

Belfast Central Mission

Northern Ireland · Charity number 101271

Details

Known as	BCM
Status	Received
Company number	55693
Registered	2015-02-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	Belfast Central Mission Grosvenor House 5 Glengall Street Belfast BT12 5ad BT12 5AD
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Website	www.belfastcentralmission.org

Activities

Purposes: The advancement of the Christian religion in Ireland. The relief of poverty, sickness, infirmity or other necessitous circumstances through the provision of accommodation, care, counselling or education for people in Northern Ireland who are in need of such provision by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

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

How the charity works:

Accommodation/housing, Advice/advocacy/information, Counselling/support, Disability, Playgroup/after schools, Religious activities, Volunteer development

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds), General public, Homelessness, Learning disabilities, Mental health, Older people, Parents, Preschool (0-5 year olds), Unemployed/low income, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£8,467,950	£8,321,070	£-706,797	243

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Gordon Robinson		
Jo Dwyer		
Mr David J Hopley		
Mr Geoffrey Hooks		
Mrs Denise Hayward		
Mrs Heather Taylor		
Mrs Sharon Nurse		
Peter Livingstone		
Rev Robin Waugh		
Rev Stephen Sheerin		
Rev. David Campton		
Rowan Black		

Belfast Central Mission

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101271

Accounts

Company Registration Number NI055693
Charity Registration Number NIC101271

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

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Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Trustees

Mr R Black (Chairperson)
Mr Geoff Hooks (Treasurer) joined June 2024
Rev D Campton
Mrs M Copeland
Miss M J Dwyer
Mr D Ferguson

Mr P Clarke (resigned August 2024)
Dr D Gallagher (resigned September 2024)
Mr W Robinson
Rev S Sheerin
Mrs H Taylor
Mrs D Hayward (joined June 2024)

Superintendent

Rev D Campton

Chief Executive

Mr N Conway

Head of Community Services

Mrs J Love

Head of Residential Services

Mrs L Payam

Head of Finance

Mrs J Sloan

Head of Business Development

Mr A Irwin

Head of People

Mrs J Miskelly

Head of Operations

Mr N Emery

Registered Office

Grosvenor House
5 Glengall Street
Belfast
BT12 5AD

Reference and administrative details (continued)

Auditors

Moore (N.I.) LLP
Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

Solicitors

Cleaver Fulton Rankin
50 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7FW

Bankers

Ulster Bank Ltd
11-16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

Investment Custodian

The Trustees of the Methodist Church in Ireland
Edgehill House
9 Lennoxvale
Belfast
BT9 5BY

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Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Belfast Central Mission is a company limited by guarantee. It is governed by its revised Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 18 September 2018. The charitable company is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under registration number NIC101271. BCM is the trading name of Belfast Central Mission.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the 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) (effective 1 January 2015).

Organisational Structure

The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the organisation. It meets regularly to review BCM's performance against its charitable objectives and review its financial performance. The Board consists of a Non-Executive Chairperson, the Superintendent of the Mission (ex officio, appointed by the Methodist Church in Ireland), Secretary (ex officio), Treasurer (ex officio), and up to 8 other nominated Directors. The Board works closely with the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team who oversee the operations on a day-to-day basis.

Structure, governance and management

Appointment of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is nominated by the Circuit Executive of South and Central Belfast Methodist Circuit sitting as the General Meeting of the Mission Committee of BCM and is reported annually to the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland. Every effort is made to ensure that there is a wide and relevant skill base amongst the Directors to enable the Board to perform its duties effectively.

Trustee induction and training

New Board Members go through an induction process with respect to that which covers their roles as Directors and as Trustees. They are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the requirements of the Charity Commission, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Strategic Plan, the decision-making processes and recent financial performance of the organisation, and operations of the organisation. Board members are encouraged to attend relevant external training events to assist them in the performance of their duties.

Pay policy for Key Management Personnel

The Board of Directors and the Senior Management Team comprise the key management personnel of the organisation. Details of remuneration of this group are disclosed in note 13 to the financial statements. The pay for all employees, including senior staff, is reviewed annually. The aim is to pay all employees a fair salary that is competitive within the charity sector, proportionate to the complexity of the role and in line with the organisation's charitable objectives and financial budgets.

Wider Network and Impact on Operating Policies

BCM, a company limited by guarantee, is also an associated body of the Methodist Church in Ireland and seeks to abide by the basic rules of the Church including, but not limited to, no alcohol on properties and no engagement with, or benefit from, gambling. There is minimal impact on BCM's operating policies as a result of this relationship.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

Details of related party transactions are disclosed in note 25 to the financial statements. The organisation has entered into joint management agreements with two local housing associations, working to deliver Housing Support services alongside vulnerable people.

Objectives and activities

The primary objects of Belfast Central Mission, as stated in its governing document, are:

1. The advancement of the Christian religion in Ireland.
2. The relief of poverty, sickness, infirmity, or other necessitous circumstances through the provision of accommodation, care, counselling or education on a cross-community basis for people in Northern Ireland who are in need of such provision.

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During 2023, BCM embarked on a strategic review in advance of a new strategic period (2024-2027). We have developed a three-year strategy which will enable the "Provision of quality compassionate support to people at their point of need", which in a shortened format is "Supporting people at their point of need". The strategic priorities identified are as follows:

Excellence in our Delivery

- Recruit and retain the most capable individuals.
- Enhance the well-being and development of our team.
- Communicate more effectively.
- Ensure financial health and viability.
- Understand and respond to service user needs.

Excellence within our Organisation

- Provide inspirational strategic leadership.
- Maintain the high level of standards across the organisation.
- Remain person-centered and maintain a positive culture of excellence, integrity and respect.

Excellence in Sustainability

- Grow our profitability.
- Diversify our sources of income.

It is important that success is assessed and the primary measures that will be used are:

- The number of people helped with a focus on older people, young people and children and families.
- Stakeholder and service user satisfaction.
- Quality of service delivery.
- Impact and outcomes measurement.
- Trustee, employee, volunteer and congregation satisfaction.
- Sustainable financial growth.

The significant activities undertaken are set out below, categorised under the two objects of the Charity.

OBJECT ONE:

Historically the "Grosvenor Hall" congregation, a society belonging to the Methodist Church in Ireland (MCI) was the origin of the wider work of the Mission. That small congregation continues to worship weekly in Grosvenor House, as the newly formed Belfast Central and South Circuit, which added Finaghy and Cornerstone (Rosetta Road and Saintfield Road) to the three congregations in Donegall Road Methodist, Belfast South Methodist (in the Agape Centre on the Lisburn Road) and the Church of the Resurrection (the joint Methodist/Church of Ireland Church and Chaplaincy on Elmwood Avenue). It is through partnership with these congregations and other faith-based organisations, that a significant amount of the Object One activity of "advancement of the Christian religion" takes place. Indeed, collaboration and partnership are key to this aspect of our work, given the age and number of people who now meet for weekly Sunday worship in Grosvenor House.

