the increase of the audit fee</i>						
3	Programme Costs	Increasing creditors	£1,138		£1,138	

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APPENDIX 1: Schedule of adjustments

No.	Account	Nature/ Reason	Adjusting journals		Adjusted SOFA effect £	Adjusted B/S effect £
			Dr	Cr		
	Creditors	Increasing creditors		£1,138		£1,138
<i>Being the recognition of creditors in the year</i>						
4	Petty Cash	Decreasing petty cash		£919		-£919
	Sundries	Decreasing petty cash	£919		£919	
<i>Being the correction of petty cash in the year.</i>						

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No	Issue	Risk	Grade	Recommendation	Management Response	Responsibility & Target Date
Wages						
1.	It was noted that in one instances payroll reports did not correlate with amounts paid to HMRC.	<p>The charity may have additional liabilities to HMRC which are unaccounted for.</p> <p>There is potential loss of charitable funds where overpayments are made.</p> <p>Late payments to HMRC may incur fines and / or penalty charges.</p>	2	<p>The payroll reports should be reconciled to payments made to HMRC on a monthly basis.</p> <p>The charity should make use of payroll journals to record its expenditure and liabilities in the ledger, and ensure that all liabilities are paid on time.</p>	April's HMRC liabilities were paid in April but also paid in May, together with May's payment. This was reconciled in June and July's payments. In the future this will be picked up and reconciled in the following month.	EWA/Clarke & Co our outsourced finance company. November 2024
General						
2.	During testing it was noted that a number of expenditure transactions were posted to income codes on Quickbooks.	Income and expenditure could be understated where transactions are posted incorrectly.	3	Postings to Quickbooks should be reviewed regularly to ensure errors in posting are identified and corrected on a timely basis.	A rule was set up for the Zoom payments to be automatically allocated to BHST income account instead of BHST programme expense. This rule has now been deleted.	EWA/Clarke & Co our outsourced finance company. November 2024

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No	Issue	Risk	Grade	Recommendation	Management Response	Responsibility & Target Date
3.	Free unrestricted reserves are below the target level set out in reserves policy.	<p>Any drop in funding could result in the charity not being able to meet its liabilities as they fall due, or fund its charitable activities (possible uncertainty surrounding going concern).</p> <p>The charity may not be complying with its reserves policy.</p>	2	<p>The Board should monitor the charity’s funds closely, and actively source new unrestricted funding streams in a bid to increase the level of free reserves.</p> <p>Any deficits in the reserves policy should be addressed in the trustees’ annual report.</p>	<p>EWA has anticipated and monitored this situation since Jan 2023 and the issue is in the minutes of 4 formal board and committee meetings. The issue of reserves formed part of a strategic planning day in June 2024, and before receipt of this management letter EWA had already drafted a new policy reflecting that the original reserves policy was written in 2018 and the operating context for charities in NI/ UK has changed significantly, therefore, EWA will continue to monitor the charity’s funds.</p> <p>EWA has already started addressing the need for new income streams and will continue to do so.</p>	<p>Has already commenced in Jan 2023, will continue to be monitored. New reserves policy due Nov 2024.</p> <p>Has already commenced June 2024, will continue to be implemented.</p>

This report has been prepared for the sole use of those charged with governance of Engage with Age and must not be shown to third parties without our prior consent. No responsibility is assumed by Finegan Gibson Ltd towards any third party acting or refraining from action as a result of this report.

ENGAGE WITH AGE

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100718

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI039665
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 100718

Engage with Age
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
31 March 2023

Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Engage with Age
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
Year ended 31 March 2023

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Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

Structure, governance and management

Background to Engage with Age:

Engage with Age (EWA) was established as a charity and a company limited by guarantee in November 2000. EWA is a community development organisation with the vision of a society which respects, values and listens to older people.

Engage with Age's mission is to enable older people in Belfast to live happier, healthier and more connected lives.

Engage with Age seeks to enable sustainable benefits for older people and the community. It operates multi-agency partnerships to ensure joined-up and collaborative working. Partnerships are active from a governance level down to operational and daily activities.

Governance and Management:

Engage with Age is governed by a Board of Trustees that meets quarterly. Trustees come from a range of older people's and community organisations, older people's forums, as well as individuals from the business, public sector and individual older people. The Board is supported by a Finance and Operations Sub-Group that meets six times per year, and a Governance Committee that supports the role and responsibilities of Trustees and Director.

The management of Engage with Age formally reports to the Board and the Finance and Operations Committee, and has delegated responsibility for delivering the company's programme of work at an operational level. The staff team is composed of a Director, Operations Manager, and Development Officers that deliver the company's programmes. Engage with Age has sub-contracted to an external accountancy company to undertake its finance administration and engages a number of other service providers.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 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 31 March 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Engage with Age
Charity registration number 100718
Company registration number NI039665
Principal office and registered office East Belfast Network Centre
55 Templemore Avenue
Belfast
BT5 4FP

The trustees

A Greenan
GS McEvoy
NW Menhinick
AP Barclay (Resigned 17 May 2023)
AL Greer
RJ Hagan
CS Hyndman
F Hughes

PA Matthews (Served from 11 June 2022 to 17
J McEwan May 2023)
Z Rowe
M Skelcher

Company secretary Eamon Quinn

Auditor Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities

As described in the Articles and Memorandum of Association, Engage with Age's objects ('Objects') are to promote the health, wellbeing, interests and alleviate loneliness, isolation and exclusion of older people living in Northern Ireland (the area of benefit) without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, caring responsibilities, race, or political, religious, or other opinions by associating together the said inhabitants, local authorities, public agencies and voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to relieve poverty, preserve and protect health, advance education with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said beneficiaries.

