

Trustees' Report for The Edge Financial Year: April 2024 – March 2025 Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Registration: NIC100853 Registered Address: PO Box 18, Windmill Street, Ballynahinch, Co. Down, BT24 8YT

The Edge is a voluntary organisation governed by a voluntary Board of Trustees. Its vision is:

“To empower young people and the wider community to achieve their full potential spiritually, mentally, socially and physically.”

Programme Delivery and Impact

Throughout the year, The Edge continued to deliver a consistent range of programmes that remain central to its mission.

School-Based Provision

The Listening Space project continued in local primary schools, working with P6 and P7 classes. This programme remains a valued support to teachers and principals, helping children navigate challenging moments in their lives.

In addition, staff continued to engage with students in the local High School through a lunchtime detached programme. This initiative has strengthened relationships with young people and has been positively received by the school community.

Centre-Based Youth Work

Centre-based youth work remains a core element of The Edge's provision. Two weekly drop-in sessions were delivered for juniors aged 10–13, alongside one session for seniors aged 14–18. After several years of declining attendance among seniors, this year saw a notable increase in numbers. This improvement is partly attributed to renewed engagement with the two local high schools.

The Edge also delivered a senior TBUC (Together Building United Communities) programme involving 15 young people, which proved highly successful. Complementing this, targeted sessions for girls' and boys' groups addressed relevant issues such as anxiety, exam-related stress, relationship challenges, and coping skills.

During the summer months, detached outreach work was carried out across the town. Staff engaged with groups of young people in public spaces, receiving positive feedback from the wider community. This approach is expected to continue as daylight hours increase.

Summer Programmes

The Edge delivered activity weeks for both junior and senior groups, as well as a mission week supported by a team of 52 volunteers. This initiative engaged more than 140 children and young people and continues to be a significant part of the organisation's annual youth provision.

Community Work

The women's group experienced continued growth during the year. Many participants face loneliness and isolation, and The Edge provides a safe and supportive environment where they can connect with others. This project remains an important aspect of The Edge's wider community engagement in Ballynahinch.

Volunteers

Following challenges in volunteer recruitment the previous year, the organisation experienced a more positive outcome this year. Several volunteers were retained, and new volunteers were successfully recruited to support all programme areas.

25th Anniversary Celebrations

A key milestone this year was the celebration of The Edge's 25th anniversary. A special dinner was held for supporters, featuring reflections from individuals involved in founding and developing the centre over the years. The event generated a strong sense of enthusiasm and commitment for The Edge's continued work with young people and the wider community in the years ahead.

Financial Review

Income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025 were broadly consistent with the previous financial year. Despite a reduction in grant income compared with earlier years, each of the past three years concluded with a small surplus. This stability is due in part to the faithful generosity of local individuals and churches, as well as income generated from leasing the Christian Worker Union Hall, which was gifted to the organisation the previous year.

Charity trustees in March 2025 were as follows:

Trustees:

- Mrs Erin Nixon
- Mrs Fiona Robinson
- Mr Terry Hilland
- Mrs Helen Clarke
- Mr Joshua Martin
- Mr Dave Brown
- Mrs Julie Graham
- Ms Anna Williams

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Nixon', is displayed on a light blue rectangular background.

Erin Nixon, Chairperson

19/01/2026

Agreed by trustees on