However, during the course of 2023, as a result of the strategic review referred to earlier the Board of Mission commissioned a working party to look at Object 1, allowing them, in January 2024 to reaffirm their commitment to that Object in terms of:

Expressing Christian Faith in Action through:

1) Worship/Fellowship:

- a) The support of a worshipping community in the centre of Belfast.
- b) The support of worship, where appropriate, associated with BCM projects.
- c) The support of new expressions of worship.

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2) Care/Service:

- a) The support of Object 2 of the Charity by members of church through
 - i) Volunteering
 - ii) Financial/material giving.
- b) Chaplaincy/Pastoral Care of those who use BCM services, staff & others.
- c) Partnership with other organisations which share common goals in this sphere.

3) Witness:

- a) The exploration of new ways to engage with the Christian faith.
- b) The promotion of peace and reconciliation.
- c) Partnership and support for other organisations and programmes which share common goals in this sphere.

Under those headings in 2024

1) Worship/Fellowship:

- a) The Grosvenor Hall congregation continues to worship weekly in the centre of Belfast, despite significant disruption due to the development of the new Transport Hub. This included both a special service to mark the 135th anniversary of the congregation and Mission in November, and the traditional launch service for BCM's Christmas Toy Appeal programme, led by Dundrod Silver Band.
- b) Midweek services are conducted each week in our elderly care facilities. In Kirk House this is facilitated by our Superintendent and an ecumenical rota of local clergy. In Copelands, it is usually conducted by our Chaplain, with a small group of appropriately trained volunteers. Rev. June Parke, a minister of the Belfast Central and South Circuit acted as Copelands Chaplain until her retirement in June, when her place was taken by Mrs. Julie Craythorne for the second of her two-year period with us as a Methodist Minister in Training.
- c) In the summer of 2024, we also initiated a series of monthly Sunday reflective walks entitled "Packed-Lunch Pilgrimages" encouraging people to explore the local area and various issues through a different lens.

2) Care/Service:

- a) The aforementioned Toy Appeal and other periodic fundraising appeals are indebted to various faithful individual volunteers and donors and churches who specifically support our projects. The partnership with St. Vincent de Paul in the Toy Appeal is now 25 years old and indicative of the many other partnerships with local faith organisations who support local BCM programmes, providing practical and financial help and gifts for residents and staff. The members of Grosvenor Hall Congregation continue to volunteer in the Toy Programme and in other ways. As part of the annual Harvest Service, Sharron Morrison, the Local Campaigns Manager for Trussell Trust joined the congregation and explained some of the current drivers of poverty, inviting members of the congregation to get involved in the current lobbying campaign for adequate benefits. As part of our annual Home Missions Service, Nathan Catterson, Manager of one of our Young Adults Supported Housing Projects accompanied the Superintendent to two congregations to inform them about our work in that field.
- b) The Superintendent and the Chaplain at Copelands seek to provide pastoral to the Grosvenor Hall congregation, the residents of Copelands and Kirk House, and any other service-users and staff who call upon their services, with the support of other circuit ministers, local ministers and others.
- c) BCM continues to financially support the work of Belfast City Centre Chaplaincy and the Superintendent of BCM is currently its Chair. The Grosvenor Hall Congregation continues to support Belfast Storehouse, a food/clothing/furniture project, with monthly food collection and ongoing fundraising, and for the second year, generously supported a "winter coat appeal" by Radius Housing. At present, we are exploring partnerships to enhance our work with Anna Chaplaincy, an initiative of BRF Ministries, and Linking Lives, a project addressing loneliness. A pilot project with Linking Lives has been established in Donegall Road Methodist.

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3) Witness:

- a) In partnership with other congregations on the circuit, various means of engagement with faith are offered including a Book Group, Public Theology Lectures and online seminars, a Centring Prayer Group and hybrid Bible studies, with joint activities during Advent, Christmas and Holy Week being particularly well supported. As part of Holy Week 2024, the Circuit hosted a performance of the one man play written by the Superintendent "A Farther Shore" exploring the life of Simon Peter, and issues of inclusion, change and forgiveness.
- b) In respect to the promotion of peace and reconciliation, our Superintendent continues to serve as a Director of the Four Corners Festival, a one week faith-based peace-building festival in February of each year, and hosts a monthly meeting of Contemporary Christianity's "Churches Initiative Group," The Superintendent has also been asked to act as a "critical friend" for a group seeking to foster better civic/political engagement with and within the loyalist community. In December, BCM, in association with St John's Falls Road Parish facilitated a discussion on the questions raised for the church in veteran Methodist peacemaker Rev Harold Good's recently published book "In Good Time."
- c) BCM continues to own the former premises of Springfield Road Methodist Church in which Forthspring Intercommunity Group is based, and remains a corporate member of that organisation, but we are seeking to sell the premises to them and extricate BCM from governance of the organisation.

Future Opportunities:

As stated above, we hope to enter into a formal partnership with "Anna Chaplaincy" to enhance our service in Copelands and beyond. The possibility of acquiring a local redundant Methodist church might open up other opportunities for ministry and mission.

The "In Good Time" event previously referred to has raised questions regarding to how the churches might facilitate "critical conversations" about difficult issues within themselves and in wider society, and the Superintendent is currently participating after discussions.

Essential internal governance changes will require proactive messaging to maintain a healthy relationship with the wider Methodist circuit and connexion.

BCM will continue to partner with other organisations to take forward their mutual objects, including:

- Belfast Central and South Methodist Circuit.
- Belfast City Centre Chaplaincy.
- The Four Corners Festival.
- Church Initiatives Group/Contemporary Christianity.
- Christians Against Poverty.
- Miscellaneous food banks.

OBJECT TWO

BCM's ongoing social outreach supported 3385 people in 2024 via a diverse range of projects across multiple localities, each experiencing their own successes and challenges. Our residential care services enjoyed their most successful year to date, with uptake and feedback delivering excellent outcomes for both the organisation and our users. Across our funded and charitable services, we saw excellent outcomes measured by ongoing challenges in staffing and resourcing. User outcomes and satisfaction have been generally strong, with specific challenges around recruitment and retention continuing to be the biggest threat to the quality and sustainability of our services.

Specific challenges have been identified within our Puddleducks Nursery, as it has had to rapidly adapt to the changing market environment within central Belfast. Our Parent Support service in Newtownards has been affected by funding cuts, brought about by the organisation's growth and reduced eligibility for ongoing support. We are also seeing emerging challenges that may shape the future direction of some services, with rising mental health needs amongst our younger users and emerging needs around housing for young people unable to secure a first home.

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES (during 2024)

- Housing Support - 389 older people.
- Housing support -343 younger people.
- Parent and family support – 81 families/ 253 individuals.
- Christmas Support – 2000 children (Belfast only).

