

# FOYLE HOSPICE

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: 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)".

### **Objectives and activities**

The principal activities of the Foyle Hospice are the provision of palliative and end of life care for those patients who require it, as well as providing support for their families and carers. These services, free of any cost, are delivered through Foyle Hospice's Community Team, Day Hospice and In-Patient Care services and support.

The aims and objectives of the charity are as set out in the objects contained in the company's Memorandum of Association as well as the new three-year Strategic Plan, with effect from April 2024 – March 2027. In fulfilling its objectives, Foyle Hospice provides the following services:

### **In-Patient Care**

The In-Patient Unit currently comprises 9 beds and 1 self-contained apartments. Foyle Hospice supports families, friends and carers of patients to help them cope during their illness and in bereavement, in an attentive and non-intrusive way. Patients may be admitted for respite care or for pain and symptom control with a view to being discharged home. Patients are also admitted for specialist care and support in the terminal phase of their illness.

### **Community Palliative Care Nursing Team**

Foyle Hospice has a team of specialist nurses who visit patients in their homes across the whole of the Western Health and Social Care Trust area. The Community Palliative Care Nursing Team work closely with GP's and District Nurses offering support and advice to ensure patients receive the best quality of care available. The specific needs of family and friends are also considered. A Specialty Doctor, supported by our medical team within Foyle Hospice and other professionals closely support these specialist nurses.

### **Day Therapy**

Our Day Therapy Service operates three days per week and provides an opportunity for patient assessments, social activities and complementary therapies. It also enables a short respite break for those at home, who provide caring arrangements for an ill relative or friend.

### **Bereavement Support**

This is an important element of hospice care and support available to relatives and friends of patients. The bereavement support sessions are facilitated by staff, supported by experienced volunteers and offer a safe, secure and comfortable environment for the users to express their feelings relating to their experience of death.

Healing Hearts is a specialist bereavement support service for young people aged 4 – 18 years and is led by a Children and Young Person's Facilitator, currently supported by our Children's Counsellors.

### **Advice**

Foyle Hospice offers 24/7 Telephone Advice service, which is available at all times for advice to GPs, district nurses, hospital staff, health care professionals, relatives and other members of the public in matters relating to Palliative and End of Life Care.

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### Other Activities

During the financial year, Foyle Hospice once again received addition non-recurrent funding from the Department of Health's Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) to support continued delivery of the Integrative Care Clinic three days per week. However, we have recently been advised that SPPG will no longer fund the delivery of this service. We are looking at alternative opportunities and hope to identify options as to how we might best approach the delivery of a sustainable out patient service.

SPPG has also provided funding to enable the delivery of a Compassionate Communities framework across Northern Ireland, which continues to focus on raising awareness and education about death, dying and bereavement within communities. Funding for this project has now been secured for three years, to the end of March 2028 and continues to build and develop strong relationships with agencies, organisations and groups across the entire region.

Through the Department of Health's Cancer Charities Support Fund, administered by the Community Foundation Northern Ireland, Foyle Hospice has been able to deliver community services seven days per week, to include weekends and public holidays. Phase One has also included the provision of adult and children counselling services. As a result of additional funding from generous grant providers and our own funds, the counselling services have been extended to March 2026 and the community seven day service has been extended to July 2027.

Further funding was approved for Foyle Hospice, through Phase Three of the Department of Health's Cancer Charities Support Fund. This currently includes a Specialty Doctor to support the Community Team and Complementary Therapist services, which have also been extended until the end of October 2025.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

### *Public benefit*

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

### *Volunteers*

Volunteers play a key role in all services at Foyle Hospice, particularly in the provision of vital support to the IPU, Day Hospice, Bereavement Support, Fundraising and Retail. Trustees volunteer their time freely to attend regular board meetings, structured and ad hoc sub committees, as well as offering ongoing support to the Senior Management Team and the organisation as a whole. A Volunteer Forum has also been established, offering a platform for volunteers across all key service delivery areas to have a voice and provide an opportunity to feedback to improve and/or enhance respective service delivery.

### **Achievements and performance**

#### *Significant activities and achievements against objectives*

The Board of Trustees are extremely pleased to have had yet another exceptionally positive inspection by RQIA in February 2025, with no areas of improvement or recommendations reported.

The current strategic plan focuses on enhanced services and support frameworks, so as to greater enable patients to remain at home. The review of Day Hospice services has been undertaken by SPPG and we hope that the outcome will result in closer working relationships with provision of services that are based on patient need. We hope to provide an optimum number of bed spaces at our Inpatient Unit, which are so desperately needed to support patients with more complex conditions.

Foyle Hospice's accounts for 2024/25 demonstrate a deficit of £46,225. However, the Board of Trustees are well aware of the long-term financial risks and uncertainty as we continue to navigate society that is significantly impacted by the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and political instability.

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### Financial review

The Statement of Financial Activities indicates that the Hospice had incoming resources of £4,650,366 in the year. The expenditure for the year was £4,895,462. Which resulted in net expenditure of £245,096. Net gains on investments of £199,475 represent realised gains on sale of investments in the amount of £199,299 plus revaluation gains on investments to market value in the amount of £176. Additionally, sterling euro exchange adjustments resulted in losses of £604. All of these factors resulted in the Hospice reporting overall deficit for the 2024/25 financial year of £46,225. As such, the Hospice's accumulated funds decreased by this amount.