Values:

Our values guide us in our work and our relationships. They guide our behaviour, our attitudes, the decisions we make and what we expect from one another. Engage with Age values are based on community development principles. We put older people at the centre of all that we do, believing in self-determination and the right to make their own choices.

Our values are:

- Being older people-led
- Empowering older people
- Treating everyone with respect
- Working closely with other organisations
- Carrying out our work to the highest standards, with transparency
- Ensuring everyone has the right to take part in stimulating activities and have fun

We are committed to working in partnership, believing in the strength of the contribution of many agencies, people and volunteers to make a real difference.

Strategic Planning:

Engage with Age is implementing a strategic plan covering the period of April 2020 - March 2023 which reflects the above vision and mission, the methods of working and the objectives of the company. In early 2023 Engage with Age commenced development of a new strategic plan for the 2023-26 period.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

Achievements and performance

The April 2022 - March 2023 year was the third year of the Covid-19 Pandemic. While surges in the virus were not as severe as previous years, the impact of the pandemic was still felt in engagement levels and cautiousness from older people. Engage with Age took a proactive stance towards enabling older people to be active within their communities while also being safe.

Year Three of the Engage with Age Strategic Plan 2020-2023

Engage with Age is pleased to report that while Covid-19 impacted on the practicalities of undertaking activities it did not affect the overall achievement of the main aims of its Strategic Plan. This was due mainly to the imagination and creativity of its staff, support of its board, collaborations with partner agencies, and the enthusiasm of the older people EWA worked with. In August 2022 the company held a barbeque for 60 older people at Inverary Community Centre in East Belfast. Normally this would be unremarkable, but this was the first time in two years that a gathering with that number of people, indoors or outdoors, had been undertaken.

Supporting Older People's Groups and Forums

Surveying just before the reporting period highlighted that two thirds of older people's groups, we work with had been adversely affected by Covid-19. This was in the form of reduced attendances and less frequent meetings. Support this year was targeted to encourage groups to gain greater confidence, re-group and grow membership. The Capacity Building Programme continued to work throughout East and South Belfast, achieving nearly double its target level of participation. The South Belfast programme reached out to new communities such as lower Donegall Road, and the East Belfast programme revisited relationships with over 60 groups across East Belfast.

The Older People's Forums EWA supports continued to operate well. The Belfast East Seniors Forum returned to a full schedule of in-person committee and forum meetings. It renewed its committee and grew membership numbers. The South Belfast Lifestyle Forum continued to grow in numbers with routinely well attended meetings sharing information and conveying the needs of communities in the south. The Greater Belfast Seniors Forum (G6) maintained its monthly meetings focusing on its Action Plan. In March 2023 EWA brought all of the Older People's Forums together for an inter-forum meeting, to share experiences and best practice, and to network with each other. This helped identify common needs and aspirations and assist with planning for the future.

Addressing the impact of Isolation and Loneliness on older people

The PAL Project continued to operate. Throughout the year, weekly and fortnightly activities took place, offering a range of book groups, social groups, walks, interest groups and dancing. Opportunities were taken to link with partner agencies for excursions and information sessions. EWA's links with peer agencies strengthened, including organisations such as Age NI and Red Cross, and partnerships such as the Belfast City Council City Wide Group on Isolation, and the NI Assembly All Party Group on Loneliness. Participation numbers grew, and this year saw the welcome return of The Slipped Disco event at the Oh Yeah Centre, Engage with Age's disco for older people. Telephone befriending was also maintained through this period. Up to 27 volunteer Befrienders regularly telephoned 50 Befriendees. Feedback on the service was unanimously positive. Half of the Befriendees completed surveys and interviews in 2022 and 100% of that number reported positive impacts of the service on their wellbeing and a decrease in feelings of loneliness. One Befriender said: "I have never been on my own before... it was really hard to lose independence... the calls encourage me and I love to hear from my Befriender and I always feel better after the call.". Throughout the year Befriending gatherings were held and this helped connect Befriendees to their

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

Befrienders and wider activities.

Promoting good physical and mental health

The EWA health promotion programmes in South and East Belfast all exceeded their targets as set by the Public Health Agency and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

Physical deconditioning was highlighted as an issue for older people, given the reduced levels of movement and travel associated with Covid-19 safety and the need to isolate or stay at home. Physical health was promoted by EWA with a range of exercise sessions, armchair aerobics, and the welcome return of in person Tea Dances, particularly at St. Patrick's Day and throughout South Belfast in March 2023. Mental health was promoted via stress reduction sessions, Tai chi, and promotion of Public Health programmes. Social engagement at activity sessions was more important than ever, and even by the end of the reporting period we were still meeting older people who had been staying at home in their efforts to stay safe from Covid. There was a significant increase in crafting and creative activities. The Words Alive group in South Belfast continued to meet weekly and then reach out to provide readings to people living in supported housing and nursing homes. In East Belfast new crafting and art sessions took place with a range of groups, many of which were undertaking this type of activity for the first time. Larger scale in person older people's fairs returned this year and EWA brought significant attendance to events in East and South Belfast as well as central events from Age Friendly Belfast. Skills workshop in IT continued and there was high attendance at information sessions on falls prevention and home accident prevention. Over 80 keep warm packs were distributed by EWA to vulnerable older people across South and East Belfast, and EWA worked to promote assistance to cope with the Cost-of-Living Crisis. Promotion of opportunities for older people and health messages were promoted directly through our East and South Belfast Programmes, through the monthly PAL Gazette to 1,300+ people, and online to audiences in excess of 10,000 throughout the year.