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- Puddleducks Day Nursery – 122 children.
- Therapeutic Counselling service – 31 individuals.
- Residential with care: 143 older people.
- Supported Housing: 51 younger people.
- Lunch club: 35 older people.
- Volunteering: 15 befrienders and 5 lunch club volunteers.

Housing Support for Younger People (HSYP)

Service Summary

Housing Support for Young People (HSYP) supports young people aged 16–25 who are homeless, struggling with housing, leaving care, or requiring help with independent living skills. Operating across Armagh, Dungannon, Magherafelt, North Down and Newtownards, HSYP delivers a holistic, person-centred service. Support is focused on six key areas: housing, money management, health and wellbeing, support networks, meaningful activity, and independence skills.

Dungannon, Armagh and Magherafelt

HSYP supported 218 young people during 2024, up from 204 in 2023. Our waiting list throughout the year demonstrated the continued demand for services in these areas. Housing outcomes remained strong, with 99% of service users referred as homeless moving into safer, settled accommodation. Satisfaction levels remained high, with 100% of exit survey respondents reporting they were "highly satisfied" with the support they received. Staff also strengthened partnerships with local Jobs and Benefits Offices, NIHE teams, and local schools, resulting in more connected referral pathways and community engagement. Over £15,000 was secured through the Buttle Trust and additional grants provided crucial financial support to young people at points of need. Staff development remained a priority, with qualifications such as Level 2 "Money Guiders" completed by the team to better assist service users in managing their finances. The year also saw a notable rise in adverse incidents, reflecting the growing continually rising mental health challenges among service users that has formed an ongoing trend in recent years.

North Down and Ards

HSYP directly supported 125 young people during 2024. Staffing shortages, with only two support workers in post for much of the year, significantly impacted caseloads and engagement rates. Despite these challenges, HSYP North Down and Ards maintained high-quality outcomes, achieving 100% success across all six Supporting People outcome areas for those who engaged. Service user satisfaction remained high, with 100% satisfaction reported among the service users who completed exit surveys. The team successfully secured over £35,000 in hardship and grant funding, helping service users with food, heating, electricity and essential household goods during the winter months. Community engagement was a particular strength, with developing partnerships leading to the distribution of food and gift hampers to young people and their families. Passing the QMT inspection by Supporting People in October 2024 was a further testament to the team's efforts, despite significant resource constraints.

Future Opportunities

Looking ahead, a key focus for HSYP will be ensuring the voice of service users continues to shape and improve services. Across both service areas, there is a pressing need to recruit additional staff to fulfil our targets for engagement, maintain manageable caseloads, and provide more flexible support models, particularly in North Down and Ards. Replacing lost funding streams such as the Glasspool fund remains a priority to sustain practical support for young people setting up new homes. Mental health needs are expected to continue an upwards trajectory, making it vital to invest in further staff training, specialist partnerships, and innovative engagement initiatives. Improving outcome recording and data reporting will also be a focus to better demonstrate the full impact of the work achieved.

Housing Support for Older People (HSOP)

Service Summary

The Housing Support for Older People (HSOP) service enables older people to live safely and independently in their own homes for as long as possible. Operating across Belfast and the Southern region, HSOP provides both floating and peripatetic (longer-term) housing support. The Belfast service has capacity for 160 floating support users and 50 peripatetic users, while the Southern region supports up to 120 people across the Southern Trust area. Support is tailored to the individual, focusing on housing stability and addressing wider factors that impact independence, such as health, finance, and both the causes and effects of isolation in later life.

In 2024, the HSOP services in both Belfast and the Southern region continued to experience high demand, with a combined total of 389 referrals across the year. Staffing challenges, particularly in Belfast, affected overall capacity, with the floating support team operating below the intended service user caseload for much of the year. For this reason, recruitment remains a key focus going forward. Both teams achieved strong outcomes in areas such as benefit access,

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tenancy sustainment and reducing isolation. The Belfast team made particular progress through the "Sustaining Tenancies" programme, exceeding targets by supporting 70 NIHE tenants with 90 improvement jobs. The Southern team

maintained consistent results and high levels of service user satisfaction, with local knowledge and established community links proving key to successful delivery.

Belfast

Of the 223 referrals in 2024, the majority (60%) had support durations between 3–12 months, where needs were successfully met and appropriate supports were put in place. Despite staffing issues, outcome scores remained strong across key areas such as benefits access (100%), tenancy sustainment (100%), and health management (100% in Q2–Q4).

Southern Region

The Southern HSOP service achieved 166 referrals and 80 case closures across 2024. Referrals came from across the Southern Trust, including those living in urban centres and rural locations, with a noted increase in those at greater risk of homelessness. The team achieved high levels of positive outcomes, including 100% of service users receiving help to access benefits and 93% maintaining or improving their housing stability. Staff retention and knowledge were crucial to positive outcomes, and the consistency in support delivery was reflected in our excellent service user feedback and engagement.

Future Opportunities

Looking ahead, the priority across both HSOP services will be to stabilise staffing levels, particularly in Belfast, so the service can meet full contractual capacity. Work is ongoing to improve case recording and outcome tracking, especially around how closures are handled on the new NIHE SHARP system. The Belfast team will continue to grow the added value "Sustaining Tenancies" work following the award of an additional £26,000 to extend the service until December 2027, and the Southern team will be applying for future rounds of this funded support. Across both regions, the teams are committed to strengthening partnership working, responding flexibly to changing referral trends, and ensuring older people are supported holistically to remain safely in their homes.

Therapeutic Counselling

Service Summary

The BCM Therapeutic Counselling Project provides 1:1 counselling for young people aged 16–25 in North Down, Ards, and surrounding areas. Initially focused on care-experienced young people, the service has expanded to include a broader range of clients, including those referred by BCM Housing Support, Supported Housing (Riverside and Grampian), and external agencies. The primary objective is to enhance emotional well-being, reduce distress, and promote coping strategies for managing overwhelming emotions.

In 2024, the project received 19 new referrals, supporting a total of 31 individuals throughout the year. Referrals primarily came from BCM Housing Support, BCM Supported Housing Projects, and some external sources like SEHSCT 16+ teams and self-referrals. The project saw a strong demand for services among those facing emotional distress, anxiety, depression, and relationship issues. In terms of outcomes, the introduction of the CORENet Lite system in April 2024 allowed for better tracking and analysis of client progress. The system enabled the team to assess reliable clinical change, with 72.2% of clients showing improvement in areas such as emotional distress, functioning, and problem-solving. Client satisfaction remained high, with an average score of 9.2/10. The project successfully moved to Sketrick House in April 2024, offering a more suitable space for 1:1 counselling.

