

# **Oasis - Caring in Action**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

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

#### **Year ended 31 December 2022**

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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 December 2022.

#### **Chair's report**

Given the previously reported pressures and the continuing drag effect of the Covid 19 Pandemic on our operating model and our dear clients, we as a Board of Trustees were focused during 2022 on consolidating the more appropriately sized business in our collective rented premises. This strategy agreed, with professional advisors has brought stability and also resulted in clear robust governance within OCIA Ltd and ultimately it ensures we run operations on a firm and sustainable operating model. The nature of our charity means we are totally reliant on our partner funders, to which we are very grateful, but this carries risks when we are at the behest of Government funding, which a number of our sister charities found to their cost when ESF funding ended this year. Thankfully we survived that scare in partnership with PT receiving 2 year replacement funding.

I believe we made significant progress throughout 2022. Against the background of an emerging cost of living crisis and following the economic drag from the pandemic caused by Covid 19 infection, which effected every part of our business. By God's help and enabling we managed to meet all our goals as a charity and added a number of key new tasks that emerged directly, in the community, as a direct result of Covid. We have established a more user friendly area on our ground floor in East Belfast and have established the Antrim Community Hub, both of which are used to meet the very real needs around the mental health of our clients in both Belfast and Antrim.

The charity has just past 26 years in existence and we thanked CFC this year as the founding church behind establishing OCIA Ltd in both Belfast and Antrim. They have now decided to spread their wings in charitable giving to align with their church areas. Thank you for your support over the 26 years and your continuing support in Antrim.

We are also deeply grateful to anonymous donation through the church to us of £40k during 2022.

We continued to narrow our focus on the core long established activities of the charity that were and still are performing well in their own right. These activities typically exist to offer support, training and resources to individuals and thereby empowering and changing their lives on a personal, family and community perspective.

Our and our CEO's emphasis has been on protecting and developing our core activities, overseeing the implementation of clear and accountable financial discipline, reducing debt by asset sale and ensuring we have a sustainable financial footing through 2022 and into 2023 and beyond. All of this whilst assessing current and future economic headwinds and dealing with the current cost of living crisis.

We have seen first hand across all the programmes the heartache caused by people being displaced from their homeland and arriving in Belfast and as usual our excellent staff and existing clients have welcomed them into our "home" at Oasis across all sites.

## **Oasis - Caring in Action**

### **Company Limited by Guarantee**

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

##### **Year ended 31 December 2022**

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It is really important we put on record our thanks to groups like Belfast Health Trust, DFC, Co-operation Ireland, Early Years Organisation, PT, PHA, DOJ, BCC, The Pathway fund, Trussell Trust, Tesco, Enkalon Foundation, BCPP, National Lottery Community Fund, Dormant Funds and NIHE. Plus the very very generous personal donations of the public and the local churches around Antrim to the foodbank.

We updated our website and giving is beginning to flow directly to the charity through this resource .  
Thank You

During 2022 we have witnessed and been privy to many personal testimonies which support the impact of the charity's work, this has been the most pleasing aspect and it is at the heart of our Christian beliefs within the charity to look after the most needy in society on a sustainable basis.

We are confident moving into 2023 of OCIA's ability to perform strongly within its means and realise opportunities to further its work supporting lives within communities in East Belfast and Antrim by Gods help and enabling.

On behalf of the Board of OCIA we would like to record our sincere thanks to Stephen Cruise and the staff teams for their work in each of our projects.

Oasis Caring in Action exists simply as a demonstration of God's love in the communities we serve. It has been a privilege to lead the charity in pursuit of its aims to alleviate the challenges facing the impoverished in society whether that be physical, mental, spiritual or economic hardship. We look forward with fresh enthusiasm to our continued service.

Donald Eastop  
Chairman