Supporting the voice of older people to influence matters that affect them

The Older People's Forums that EWA supports continued to engage directly with decision and policy makers, with over twenty formal consultations through forums with agencies including PSNI, Consumer Council, Queen's University of Belfast research programmes, Belfast Trust, the GP's Federation for Northern Ireland and more. The Forums were particularly engaged in consultations for the Belfast Age Friendly Plan. Throughout the year EWA supported older people to attend forums include Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership, NI Assembly All Party Group on Loneliness, and the Belfast City Council All Party Reference Group on Older People. Engage with Age was also very active with dementia friendly campaigns, contributing to the South Belfast and City-Wide dementia campaigns, and co-chairing the Dementia Friendly East Belfast Programme. In summer 2022 the Festival of Windows increased in scale, engaging with 40 people living with dementia from 6 centres. 50 artworks were created and displayed in 50 shop windows belonging to businesses across East Belfast. The artworks were later exhibited at the Skainos Centre as part of Positive Ageing Month. Promoting the voice of people living with dementia was further enhanced through EWA's new Dementia Friendly Artist in Residence programme, which worked with six centres across South and East Belfast, and the ongoing production of the monthly Dementia Friendly What's On Guide. The PAL Gazette continued as a newspaper for older people, with a monthly column on the work of of G6 and over 60 articles and submissions by older people.

Developing an evaluation framework

Pressures of time and resources, and the ongoing affect of the Pandemic on how we did our work, meant it was not possible to produce an evaluation framework as envisaged at the start of the strategic plan. Evaluation and reflection on the impact of EWA's work continued in this period, and

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

the company is actively pursuing developing a new method for considering the impact of its work.

Developing the Governance and Operation of Engage with Age

The ongoing business of governing and managing Engage with Age continued successfully throughout the reporting period. Every contract and funding agreement was fulfilled. Finances were managed effectively with income secured from a range of sources, some of which were new. Communications promoting our services increased significantly. The work of the Board of Trustees governing the corporate development of Engage with Age was furthered through the Governance and the Finance and Operations sub-committees, regular board meetings, and ongoing contact with staff. Within this period three new trustees were recruited to Engage with Age.

Summary

The 2022-23 year can be best described as charging ahead out of Covid-19. Staff displayed great resilience and a 'can-do' spirit, while at the same time keeping older people safe.

In this year there were 14,000 attendances/ engagements from older people at Engage with Age activities, plus a further estimated 5,000 attendances at exhibitions and 10,000 online. This is a significant increase on previous years.

By the end of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan, Engage with Age had developed new services, increased its volume of engagement, deepened relationships with participants, navigated the challenges the Pandemic, and maintained a clear focus on delivering improved health and helped make stronger communities. The PAL Project continued to support older people experiencing loneliness, health improvement work progressed throughout South and East Belfast, groups and forums were sustained and grown, and the voice of older people persisted in advocating for the needs of its community.

By March 2023 EWA had started formulating plans for the next strategic plan 2023-26, looking forward to developing and extending the work and impact of EWA. The 2022-23 year closed with significant three-year funding agreements to sustain the PAL Project and capacity building work with older people through to the year 2026.

Having achieved many of its aims in the most difficult of circumstances, Engage with Age is ready to move forward in its renewed mission to empower older people to lead happy, healthy, more connected, and independent lives.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

Financial review

Engage with Age maintained support from key funders and raised income from new funders in 2022-2023. Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, the Public Health Agency, and Belfast City Council maintained their support of Engage with age. Correspondingly, Engage with Age maintained strong control over expenditure. At the end of the financial year 31 March 2023 Engage with Age had reserves of £95,561 which is composed of an unrestricted reserve of £87,832 and a restricted reserve of £7,729.

Reserves policy and going concern

Reserves are needed to bridge the timing gap between spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned temporary shortfalls in income should they arise. Holding adequate reserves safeguards the provision of our services in the event of unexpected significant financial pressures. Historically, Engage with Age had also built up its own unrestricted funds. The trustees have decided to allocate a fund of £11,737 to cover the sustainability gap between income and expenditure for the 2023-2024 financial year budget (Designated Sustainability Fund), and hold unrestricted reserves for winding up and running costs to the value of £76,095 (General Reserve Fund).

The trustees consider that the ideal level of reserves would be the winding up costs of the charity plus between three and six months expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2023 which would be between £64,085 and £128,170. Unrestricted reserves are freely available to spend, therefore excluding fixed assets and restricted reserves amounted to £72,580.

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).

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.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

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

Year ended 31 March 2023

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.