Future Opportunities

Looking ahead, there are several opportunities for further service development. The service manager will explore ways to expand its reach, especially by addressing service gaps in rural areas and ensuring better access for hard-to-reach groups. Additionally, with the adoption of digital tools like CORENet Lite, there will be a continued focus on improving the efficiency of data collection and reporting, which will aid in refining service delivery. The team is also considering extending the availability of services on additional days, based on client feedback, and will explore further options to enhance the flexibility of service delivery to meet the varied needs of young people.

Supported Housing for Younger People (SHYP)

Service Description

The SHYP service provides high-quality supported housing for vulnerable young people aged 16–21 across Northern Ireland, offering safe accommodation, personalised support, and pathways to independence through structured keywork, life skills development. The service is for up to two years, and is funded via local health Trusts for minors, and a

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combination of Supporting People and Housing Benefit for adults. More recently, some of our houses have also welcomed funded spaces for unaccompanied minors from overseas, who have been placed by the respective health trusts.

Bangor

Riverside Place continued providing 12 accommodation units offering pathways through both NIHE and SE Trust referrals. Service outcomes were excellent, with 100% of residents successfully accessing benefits, maintaining tenancies, and developing independent living skills. Mental health management improved significantly, with a 25% reduction in incidents from 2023 (80 down to 60) due to settled tenancies and an experienced staff team. Challenges persisted with substance misuse and finding appropriate move-on options for young people completing their two-year tenancies. The service successfully passed its Supporting People QMT review, meeting all standards. Community partnerships continued to provide valuable additional support, including regular food donations, hygiene products, and Christmas gifts.

Belfast

Grampian Avenue supported a diverse group of young people, with an increasing number of referrals from family or foster care backgrounds rather than residential homes. The service maintained excellent occupancy rates throughout the year (93-99%), demonstrating how effectively we managed our limited spaces. Staff were once again committed to training and outreach, completing trauma-informed practice training through ASCERT, which will enhance their ability to support residents with complex trauma histories. The service benefited from the final tranche of a Hagan Homes donation which covered a part-time outreach support worker, enabling additional off-project support including leisure activities, shopping assistance, and appointment accompaniment. Strong partnerships with VOYPIC and Include Youth provided residents with additional opportunities, including sports days, cultural celebrations, and recreational activities.

Magherafelt

Over the year, 22 young people were supported, many of whom progressed to their own tenancies with continued input from our Floating Support team. Outcomes were consistently positive across key areas such as accessing benefits, improving health, engaging with education or employment, developing independent living skills, and reducing isolation. Several young people achieved significant milestones, including securing jobs, building savings, reducing harmful behaviours, and rebuilding family relationships, demonstrating the project's impact even in complex, high-risk cases. Tafelta Rise maintained a strong partnership with the NHSCT 16+ teams and NIHE, ensuring joined-up, holistic support for young people from the point of referral through to move-on. Despite staffing pressures and a management restructuring, the introduction of a new rota and team model helped stabilise service delivery.

Dungannon

The home continued to provide 24-hour supported accommodation for a total of eight young people aged 16–21 who were experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Across the year, the project had an average occupancy rate of 93% and 82% of residents engaged in either education, training, or volunteering at some stage during their stay. The service offered intensive keywork support, weekly goal-setting, and tailored life skills programmes to build independence, confidence, and resilience. Many young people presented with complex needs including mental ill-health, histories of trauma, substance use, and exploitation risk; 65% of referrals came from young people leaving care. Staff worked closely with the Southern Trust, PSNI, EA Youth Services, and local community providers to safeguard residents and advocate for improved access to mental health and therapeutic services. Despite continued challenges with recruitment and occasional staffing shortages, the core team maintained a trauma-informed, relationship-based approach. Group activities and peer support groups were reinstated during the year, with 70% of residents participating regularly. Move-on remained difficult due to local housing pressures, but five young people were successfully supported into their own tenancies, and two others returned to family settings with ongoing floating support. The project remains a vital safety net in the Dungannon area, offering stability and a structured pathway forward for some of the most vulnerable young people in the region.

Future Opportunities

Looking ahead, SHYP services will look to expand their impact by building on strong local partnerships, embedding trauma-informed practices and developing clearer progression routes for young people into sustainable tenancies. Opportunities exist to enhance mental health support through formal partnerships with CAMHS and community wellbeing providers and to broaden life skills and employability provision through collaboration with regional training agencies. There is also potential to strengthen group work and peer mentoring models following positive outcomes seen in sites, particularly Magherafelt. However, challenges persist across all houses: high demand for places continues to outstrip capacity and move-on options remain limited due to a chronic lack of affordable housing for under-25s. Many residents present themselves with increasingly complex needs, including neurodiversity, exploitation, and dual diagnosis, which place additional pressure on staffing and specialist support. Recruitment and retention of skilled staff is also a system-wide concern, compounded by the emotional demands of the work.

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Residential and Dementia Care for Older People

Copelands

2024 was a year of significant progress and achievement at Copelands, Belfast Central Mission's award-winning care home in Millisle. The home comprises 50 rooms in a purpose-built environment, with a mix of residential and dementia households within a household model of care. A total of 32 new residents arrived at the home throughout the year and by the end of December, Copelands was consistently at full capacity, housing 50 residents. Demand for placements continues to be strong, with a robust waiting list in place comprising 26 individuals for residential care, 28 for residential dementia care, and 21 for nursing care.

Staffing developments played a crucial role in the home's progress this year. Recruitment efforts were successful, with 11 new care staff, three new housekeepers, and two kitchen staff joining the team, as well as a new admin officer, all of whom remained in post at the end of the year, reflecting a positive and supportive working culture within the home. There was a marked reduction in reliance on agency staffing, and greater ability to attract high-quality staff. The interim manager has successfully embedded change, which has been the foundation for the progress noted above.

Regulatory performance also improved steadily across the year. By the end of 2024, Copelands was operating with no active Quality Improvement Plans (QIPs), a major milestone and strong indicator of the quality of care and service being delivered. This achievement reflects the dedication of the entire staff team and the rigorous oversight provided by management. Resident and family feedback has been consistently positive.

Future Opportunities

Consistent progress was made in developing nursing care provision. By year-end, the designated nursing bedrooms had been fully fitted, and foundational work had begun on the associated staffing models, policies, and pre-registration documentation. Weekly strategic planning meetings with the CEO and senior leadership have helped maintain focus and ensure momentum in this area. Copelands is now well-positioned to complete the registration process and expand into nursing care during 2025. The main operational challenge continues to be sustaining our current momentum, ensuring the workforce and infrastructure can meet the ever-growing interest in Copelands while maintaining the high standards that residents and families have come to expect.

Kirk House

Kirk House continued to deliver high-quality, person-centred care in 2024, supporting up to 46 residents across four households, including a dedicated dementia unit, Memory Lane. With 28 privately funded and 14 Trust funded residents, the home remained consistently well-occupied, with a significant drop in discharges from years previous. A change to 13-hour day and night shifts improved continuity and productivity of staff, while a team of 33 core staff and 9 casuals collectively represented over 360 years of service. This level of experience has ensured consistent and compassionate care throughout the year.

