

# **Carrickfergus & District MENCAP Society**

## **Trustees' Annual Report**

**Year ended 31 December 2024**

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### **Reference and administrative details**

<b>Registered charity name</b>	Carrickfergus & District MENCAP Society
<b>Charity registration number</b>	101253
<b>Principal office</b>	15 Donegall Way Co. Antrim BT389LW United Kingdom

### **The trustees**

Mr S Bell	
Mr I Crowe	
Mrs D McElroy	
Mr J MacQuarrie	(Served from 5 January 2024 to 14 May 2024)
Miss J Pollock	(Appointed 5 January 2024)

<b>Independent examiner</b>	John Magee Aubrey Campbell & Co. 631 Lisburn Road Belfast BT9 7GT
-----------------------------	--

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

Mencap have strong relations with a local network of more than 500 affiliated groups, of which the Carrickfergus and District Society is one, working in partnership with people with a learning disability.

All of our services support people to live life as they choose, providing independence, advice, and a voice for changes that people with a learning disability want.

The Society in Carrickfergus is a charity in its own right, working to ensure that people with a learning disability and their families have support locally. We have a Board of Trustees, with a traditional structure - elected officebearers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) and lay membership.

Statutory compliance and administration has traditionally been under the control of the Treasurer, although all Trustees are aware of their responsibility to act collectively to ensure the proper administration of the charity, safeguard its assets and resources to ensure that they are used solely in the furtherance of the objectives of the charity, and act in the best interests of the charity, avoiding conflicts between it and their personal interests.

### **Public Benefit Statement**

The trustees confirm that they have had due regard for the guidance produced on public benefit by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are pleased to report that during the period the charitable company has continued to provide public benefits through the programmes and services we offer.

# **Carrickfergus & District MENCAP Society**

## **Trustees' Annual Report** *(continued)*

**Year ended 31 December 2024**

### **Objectives and activities**

Mencap works with people with a learning disability to change laws, challenge prejudice and support them to live their lives as they choose. The Carrickfergus and District Society do not typically hold fundraising events for their own benefit, but play a vital role in providing its members and local community with financial and moral support.

### **Achievements and performance**

The Trustees continue to encourage the aims of Carrickfergus and District Mencap Society whilst both safeguarding and maintaining the Charity's property and financial resources. Our ground was insured and maintained as required. The parking of six NHSCT buses on our property continues for a further two years.

In conjunction with Mr Joe Carey of Carey & Johnston Financial Services we met for the annual assessment of capital funds. The last year was a more stable time for the stock markets and our decision to move to the Fidelity International investment platform with lower management costs proved worthwhile.

We were privileged to support several ventures throughout the year, the major one being a Learning Support Unit with outdoor play area for Victoria Primary School. An Ipad and case was supplied to clients in Abbots Court Supported Living Scheme while Junior and Senior Gateway continued to have support. Funds have been ring-fenced for the refurbishment of a sensory room in Ellis Court but this still awaits completion.

It was with profound shock and sadness that we learned recently of the death of our esteemed colleague, Trustee and Treasurer John MacQuarrie CBE. John's involvement with Mencap goes back many years originally with the Whitehead branch and then as an invaluable member in Carrickfergus & District Mencap. We appreciated his dedication, encouragement and wisdom in so many situations. In early 2022, following the death of our Treasurer Trevor Monteith MBE, John was elected as replacement Treasurer and Trustee. He was the 'perfect fit' as they say and our Society gained immense benefit from his service in these roles. Our thoughts and prayers are indeed with his wife Jayne and the family circle. To quote a recent Senior Gateway tribute: "John's unwavering commitment to improving the lives of people with learning disabilities has left an indelible mark on our community. His tireless efforts and compassionate spirit will be greatly missed, but his legacy will continue to inspire us all."

In memory of John MacQuarrie, a donation of £500 was made in his name.

### **Financial review**

The society donated £78,895 (2023, £41,725) to worthy causes and projects during this financial period, including £49,023 to Victoria Primary School for a learning support unit and an outdoor play area. £5,680 was also donated to Central Integrated Primary School for sensory equipment. These will help support Foundation and Key Stage 1 children with moderate learning difficulties and autism.

The Society's cash investments have been disclosed at market valuation. It is acknowledged that this will inevitably lead to fluctuations with regard to the value of total funds held by the Society going forward, but this is an unavoidable requirement of the Charity Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).

The net deficit for the year before investment gains was £78,960 (2023 £29,413). This was offset by investment gains of £216,016 (2023 £93,985) leading to an overall increase in funds for the year of £137,056 (2023 £125,514). Overall funds carried forward are £1,744,427 (2023 £1,607,371).

# **Carrickfergus & District MENCAP Society**

## **Trustees' Annual Report** *(continued)*

**Year ended 31 December 2024**

### **Plans for future periods**

The Society is also open to the possibility that some of the funds currently held might be used in a facility, perhaps on a co-funded basis, with the local Health Trust. However, continued austerity measures imposed by successive governments make this unlikely in the short to medium term.

The trustees' annual report was approved on ..... and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Mr S Bell  
Trustee

Mr I Crowe  
Trustee

Mrs D McElroy  
Trustee

Miss J Pollock  
Trustee