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 30 November 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



M Skelcher
Trustee

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age

Year ended 31 March 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Engage with Age (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the remuneration policies, key drivers for directors' remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether management were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether management have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and relevant internal specialists, including tax and valuations specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks in operation, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included ongoing compliance with the UK Companies Act and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental for their ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Engage with Age *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Paul Dolan (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

30 November 2023

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2023

		Unrestricted funds	2023 Restricted funds	Total funds	2022 Total funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	9,895	3,852	13,747	550
Charitable activities	6	7,118	205,272	212,390	243,508
Investment income	7	–	–	–	57
Total income		<u>17,013</u>	<u>209,124</u>	<u>226,137</u>	<u>244,115</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	8,9	20,684	235,655	256,339	244,337
Total expenditure		<u>20,684</u>	<u>235,655</u>	<u>256,339</u>	<u>244,337</u>
Net expenditure		<u>(3,671)</u>	<u>(26,531)</u>	<u>(30,202)</u>	<u>(222)</u>
Transfers between funds		(725)	725	–	–
Net movement in funds		<u>(4,396)</u>	<u>(25,806)</u>	<u>(30,202)</u>	<u>(222)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		92,228	33,535	125,763	125,985
Total funds carried forward		<u>87,832</u>	<u>7,729</u>	<u>95,561</u>	<u>125,763</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 17 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

Engage with Age
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Position
31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	15	3,515	3,144
Current assets			
Debtors	16	35,464	9,690
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>72,588</u>	<u>122,602</u>
		108,052	132,292
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(16,006)</u>	<u>(9,673)</u>
Net current assets		<u>92,046</u>	<u>122,619</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>95,561</u>	<u>125,763</u>
Net assets		<u>95,561</u>	<u>125,763</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		7,729	33,535
Unrestricted funds		<u>87,832</u>	<u>92,228</u>
Total charity funds	20	<u>95,561</u>	<u>125,763</u>

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 30 November 2023, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



M Skelcher
Trustee

The notes on pages 17 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland and a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is East Belfast Network Centre, 55 Templemore Avenue, Belfast, BT5 4FP.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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 (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Tangible assets *(continued)*

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	-	20% straight line
Equipment	-	20% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by guarantee

Engage with Age is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations			
Donations	1,800	352	2,152
Grants			
CB and HH Taylor Trust	–	1,000	1,000
Esmee Mitchell Trust	–	2,500	2,500
Souter Trust	4,000	–	4,000
HDH Willis	500	–	500
Thompson Trust	1,000	–	1,000
St James' Place	2,595	–	2,595
	<u>9,895</u>	<u>3,852</u>	<u>13,747</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations			
Donations	550	–	550
Grants			
CB and HH Taylor Trust	–	–	–
Esmee Mitchell Trust	–	–	–
Souter Trust	–	–	–
HDH Willis	–	–	–
Thompson Trust	–	–	–
St James' Place	–	–	–
	<u>550</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>550</u>

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Enkalon	–	666	666
Halifax	–	–	–
Thompson Trust	–	–	–
LFT Trust	–	–	–
Haramead Trust	–	–	–
Awards for All	–	45	45
Belfast City Council	5,838	33,309	39,147
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	400	52,119	52,519
Public Health Agency	–	114,847	114,847
Public Health Agency Service Enhancements	–	–	–
Independent Age	–	–	–
Other Grants	880	–	880
Arts Council NI	–	4,286	4,286
	<u>7,118</u>	<u>205,272</u>	<u>212,390</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Enkalon	–	500	500
Halifax	–	5,000	5,000
Thompson Trust	–	5,000	5,000
LFT Trust	–	10,000	10,000
Haramead Trust	–	5,000	5,000
Awards for All	–	9,900	9,900
Belfast City Council	–	30,406	30,406
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	–	59,447	59,447
Public Health Agency	–	79,730	79,730
Public Health Agency Service Enhancements	–	23,274	23,274
Independent Age	–	15,000	15,000
Other Grants	251	–	251
Arts Council NI	–	–	–
	<u>251</u>	<u>243,257</u>	<u>243,508</u>

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Deposit Accounts	–	–	57	57

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

8. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Promote Health and Wellbeing	13,433	214,417	227,850
Support costs	<u>7,251</u>	<u>21,238</u>	<u>28,489</u>
	<u>20,684</u>	<u>235,655</u>	<u>256,339</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Promote Health and Wellbeing	–	215,708	215,708
Support costs	<u>–</u>	<u>28,629</u>	<u>28,629</u>
	<u>–</u>	<u>244,337</u>	<u>244,337</u>

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2023 £	Total fund 2022 £
Promote Health and Wellbeing	227,850	25,530	253,380	241,480
Governance costs	<u>–</u>	<u>2,959</u>	<u>2,959</u>	<u>2,857</u>
	<u>227,850</u>	<u>28,489</u>	<u>256,339</u>	<u>244,337</u>

10. Analysis of support costs

	Analysis of Support Costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs	15,895	15,895	15,901
Premises	5,625	5,625	5,625
General office	4,010	4,010	4,035
Finance costs	84	84	129
Governance costs	<u>2,875</u>	<u>2,875</u>	<u>2,728</u>
	<u>28,489</u>	<u>28,489</u>	<u>28,418</u>

11. Net expenditure

Net expenditure is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>1,051</u>	<u>1,009</u>

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

12. Auditors remuneration

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	2,875	2,810

13. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	94,899	94,467
Social security costs	3,035	3,522
Employer contributions to pension plans	4,606	4,639
	<u>102,540</u>	<u>102,628</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 4 (2022: 5).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: Nil).