Residents enjoyed a wide range of services and activities, with increased participation contributing to a stronger sense of community and wellbeing. Resident and family satisfaction remained exceptionally high throughout 2024, and surveys showed 100% of residents and relatives would recommend Kirk House, with 79% of residents reporting they were "very satisfied" with frequent praise for the staff's empathy, professionalism, and kindness. The home maintained its 5-star Environmental Health rating and saw no new improvement areas flagged in unannounced RQIA inspections. The carehome.co.uk score remained high at 9.5/10, reflecting strong reviews.

Future Opportunities

In 2025, Kirk House will prioritise increased intergenerational engagement, expanded community links, and further environmental improvements, including a landscaped garden project. There are ongoing efforts to refresh décor and upgrade flatlets based on residents and family feedback. The home aims to build on its strong audit results and maintain its excellent regulatory ratings. Staff development remains a key priority, with further qualifications and leadership opportunities planned to strengthen internal progression. Resident involvement in daily life, including recruitment and decision-making, will also be encouraged ensuring Kirk House continues to evolve as a responsive, inclusive, and vibrant care environment.

Community Services

Service Summary

The Community Services Project aims to promote inclusion and reduce loneliness and social isolation for older people. Activities delivered by volunteers include a weekly lunch club and a befriending service. The annual Christmas programme provides a Christmas gift to almost 2,000 children in Belfast who are referred from over 50 family referral agencies in the city.

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Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2024

Wednesday Lunch Club

Throughout 2024, we continued to run the Wednesday Lunch Club, providing on average of 20 members a warm space to gather, enjoy hot meals and socialise. The club aims to improve emotional well-being. It is a fun and lively space, highly valued by the many regular attendees. Plans for 2025 include recruiting more volunteers to run this service and increased promotion to attract more attendees.

Befriending Service

Our volunteer Befrienders to older people in Belfast continued to be a vital service for those who have little or no family support, are housebound or have limited opportunities to leave the home and who live alone. Plans for 2025 include a review of the service terms, policies and procedures and recruiting more volunteers to provide more Befriending partnerships.

Christmas Programme

This program successfully supplied toys and gifts to almost 2000 children and young people in need in Belfast who are referred from over 50 family referral agencies in the city. 96% of those agencies rated their overall satisfaction with the BCM Toy Appeal as 'excellent'. Communication with the referral agencies was improved and a new family referral process was introduced. 79% rated this new process as 'excellent'.

The partnership with the Department for Communities and St Vincent de Paul continued via the Giving Tree Appeal. Monetary donations to this increased by 22%. We were very grateful to all the volunteers who helped to receive incoming toy donations, categorise them and pack toys for distribution over five days at BCM HQ. A significant number of staff volunteered from DfC and other Government departments, and from the Belfast Central Mission church congregation. Flyer's signposting families to other sources of help such as Christians Against Poverty (CAP) were included in each toy/gift bag.

Future Opportunities

Priorities for 2025 include a review of the governance, training, policies and procedures for all BCM volunteer roles and the launch of a new Volunteer Handbook. Volunteer recruitment for the Wednesday Lunch Club and the Befriending service will be a priority. We will continue to monitor the shifting landscape of volunteering towards micro volunteering, flexibility in volunteering, remote volunteering; considering how BCM can meet those needs and continue the delivery of high-quality services.

The Christmas Program will be reviewed considering feedback from the partner referral agencies and our principal partners DfC and St Vincent de Paul. Opportunities for improvement will be identified. Feedback from volunteers working on the Christmas Program will also be taken in 2025 to inform further improvements.

Parent Support Services

Service Summary

The Parent Support Services in Armagh/Dungannon and North Down/Newtownards continue to provide home-based early intervention, delivering practical and emotional support to families. The services aim to help parents provide nurturing care, ensuring children's safety, and supporting their developmental milestones. By enhancing the parenting capacity of families, we strive to reduce the need for social intervention.

Newtownards

In 2024, the South Eastern Trust referral service supported 65 families across the Newtownards and North Down area. Despite a slight reduction in referrals, the service delivered two group work programmes and continued to see positive results. Notably, 100% of parents reported improved wellbeing, and 89% saw a reduction in challenging behaviours. The Parents Connect Service provided continued support for families not involved in the full 14-week programme, offering advice and signposting to over 50 families. A new focus for 2025 will be to enhance outreach efforts to increase referrals, particularly for families in need of early intervention.

The community referrals work alongside our Trust funded service and offers similar support to families with children aged 0-5, outside the remit of the Trust. Through two part time team members, we worked with 14 families, and 45 direct beneficiaries in 2024, and delivered 17 group led play sessions. This aspect of the service has a steady demand and 100% satisfaction from service users. However, continuation of funding remains a barrier to the long-term future of the service.

Dungannon

The Parent Support Service in Dungannon has remained a pillar of support, benefiting from funding through the Southern Trust. This year, the service supported 60 families, with 271 home visits carried out. The focus remained on early intervention, with a significant emphasis on improving children's emotional health and family routines.

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The Outcomes Star assessments showed notable improvements across the board, especially in children's behaviour, where 83% of families reported better boundary-setting. The service also continued to benefit from committed volunteers who played a crucial role in supporting families, particularly during times of increased demand. Moving forward, ensuring sustainable funding for this service remains essential, as tendering processes are underway to secure funding for the next phase.

Future Opportunities

Sustainability remains a key focus for both services. In Dungannon, the service's future has been secured for the Southern Trust area, with a new contract commencing mid-2024. It is essential to remain agile in preparing for changes to funding models. In Newtownards, the service has recently concluded a funding period with Comic Relief, and while there has been some success in securing smaller grants, long-term funding remains an urgent priority. Securing a reliable funding stream will be crucial for the continued development and growth of both services in the coming years. Both services will also be overseeing new integration of key staff in 2025.

Campaigns Organising: Trussell Collaboration

Service Description

BCM forged a partnership with Trussell in late 2023, and agreed to host a cross-community role, working on behalf of local food banks. We received funding to employ one Local Organiser for Belfast Food Banks. The focus of the role is working towards a future where food banks are no longer necessary. This involves grassroots activism, community-building, and advocating for systemic changes that tackle the root causes of food insecurity.

As the founding year of a three-year programme, 2024 was about building reach and relationships. A key component of the work has been establishing and developing a volunteer-led campaign team focused on tackling the root causes of food insecurity. The campaign's primary focus has been on housing, with the aim of raising awareness about the soaring rents, the growing housing list, and the challenges faced by individuals in finding affordable housing in Belfast. Through collaboration with local organisations, politicians, and individuals with lived experience, the work has gained traction and sparked important conversations. A range of successful events have been held, holding engaging discussions with policymakers, aimed at raising awareness and driving collective action.