The Trustees were required to transfer an amount of £79,017 from unrestricted funds to restricted funds, which represents Foyle Hospice contribution towards the cost of providing services in the Southern Sector.

Trustees, along with the Finance and Audit Committee and Senior Management Team have continued to monitor our income and reserves, assessing the financial and operational risks to the charity, taking appropriate actions to mitigate the impact of any negative outcomes.

### Reserves policy

The Trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets ('the free reserves') held by Foyle Hospice should equate to approximately 12 months of unrestricted expenditure (approximately £4,200,000) to enable the charity to continue the current activities in the event of a significant drop in fundraising.

At 31 March 2025 the free reserves were £7,157,801 and as such the target has been achieved.

Additionally, £182,008 was received in respect of the Integrative Care Clinic and Compassionate Communities. A further £247,687 was received through the Cancer Charities Support Fund. Foyle Hospice was also awarded funding from St James Place Foundation for the Southern Sector totalling £40,000, with £30,000 apportioned to FY25 and £10,000 to FY26. Additionally, £60,000 of support was received from Gillan Family Trust in FY25.

Despite voluntary income performing much better than anticipated in year, there is a reported deficit which has resulted in a decrease in Foyle Hospice's free reserves at the reporting date. Trustees accept the projection of further deficits of income against expenditure for 2025/26 financial year, but have increased targets for voluntary income based on previous year's performance. The organisation will continue to monitor income and expenditure during 2025/26 on a quarterly basis.

The assessment is based on the non-recurring nature of some funding support received during 2024/25 and the unpredictability of voluntary income such as legacies and donations, further compounded by the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

Therefore, the Trustees anticipate that the free reserves will be used to ensure we maintain appropriate levels of service provision during this period.

### Investment policy

The Trustees have considered the most appropriate policy for investing funds. In the accounting year ended 31 March 2025 the Trustees continued with the management of their investment portfolio through Davy. Davy's aim is to ensure that selected securities are relatively safe and provide a reasonable yield. They do not currently chase high yield to the detriment of risk in the portfolio.

### Major risks

The Governance and Risk Committee works in collaboration with the Senior Management Team in relation to managing and mitigating against risk. A Risk Management Strategy is in place, alongside a Corporate Risk Register and Operational Risk Register, both of which are reviewed on a regular basis.

This Committee has assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a company Limited by Guarantee not having a share capital, incorporated on 11th October 1985 and is registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs Angela McIntyre MBE (Chairperson)

Ms Patricia Blaney (Vice Chairperson)

Mr Gerard O'Hara (Treasurer)

Mr Patrick Kelly

Mr Brendan Dowdall

Ms Jennifer Maloney

Mrs Carolann Doherty

Mrs Gillian King

Dr Gerry Mackin

Ms Therese Brown

Mr Damian McCauley

(Appointed 30 September 2024)

(Appointed 30 September 2024)

(Appointed 30 September 2024)

### *Recruitment and appointment of trustees*

The Board of Trustees can have up to 24 members but not less than 5 members. There are currently 11 Trustees. As set out in the Articles of Association, one third of the serving trustees retire at each Annual General Meeting and they shall be those who have been longest in office since the last election or appointment. A retiring director shall be eligible for re-election for at least a second term of three years. The Trustees shall at any time elect a new trustee by co-option and who will remain in office until the next Annual General Meeting, but shall also be eligible for re-election.

Foyle Hospice undertakes an annual skills audit among Trustees in order to identify any knowledge and/or skills gaps within its membership. These skills are specific to the strategic and operational nature of the organisation. Foyle Hospice will undertake regular Trustee Recruitment Drives to achieve balance and with a view to proactive succession planning.

### *Trustee induction and training*

From time to time, expressions of interest will facilitate recruitment of new trustees to meet the essential skill set for the Board of Trustees. Potential candidates will meet with the Chair and Vice Chairperson in the first instance for a discussion about their role, responsibilities and expectations. They will then have the opportunity to meet with the Chief Executive who will facilitate an orientation day to brief them on: their legal obligations under charity and company law, the charity commission guidance on public benefit, and inform them of the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, various committees, organisational structure and decision-making process, the strategic plan and recent financial performance of the charity.

As part of the induction, they will have an opportunity to meet with Senior Management Team, key employees and other trustees. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate and further support the undertaking of the role.

### *Organisational structure*

The Board of Trustees administer the charity. A Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the CEO has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance and the management of the In-Patient Unit, the Day Hospice, Community Team and the Income Generation and Communications Department, alongside any other projects that may be contracted to Foyle Hospice.

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### *Relationship with related parties*

None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a contracted supplier must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year, no such related party transactions were reported. All Trustees are required to complete a Declaration of Interest Form and these are updated on an annual basis or as required subject to individual circumstances.

### **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees, who are also the directors of Foyle Hospice for the purpose 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 trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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 Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that 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.

### **Auditor**

Moore (NI) LLP were appointed as auditor of the company for the three year period covering 2024/25 - 2026/27 following a tender process. In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Moore (NI) LLP be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at the Annual General Meeting.

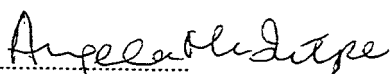
### **Small company provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

### **Disclosure of information to auditor**

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Mrs Angela McIntyre MBE (Chairperson)  
Trustee

Date: 22.09.25