Key Management Personnel

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the part time Director and Operations Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity total £53,412 (2022: £46,521)

14. Trustee remuneration and expenses

The Charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity in the year (2022: £NIL). They were not reimbursed for travel expense during the year (2022: NIL). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022: £NIL).

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

15. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	18,641	11,751	30,392
Additions	–	1,422	1,422
At 31 March 2023	<u>18,641</u>	<u>13,173</u>	<u>31,814</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	18,641	8,607	27,248
Charge for the year	–	1,051	1,051
At 31 March 2023	<u>18,641</u>	<u>9,658</u>	<u>28,299</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2023	<u>–</u>	<u>3,515</u>	<u>3,515</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>–</u>	<u>3,144</u>	<u>3,144</u>

16. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	2,000	–
Prepayments and accrued income	33,464	9,690
	<u>35,464</u>	<u>9,690</u>

17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	8,485	2,469
Accruals and deferred income	6,993	6,859
Other creditors	528	345
	<u>16,006</u>	<u>9,673</u>

18. Deferred income

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 April 2022	4,131	–
Amount released to income	(4,131)	–
Amount deferred in year	4,293	4,131
At 31 March 2023	<u>4,293</u>	<u>4,131</u>

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

19. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £4,606 (2022: £4,639).

20. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
Designated Fund (Note A)	11,737	–	–	–	11,737
General Funds (Note B)	80,491	17,013	(20,684)	(725)	76,095
	<u>92,228</u>	<u>17,013</u>	<u>(20,684)</u>	<u>(725)</u>	<u>87,832</u>

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
Designated Fund (Note A)	11,664	–	–	73	11,737
General Funds (Note B)	68,956	858	–	10,677	80,491
	<u>80,620</u>	<u>858</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>10,750</u>	<u>92,228</u>

The Trustees have decided to allocate a fund of £11,664 to cover the sustainability gap between income and expenditure for the 2020-21 financial year budget (Note A) and hold unrestricted designated reserves for winding up and running costs to the value of £68,956 (Note B).

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
BHSCT	–	52,119	(52,119)	–	–
Belfast City Council	288	28,149	(28,437)	–	–
Public Health Agency	14,022	114,847	(126,797)	–	2,072
Enkalon Foundation	500	666	(1,166)	–	–
Souter Charitable Trust	–	–	–	–	–
Comic Relief	2,068	–	(606)	–	1,462

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

20. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Awards for All	5,620	45	(5,665)	–	–
DEFEB	454	2,852	(111)	–	3,195
Halifax	–	–	–	–	–
Thompson Trust	5,000	–	(5,000)	–	–
BCC- Hug in a box	583	250	(833)	–	–
BCC- Covid Response	–	–	–	–	–
Comic Relief (Covid)	–	–	–	–	–
Age NI	–	–	–	–	–
LFT	–	–	–	–	–
Haramead Trust	5,000	–	(5,000)	–	–
Independent age	–	–	–	–	–
Arts Council NI	–	4,286	(5,011)	725	–
BCC - FOW	–	2,470	(2,470)	–	–
BCC - PAL	–	2,440	(2,440)	–	–
CB and HH Taylor Trust	–	1,000	–	–	1,000
	<u>33,535</u>	<u>209,124</u>	<u>(235,655)</u>	<u>725</u>	<u>7,729</u>

	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
BHSCT	–	59,447	(48,916)	(10,531)	–
Belfast City Council	626	28,250	(28,588)	–	288
Public Health Agency	12,758	103,004	(101,740)	–	14,022
Enkalon Foundation	–	500	–	–	500
Souter Charitable Trust	3,000	–	(3,000)	–	–
Comic Relief	7,074	–	(5,006)	–	2,068
Awards for All	–	9,900	(4,280)	–	5,620
DEFEB	454	–	–	–	454
Halifax	–	5,000	(5,000)	–	–
Thompson Trust	–	5,000	–	–	5,000
BCC- Hug in a box	13,335	2,156	(14,908)	–	583
BCC- Covid Response	4,999	–	(4,999)	–	–
Comic Relief (Covid)	219	–	–	(219)	–
Age NI	2,900	–	(2,900)	–	–
LFT	–	10,000	(10,000)	–	–
Haramead Trust	–	5,000	–	–	5,000
Independent age	–	15,000	(15,000)	–	–
Arts Council NI	–	–	–	–	–
BCC - FOW	–	–	–	–	–
BCC - PAL	–	–	–	–	–
CB and HH Taylor Trust	–	–	–	–	–
	<u>45,365</u>	<u>243,257</u>	<u>(244,337)</u>	<u>(10,750)</u>	<u>33,535</u>

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	3,515	–	3,515
Current assets	96,030	12,022	108,052
Creditors less than 1 year	(11,713)	(4,293)	(16,006)
Net assets	<u>87,832</u>	<u>7,729</u>	<u>95,561</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	3,144	–	3,144
Current assets	123,223	9,069	132,292
Creditors less than 1 year	(5,541)	(4,132)	(9,673)
Net assets	<u>120,826</u>	<u>4,937</u>	<u>125,763</u>

Engage with Age
Company Limited by Guarantee
Management Information
Year ended 31 March 2023