Future Opportunities

Looking ahead, there are several exciting opportunities on the horizon. The launch of a new community-driven organising initiative is expected to empower more people to take action in flexible and inclusive ways. A housing poverty led campaign upcoming in 2025 promises to further engage the community and inspire action. Additionally, the upcoming Lobby Day in Westminster in June 2025 provides an opportunity to take the campaign to a national level, galvanising support for ending the need for food banks.

Puddleducks Day Nursery

Service Description

Puddleducks is a childcare social economy established in 2012 to support Belfast Central Mission's charity work while operating as a self-sufficient business. Registered for 70 children across four rooms, Puddleducks aims to exceed the "Minimum standards for child-minding and Day Care for children" requirements, delivered through the Puddleducks approach to early years learning. The service is committed to delivering high-quality care in a stimulating environment that maximises each child's potential, valuing children as individuals, providing varied learning experiences through play, and maintaining strong relationships with parents.

The service has maintained high quality standards, receiving full compliance in their annual Social Services inspection, with the inspector noting that children appeared "relaxed, seeking care and comfort appropriately" and staff "spoke warmly about the children." Service achievements included winning the "Daycare Nursery of the Year" at the Family First Awards, receiving a "Top 20 Award" from Daynurseries.co.uk for the tenth time, maintaining a 5-star Food Hygiene rating, and participating in advocacy work at Stormont All Party Group meetings to build Puddleducks' profile and reputation.

2024 presented significant ongoing occupancy challenges for Puddleducks, brought about by the trend for hybrid working which started to become evident during 2023. We have found that our location makes us especially susceptible to changes to the city-centre workforce, and the disruption of the new transport hub nearby has undoubtedly affected our offer. However, we have also seen disruption reduce in the latter part of the year and occupancy has slowly started to climb once again, with more workers returning to office working.

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Future Opportunities

Looking ahead, Puddleducks has identified several opportunities for growth and improvement. January 2025 has already shown a promising increase in inquiries and bookings, particularly for the baby rooms, indicating longer-term enrolment potential. The implementation of the Northern Ireland Childcare Subsidy Scheme (NICSS) offers eligible parents a 15% discount on fees, which Puddleducks can claim back to increase income. The service is also exploring extending operating hours beyond the current 8:00am-5:30pm schedule based on parent feedback and has begun working with a social media marketing expert to build their profile. With employers increasingly requiring staff to spend more time in offices rather than working from home, Puddleducks anticipates continuing improvement in occupancy levels throughout 2025.

Public Benefit Statement

In setting objectives and planning activities for the year the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit and are confident that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

Financial review

Details of the results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 19 and the related notes. The charity had net incoming resources for the year of £321,880 and the net movement in funds amounted to the same amount in the year, including income through interest at the bank amounting to £87,824.

The greater part of charitable income has been used to meet the cost of carrying out the organisation's charitable objectives by providing support and care through various projects for both young and older people. Income comprises funding for the services BCM provides on behalf of the statutory sector, income from donations, appeals and legacies, income from charitable trusts, income from fundraising activities and income from small trading activities. The continued support from our donors has been invaluable. We are grateful to all the organisations and people who have financially supported us throughout the year.

It is the opinion of the Directors that the market value of the estate remains in excess of the net book value as disclosed in the balance sheet on page 20.

Investment powers and policy

Investments were disposed of during 2023, and as of this year, this section will cease to be reported on.

Reserves policy

BCM's reserve policy recognises the need to use voluntary income to provide services for young and older people and the need to ensure that, once commitment has been given, sufficient funds exist to meet the commitment for as long as it is required and appropriate. However, the organisation must also ensure that relatively minor disruptions to its financial plans, or delays in receiving funding, do not result in having suddenly to cease activities in order to balance the books.

The existing reserves policy has been established whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets (the free reserves) held by the charity should be between 6 and 9 months of the unrestricted resources expended. These reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the charity and therefore to enable it to continue its current activities. Free reserves currently stand at £2,161,648, which approximates to 5.1 months -unrestricted expenditure.

The Directors have considered the position and intend to return to holding 6-9 months free reserves over the next three years.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Effective risk management is essential to keep service users and staff safe, to protect and grow both funding and reputation, and to meet the expectations of supporters and donors. All types of risks are considered, both internal and external, when reviewing and updating the risk register. Principal risks are defined as those that, without effective mitigation, are highly likely to occur and would have a severe impact on the organisations work, reputation or ability to achieve its objectives.

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The risk areas considered as part of BCM's risk register include:

- Strategic
- Finance
- Operations
- External
- Legal and compliance

All risks are managed through senior staff identifying and managing risks as an integral part of their daily work, through staff in outlying projects reporting significant risks to senior management and through reporting mechanisms to the Trustees at Board meetings. The reporting of major risks at Board Meetings allows the Trustees to challenge any assumptions the organisation has made about risks and understand the context in which decisions are taken. This assists them to ensure that the most serious risks are being effectively managed. This risk management process aims to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the organisation is protected.

, Signed on behalf of the trustees



Mr R Black (Chairperson)

Approved by the Trustees on 25 September 2025

Independent auditor's report to the members of Belfast Central Mission for the year ended 31 December 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Belfast Central Mission (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes to the financial statements, 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 Financial Reporting Standard 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- 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 accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts 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 charitable company'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.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Directors' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees 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 controls 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.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Belfast Central Mission for the year ended 31 December 2024

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2008, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement 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 purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

**Independent auditor's report to the members of Belfast Central Mission
for the year ended 31 December 2024**


- 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 charitable company'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 charitable company 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company'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 company'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 any party other than the charitable company and charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Peters Gallagher'.

Dr RI Peters Gallagher OBE FCA

..... 25/09/2025

**Chartered Accountants
Senior Statutory Auditor**

4th Floor
Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

Moore (NI) LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charitable company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Belfast Central Mission

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Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	6	84,524	1,755	86,279	180,597
Charitable activities	7	5,027,166	3,187,815	8,214,981	7,383,609
Other trading activities		56,106	-	56,106	63,701
Investments	8	87,824	-	87,824	47,472
Other		22,425	335	22,760	25,666
Total income		5,278,045	3,189,905	8,467,950	7,701,045
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(11,055)	-	(11,055)	(34,908)
Charitable activities	9,10	(5,218,833)	(3,091,182)	(8,310,015)	(7,679,727)
Total expenditure		(5,229,888)	(3,091,182)	(8,321,070)	(7,714,635)
Net (expenditure)/income before gains on investments		48,157	98,723	146,880	(13,590)
Net (losses)/gains on investments	18	175,000	-	175,000	14,770
Net income before transfers	12	223,157	98,723	321,880	1,180
Transfer between funds	16	98,723	(98,723)	-	-
Net movement in funds		321,880	-	321,880	1,180
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		7,577,614	-	7,577,614	7,576,434
Total funds carried forward		7,899,494	-	7,899,494	7,577,614

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of comprehensive income has not been prepared.

The Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) is included in note 5 to the financial statements for the prior year ended 31 December 2023.

The notes on pages 22 to 35 form part of these financial statements

Belfast Central Mission

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Balance sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	17	5,669,681	5,805,783
Fixed asset investments	18	-	-
Investment Property	18	175,000	-
		5,844,681	5,805,783
Current assets			
Debtors	19	208,290	189,377
Cash at bank and in hand		2,553,320	2,522,076
		2,761,610	2,711,453
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	(706,797)	(939,622)
Net current assets		2,054,813	1,771,831
Total assets less current liabilities		7,899,494	7,577,614
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
Net assets		7,899,494	7,577,614
The funds of the charitable company			
Restricted income funds	22	-	-
Unrestricted income funds	23	7,899,494	7,577,614
Total funds		7,899,494	7,577,614

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 25 September 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mr R Black (Chairperson)



Mr Geoff Hooks (Treasurer)

Company Registration Number: NI055693

The notes on pages 22 to 35 form part of these financial statements

Belfast Central Mission
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Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
<i>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</i>	26	109,765	802,748
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends and interest from investments	8	-	47,472
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets			
Purchase of fixed assets	17	(78,521)	(79,946)
Proceeds from disposal of investments		-	696,840
Purchase of investments		-	-
<i>Net cash provided (used in) /by investing activities</i>		(78,521)	664,366
Cash flows from financing activities			
<i>Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities</i>		-	-
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</i>		31,244	1,467,114
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		2,522,076	1,054,962
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	27	2,553,320	2,522,076

The notes on pages 22 to 35 form part of these financial statements

Belfast Central Mission

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1 Charitable company status

Belfast Central Mission is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is located at Grosvenor House, 5 Glengall Street, Belfast, BT12 5AD.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the 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) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

BCM meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note. The financial statements are presented in GBP Sterling, which is also the functional currency of the charitable company.

Tangible fixed assets

The cost of tangible fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental costs of acquisition. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual values, on a straight-line basis over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used are as follows:

	%
Property	0 – 2.5
Fixtures and fittings	10 & 20
Office equipment	10, 25 & 33⅓
Motor vehicles	25

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the Statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the charity's cash management.

Income

Donations and legacies that are of a general nature are recognised where there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Gifts in kind are valued at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Incoming resources from grants where related to performance and specific deliverables are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance. Income received relating to future periods is included within deferred income.

All income received arose in the UK.

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

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2 Accounting policies (continued)

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Total expenditure includes the allocation of support costs. Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. They include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charitable company's activities. Support costs have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources (e.g. time spent, number of staff, estimated usage).

Irrecoverable VAT

Any irrecoverable VAT is charged to the statement of financial activities, or capitalised as part of the cost of the related asset, where appropriate.

Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

Recognition of liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when an obligation arises to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently managed fund. Contributions are charged to the statement of financial activities in the period to which they relate.

Investments

Investments are stated in the balance sheet at market value as at the balance sheet date. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains or losses arising on revaluation and disposal throughout the year.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less provisions for bad debt.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charitable company has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

Operating lease agreements

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged against net incoming resources on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

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2 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Going concern

The directors have assessed that Belfast Central Mission has adequate resources to meet the ongoing costs of the entity for a minimum of 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements. For this reason, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which presumes the realisation of assets and liabilities in the normal course of business.

3 Significant judgements and estimates

In the Trustees' opinions, there are no significant judgements, estimates and assumptions made about the recognition of assets, liabilities, income and expenses other than those outlined in the accounting policies above.

4 Taxation

The charity is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments, and surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of the charity's primary objectives.

The charity has partial exemption from VAT and expenditure is recorded accordingly.

5 Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	152,994	27,603	180,597
Charitable activities	4,765,042	2,618,567	7,383,609
Other trading activities	63,701	-	63,701
Investments	47,472	-	47,472
Other	12,643	13,023	25,666
Total income	5,041,852	2,659,193	7,701,045
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	(34,908)	-	(34,908)
Charitable activities	(4,636,167)	(3,043,560)	(7,679,727)
Total expenditure	(4,671,075)	(3,043,560)	(7,714,635)
Net income/(Expenditure) before gains on investments	370,777	(384,367)	(13,590)
Net gains on investments	14,770	-	14,770
Net income before transfers	385,547	(384,367)	1,180
Transfer between funds	(128,673)	128,673	-
Net movement in funds	256,874	(255,694)	1,180
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	7,320,740	255,694	7,576,434
Total funds carried forward	7,577,614	-	7,577,614

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

6 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	67,944	1,705	69,649	87,994
Appeals	6,580	50	6,630	18,957
Legacies	10,000	-	10,000	73,646
	84,524	1,755	86,279	180,597

7 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Charitable trusts	55,665	-	55,665	47,222
Housing Executive	151,004	2,147,501	2,298,505	2,090,756
Residential rents	4,115,056	947,075	5,062,131	4,341,370
Health & Social Care Trusts	104,512	16,625	121,137	236,011
Congregational	24,039	-	24,039	25,370
Training	558	-	558	558
Other sources	576,332	76,614	652,946	642,322
	5,027,166	3,187,815	8,214,981	7,383,609

8 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Dividends	-	-	9,003
Bank interest	87,824	87,824	38,469
	87,824	87,824	47,472

9 Resources expended on charitable activities by activity type

	Staff costs £	Other costs £	Depreciation £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Operating expenses	6,379,791	1,666,285	214,783	8,260,859	7,632,909
Financing expenses	-	2,812	-	2,812	3,608
Society expenses	44,738	1,606	-	46,344	43,210
	6,424,529	1,670,703	214,783	8,310,015	7,679,727

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

10 Resources expended on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Operating expenses	5,170,640	3,090,219	8,260,859	7,632,909
Financing expenses	1,849	963	2,812	3,608
Society expenses	46,344	-	46,344	43,210
	5,218,833	3,091,182	8,310,015	7,679,727

11 Financing costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Interest payable and similar charges				
On bank overdrafts	1,849	963	2,812	3,608

12 Net income before transfers

	2024 £	2023 £
This is stated after charging:		
Staff pension contributions	200,463	172,520
Depreciation – charge for year	214,783	211,489
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-
Auditors' fees		
Audit work	7,000	5,760
Non-audit services	-	-

13 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	5,133,174	4,682,614
Social security costs	426,155	362,122
Pension costs	200,463	172,520
	5,759,792	5,217,256

Belfast Central Mission

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13 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel (continued)

Trustee remuneration and benefits amounted to £67,650 (2023: £68,400) for the year, being remuneration of £53,500 (2023: £55,033), other benefits of £85 (2023: £72) and pension contributions of £8,592 (2023: £8,215) and employer national insurance contributions of £5,473 (2023: £5,080). These emoluments received by Reverend David Campton were in respect of his capacity as Superintendent of Belfast Central Mission and minister of the Grosvenor Hall congregation and not in his capacity as Trustee. The Trustee also received manse accommodation that is typical of such roles. No trustee expenses were paid (2023 – £nil) for the year. No Trustees received payments for the supply of ministerial and organist services (2023 - £nil).