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	2,152	550
CB and HH Taylor Trust	1,000	—
Esmee Mitchell Trust	2,500	—
Souter Trust	4,000	—
HDH Willis	500	—
Thompson Trust	1,000	—
St James' Place	2,595	—
	<u>13,747</u>	<u>550</u>
Charitable activities		
Enkalon	666	500
Halifax	—	5,000
Thompson Trust	—	5,000
LFT Trust	—	10,000
Haramead Trust	—	5,000
Awards for All	45	9,900
Belfast City Council	39,147	30,406
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	52,519	59,447
Public Health Agency	114,847	79,730
Public Health Agency Service Enhancements	—	23,274
Independent Age	—	15,000
Other Grants	880	251
Arts Council NI	4,286	—
	<u>212,390</u>	<u>243,508</u>
Investment income		
Deposit Accounts	—	57
	<u>—</u>	<u>57</u>
Total income	<u>226,137</u>	<u>244,115</u>

Engage with Age

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Promote Health and Wellbeing		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Wages & Salaries	80,071	79,495
Employers NIC	2,601	3,019
Pension Costs	3,973	4,002
Rent & Service Charge	10,855	10,855
Outsourcing Fees	14,822	10,551
Repairs & Cleaning	120	119
Insurance	627	567
Programme Costs	99,302	102,201
IT Support & Maintenance	1,242	908
Staff Travel	1,835	146
Consultancy	5,127	2,090
Telephone	991	599
Volunteer Expenses	7	9
Affiliation Fees	629	251
Publicity	648	896
Bad debt	5,000	—
	<u>227,850</u>	<u>215,708</u>
<i>Support costs</i>		
Wages & Salaries	14,828	14,972
Employers NIC	434	503
Pension Costs	633	637
Rent & Service Charge	5,625	5,625
Insurance	269	243
Staff Travel	97	8
Office Costs	1,460	1,632
Depreciation	1,051	1,009
Affiliation Fees	70	28
Sundries	1,063	848
Training	—	267
	<u>25,530</u>	<u>25,772</u>
<i>Governance costs</i>		
Audit Fees	2,875	2,728
Bank Charges	84	129
	<u>2,959</u>	<u>2,857</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>256,339</u>	<u>244,337</u>
Net expenditure	<u>(30,202)</u>	<u>(222)</u>

ENGAGE WITH AGE

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100718

Annual report



Engage with Age Annual Report 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Engage with Age (EWA) was established as a charity and a company limited by guarantee in November 2000. EWA is a community development organisation with the vision of a society which respects, values and listens to older people.

Engage with Age's mission is to enable older people in Belfast to live happier, healthier and more connected lives.

Engage with Age seeks to enable sustainable benefits for older people and the community. It operates multi-agency partnerships to ensure joined-up and collaborative working. Partnerships are active from a governance level down to operational and daily activities.

Governance and Management

Engage with Age is governed by a Board of Trustees that meets quarterly. Trustees come from a range of older people's and community organisations, older people's forums, as well individuals from the business, public sector and individual older people. The Board is supported by a Finance and Operations Sub-Group that meets six times per year, and a Governance Committee that supports the role and responsibilities of Trustees and Director.

The management of Engage with Age formally reports to the Board and the Finance and Operations Committee and has delegated responsibility for delivering the company's programme of work at an operational level. The staff team is composed of a Director, Operations Manager, and Development Officers that deliver the company's programmes. Engage with Age has sub-contracted to an external accountancy company to undertake its finance administration and engages a number of other service providers.

Objectives and activities

As described in the Articles and Memorandum of Association, Engage with Age's objects ('Objects') are to promote the health, wellbeing, interests and alleviate loneliness, isolation and exclusion of older people living in Northern Ireland (the area of benefit) without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, caring responsibilities, race, or political, religious, or other opinions by associating together the said inhabitants, local authorities, public agencies and voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to relieve poverty, preserve and protect health, advance education with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said beneficiaries.

Values

Our values guide us in our work and our relationships. They guide our behaviour, our attitudes, the decisions we make and what we expect from one another. Engage with Age values are based on community development principles. We put older people at the centre of all that we do, believing in self-determination and the right to make their own choices.

Our values are: Being older people-led; Empowering older people; Treating everyone with respect; Working closely with other organisations; Carrying out our work to the highest standards, with transparency; Ensuring everyone has the right to take part in stimulating activities and have fun.

We are committed to working in partnership, believing in the strength of the contribution of many agencies, people, and volunteers to make a real difference.

Strategic Planning

Engage with Age is implementing a strategic plan covering the period of April 2020 - March 2023 which reflects the above vision and mission, the methods of working and the objectives of the company. In early 2023 Engage with Age commenced development of a new strategic plan for the 2023-26 period.

Achievements and performance

The April 2022 - March 2023 year was the third year of the Covid-19 Pandemic. While surges in the virus were not as severe as previous years, the impact of the pandemic was still felt in engagement levels and cautiousness from older people. Engage with Age took a proactive stance towards enabling older people to be active within their communities while also being safe.

Year Three of the Engage with Age Strategic Plan 2020-2023

Engage with Age is pleased to report that while Covid-19 impacted on the practicalities of undertaking activities it did not affect the overall achievement of the main aims of its Strategic Plan. This was due mainly to the imagination and creativity of its staff, support of its board, collaborations with partner agencies, and the enthusiasm of the older people EWA worked with.

In August 2022 the company held a barbeque for 60 older people at Inverary Community Centre in East Belfast. Normally this would be unremarkable, but this was the first time in two years that a gathering with that number of people, indoors or outdoors, had been undertaken.

Supporting Older People's Groups and Forums

Surveying just before the reporting period highlighted that two thirds of older people's groups we work with had been adversely affected by Covid-19. This was in the form of reduced attendances and less frequent meetings. Support this year was targeted to encourage groups to gain greater confidence- regroup and grow membership. The Capacity Building Programme continued to work throughout East and South Belfast, achieving nearly double its target level of participation. The South Belfast programme reached out to new communities such as lower Donegall Road, and the East Belfast programme revisited relationships with over 60 groups across East Belfast.

The Older People's Forums EWA supports continued to operate well. The Belfast East Seniors Forum returned to a full schedule of in-person committee and forum meetings. It renewed its committee and grew membership numbers. The South Belfast Lifestyle Forum continued to grow in numbers with routinely well attended meetings sharing information and conveying the needs of communities in the south. The Greater Belfast Seniors Forum (G6) maintained its monthly meetings focusing on its Action Plan. In March 2023 EWA brought all of the Older People's Forums together for an inter-forum meeting, to share experiences and best practice, and to network with each other. This helped identify common needs and aspirations and assist with planning for the future.

Addressing the impact of Isolation and Loneliness on older people

The PAL Project continued to operate. Throughout the year, weekly and fortnightly activities took place, offering a range of book groups, social groups, walks, interest groups and dancing. Opportunities were taken to link with partner agencies for excursions and information sessions. EWA's links with peer agencies strengthened, including organisations such as Age NI and Red Cross, and partnerships such as the Belfast City Council City Wide Group on Isolation, and the NI Assembly All Party Group on Loneliness. Participation numbers grew, and this year saw the welcome return of The Slipped Disco event at the Oh Yeah Centre, Engage with Age's disco for older people.

Telephone befriending was also maintained through this period. Up to 27 volunteer Befrienders regularly telephoned 50 Befriendees. Feedback on the service was unanimously positive. Half of the Befriendees completed surveys and interviews in 2022 and 100% of that number reported positive impacts of the service on their wellbeing and a decrease in feelings of loneliness. One Befriender said: "I have never been on my own before... it was really hard to lose independence... the calls encourage me and I love to hear from my Befriender and I always feel better after the call." Throughout the year Befriending gatherings were held and this helped connect Befriendees to their Befrienders and wider activities.

Promoting good physical and mental health

The EWA health promotion programmes in South and East Belfast all exceeded their targets as set by the Public Health Agency and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

Physical deconditioning was highlighted as an issue for older people, given the reduced levels of movement and travel associated with Covid-19 safety and the need to isolate or stay at home. Physical health was promoted by EWA with a range of exercise sessions, armchair aerobics, and the welcome return of in person Tea Dances, particularly at St. Patrick's Day and throughout South Belfast in March 2023. Mental health was promoted via stress reduction sessions, t'ai chi, and promotion of Public Health programmes. Social engagement at activity sessions was more important than ever, and even by the end of the reporting period we were still meeting older people who had been staying at home in their efforts to stay safe from Covid. There was a significant increase in crafting and creative activities. The Words Alive group in South Belfast continued to meet weekly and then reach out to provide readings to people living in supported housing and nursing homes. In East Belfast new crafting and art sessions took place with a range of groups, many of which were undertaking this type of activity for the first time. Larger scale in person older people's fairs returned this year and EWA brought significant attendance to events in East and South Belfast as well as central events from Age Friendly Belfast. Skills workshop in IT continued and there was high attendance at information sessions on falls prevention and home accident prevention. Over 80 keep warm packs were distributed by EWA to vulnerable older people across South and East Belfast, and EWA worked to promote assistance to cope with the Cost of Living Crisis. Promotion of opportunities for older people and health messages were promoted directly through our East and South Belfast Programmes, through the monthly PAL Gazette to 1,300+ people, and online to audiences in excess of 10,000 throughout the year.

Supporting the voice of older people to influence matters that affect them

The Older People's Forums that EWA supports continued to engage directly with decision and policy makers, with over twenty formal consultations through forums with agencies including PSNI, Consumer Council, Queen's University of Belfast research programmes, Belfast Trust, the GP's Federation for Northern Ireland and more. The Forums were particularly engaged in consultations for the Belfast Age Friendly Plan.

Throughout the year EWA supported older people to attend forums include Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership, NI Assembly All Party Group on Loneliness, and the Belfast City Council All Party Reference Group on Older People. Engage with Age was also very active with dementia friendly campaigns, contributing to the South Belfast and City-Wide dementia campaigns, and co-chairing the Dementia Friendly East Belfast Programme. In summer 2022 the Festival of Windows increased in scale, engaging with 40 people living with dementia from 6 centres. 50 artworks were created and displayed in 50 shop windows belonging to businesses across East Belfast. The artworks were later exhibited at the Skainos Centre as part of Positive Ageing Month. Promoting the voice of people living with dementia was further enhanced through EWA's new Dementia Friendly Artist in Residence programme, which worked with six centres across South and East Belfast, and the ongoing production of the monthly Dementia Friendly What's On Guide. The PAL Gazette continued as a newspaper for older people, with a monthly column on the work of G6 and over 60 articles and submissions by older people.

Developing an evaluation framework

Pressures of time and resources, and the ongoing affect of the Pandemic on how we did our work, meant it was not possible to produce an evaluation framework as envisaged at the start of the strategic plan. Evaluation and reflection on the impact of EWA's work continued in this period, and the company is actively pursuing developing a new method for considering the impact of its work.

Developing the Governance and Operation of Engage with Age

The ongoing business of governing and managing Engage with Age continued successfully throughout the reporting period. Every contract and funding agreement was fulfilled. Finances were managed effectively with income secured from a range of sources, some of which were new. Communications promoting our services increased significantly. The work of the Board of Trustees governing the corporate development of Engage with Age was furthered through the Governance and the Finance and Operations sub-committees, regular board meetings, and ongoing contact with staff. Within this period three new trustees were recruited to Engage with Age.

Summary

The 2022-23 year can be best described as charging ahead out of Covid-19. Staff displayed great resilience and a 'can-do' spirit, while at the same time keeping older people safe.

In this year there were 14,000 attendances/ engagements from older people at Engage with Age activities, plus a further estimated 5,000 attendances at exhibitions and 10,000 online. This is a significant increase on previous years.

By the end of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan, Engage with Age had developed new services, increased its volume of engagement, deepened relationships with participants, navigated the challenges the Pandemic, and maintained a clear focus on delivering improved health and helped make stronger communities. The PAL Project continued to support older people experiencing loneliness, health improvement work progressed throughout South and East Belfast, groups and forums were sustained and grown, and the voice of older people persisted in advocating for the needs of its community.

By March 2023 EWA had started formulating plans for the next strategic plan 2023-26, looking forward to developing and extending the work and impact of EWA. The 2022-23 year closed with significant three-year funding agreements to sustain the PAL Project and capacity building work with older people through to the year 2026.

Having achieved many of its aims in the most difficult of circumstances, Engage with Age is ready to move forward in its renewed mission to empower older people to lead happy, healthy, more connected, and independent lives.

ENGAGE WITH AGE

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100718

Annual return

Our Ref: 6745/PD/MMCM
Date: 14/11/23



Private & Confidential

Board of Trustees
Engage with Age
East Belfast Network Centre
55 Templemore Avenue
Belfast
Co. Antrim
BT5 4FPX

Dear Sirs/Madams,

REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

The audit of the financial statements of Engage with Age for the year ended 31st March 2023 is complete. In line with Auditing Standards, we are writing to advise you of audit conclusions, significant matters arising during the course of the audit and other matters which are significant to the financial reporting process.

As auditors, we are responsible for forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared with the oversight of those charged with governance. As such, our tests are designed to assist us in forming our opinion and should not be relied upon to disclose all errors, irregularities or control deficiencies that exist. The audit does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities.

Audit opinion

The results of our audit work indicate that the financial statements presented are free of material misstatements and are represented fairly in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Thus we have issued an unqualified audit report on the financial statements.

Going concern

During the course of the audit, we did not identify or become aware of any events or conditions that may cast a significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. As a result, we concur with your assessment that the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements.

Fraud

Auditing standards require us to report any identified frauds, indications of fraud or any other relevant matters related to fraud. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Laws and regulations

No matters involving non-compliance with laws and regulations came to our attention during the course of the audit apart from those raised within the body of this report.

This report has been prepared for the sole use of those charged with governance of Engage with Age and must not be shown to third parties without our prior consent. No responsibility is assumed by Finegan Gibson Ltd towards any third party acting or refraining from action as a result of this report.

Misstatements

During the course of the audit, no material misstatements were identified.

Related parties

No significant matters arose during the audit in connection with related parties.

Subsequent events

We performed procedures designed to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that all events occurring between the date of the financial statements and the date of the audit report that require adjustment, or disclosure in, the financial statements have been identified. Audit procedures identified no subsequent events.

Internal control

During the course of the audit we identified a number of recommendations in relation to improving the internal control framework of the organisation. In summary, no priority 1, one priority 2 and no priority 3 observations were noted. These are set out in detail at Appendix 2.

We have graded our management report observations as follows:

Priority 1	An issue which requires urgent management decision and action without which there is a substantial risk to the achievement of key business/system objectives, or to the reputation of the organisation.
Priority 2	An issue which requires prompt attention, as failure to do so could lead to a more serious risk exposure.
Priority 3	Improvements that will enhance the existing control framework and/or represent best practice.

Acknowledgement

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the courtesy and assistance extended to us by Engage with Age personnel during the course of our audit.

Yours faithfully,

Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors

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APPENDIX 1: Schedule of Adjustments

Adjusted audit differences:

No.	Account	Nature/ Reason	Adjusting journals		Adjusted SOFA effect £	Adjusted B/S effect £
			Dr	Cr		
1	Donations	Correct write-off of debtor		5,000	5,000	-
	Bad debt expense	Correct write-off of debtor	5,000		(5,000)	-
<i>Being journal to correct recognition of debtor write-off</i>						

Unadjusted audit differences:

No.	Account	Nature/ Reason	Adjusting journals		Adjusted SOFA effect £	Adjusted B/S effect £
			Dr	Cr		
1	Belfast City Council	Debtor		1,015	1,015	
	Accrued income	Debtor	1,015			1,015

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No	Issue	Risk	Grade	Recommendation	Management Response	Responsibility & Target Date
Creditors						
1.	During the testing of aged creditors, it was noted that there was a negative balance on the report which occurred when invoice was paid twice.	There is increased risk of loss of charitable funds where invoices are paid twice in error.	2	Payments of invoices should be reviewed and ensured that only outstanding invoices should be paid.		

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