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the Trustees, the Superintendent, the Chief Executive, Head of Community Services, Head of Residential Services, Head of Estates & Facilities, Head of Business Development, Head of HR and Head of Finance. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charitable company were £520,375 (2023: - £421,039).

The number of senior staff with employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) over £60,000

Band	2024	2023
£60,000 - £69,999	3	2
£70,000 - £79,999	-	1
£80,000 - £89,999	1	-

14 Staff numbers

The charitable company reports that the average head count (number of staff employed) during the reporting period was 243 (2023 – 236). These can be analysed by project type as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Social & support projects	101	107
Care projects	120	110
Management & central administration	22	19
	243	236

15 Pensions

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of the staff. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the charitable company and amounted to £200,463 (2023: £172,520) of which £31,163 (2023: 28,929) was outstanding at the year end.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

16 Transfers between funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
Unrestricted income funds		
<u>General funds</u>		
From Restricted income funds	(98,723)	(128,673)
(To)/from Designated funds	-	-
	(98,723)	(128,673)
<u>Designated funds</u>		
From/(to) General funds	-	-
From Restricted income funds	-	-
Movement in Unrestricted income funds	(98,723)	(128,673)
Restricted income funds		
(To) General funds	98,723	128,673
Movement in Restricted income funds	98,723	128,673

Belfast Central Mission

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17 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Long Leasehold Property	Fixtures and fittings	Office equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 January 2024	6,748,149	75,000	888,642	408,305	11,912	8,132,008
Additions	-	-	67,128	11,393	-	78,521
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	6,748,149	75,000	955,770	419,698	11,912	8,210,529
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2024	1,339,760	-	593,715	380,838	11,912	2,326,225
Charge for year	140,722	-	55,050	18,851	-	214,623
On disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	1,480,482	-	648,765	399,689	11,912	2,540,848
Net Book Value						
At 31 December 2024	5,267,667	75,000	307,005	20,009	-	5,669,681
At 31 December 2023	5,483,389	75,000	294,927	27,467	-	5,805,783

Belfast Central Mission

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18 Fixed asset investments

	Securities	2024	2023
	£	£	£
Movement in market value			
Market value at 1 January 2024	-	-	682,070
Additions in year	-	-	-
Disposals in year	-	-	(682,070)
Market value at 31 December 2024	-	-	-
Historical cost	-	-	233,910
Analysed by			
Unlisted securities	-	-	682,070
	-	-	682,070

Analysis of investments at 31 December 2024 between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Securities	-	-	-	682,327
	-	-	-	682,327

All investments are UK investments.

Investment Properties

Belfast Central Mission owned an investment property located on 373-375 Springfield Road and was leased on a long-term basis to a local community group. (Forthspring Inter Community Group). The property was sold in January 2025. The property is included in the accounts at the sale price of £175,000. The property had not been disclosed previously as it was impossible to determine the fair value due to legal issues arising from both the long-term lease and a charge over the property. The uplift in value has been recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Belfast Central Mission

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19 Debtors

	2024	2023
Amounts falling due within one year	£	£
Trade debtors	65,051	72,778
Other debtors	1,452	-
Prepayments and accrued income	141,787	116,599
Amounts due from related party	-	-
	208,290	189,377

Belfast Central Mission

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20 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	146,228	249,484
Taxation and social security costs	124,674	86,260
Other creditors	323,717	509,122
Accruals and deferred income	112,178	94,756
	706,797	939,622

Other creditors includes a liability of £213,669 (2023: £320,503) relating to the Supporting People Project, funded by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

21 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 December 2024 the charitable company had future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	-	-
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	-
	-	-

Belfast Central Mission

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22 Restricted income funds

	Balance at 1 Jan 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers, Investment gains/(losses)	Balance at 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Supporting People	-	3,189,905	(3,091,182)	(98,723)	-

The Supporting People Project provides housing support services across Northern Ireland funded by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and regional Trusts. Detail of the transfer is in note 16.

Belfast Central Mission

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23 Unrestricted income funds

	Balance at 1 Jan 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	7,577,614	5,278,045	(5,229,888)	175,000	98,723	7,899,494
Total	7,577,614	5,278,045	(5,229,888)	175,000	(98,723)	7,899,494

General funds are amounts which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives of the charitable company.

24 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets	Investments	Net current assets	Long term liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted income funds	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted income funds:	-	-	-	-	-
Designated funds	-	-	-	-	-
General funds	5,844,681	-	2,054,813	-	7,899,494
Total funds	5,844,681	-	2,054,813	-	7,899,494

25 Company limited by guarantee

Every Trustee promises, if the charitable company is dissolved while such person remains a Trustee or within 12 months afterwards, to pay up to £1 towards the costs of dissolution and the liabilities incurred by the charitable company while the contributor was a Trustee.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

26 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	321,880	1,180
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	214,623	211,489
(Gains)/losses on investments	(175,000)	(14,770)
Dividends and interest from investments	-	(47,472)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(17,461)	481,953
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(234,277)	170,368
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	109,765	802,748

27 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash in hand	17,119	19,287
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	2,036,201	2,502,789
Other deposits	500,000	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,553,320	2,522,076

Belfast Central Mission

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101271

Accounts

Company Registration Number NI055693
Charity Registration Number NIC101271

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements **for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

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Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Trustees

Mr R Black (Chairperson)	Dr D Gallagher
Rev D Campton	Mr W J Halliday (Resigned July 2023)
Mr C P Clarke	Miss S McCaughan (Resigned October 2023)
Mrs M Copeland	Mr W Robinson
Miss M J Dwyer	Rev S Sheerin
Mr J D Edmondson (Treasurer- resigned June 2023)	Mrs H Taylor (Appointed September 2023)
Mr D Ferguson	

Superintendent

Rev D Campton

Chief Executive

Mr N Conway

Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Care & Quality Governance

Position made redundant.

Head of Community Services

Mrs J Love

Head of Residential Services

Mrs L Payam

Head of Business Development

Mr A Irwin (Appointed May 2023)

Head of Finance

Mrs J Sloan (Appointed May 2023)

Head of HR

Mrs J Miskelly (Appointed Sept 2023)

Head of Estates & Facilities

Mr N Emery

Registered Office

Grosvenor House
5 Glengall Street
Belfast
BT12 5AD

Reference and administrative details (continued)

Auditors

Moore (N.I.) LLP
Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

Solicitors

Cleaver Fulton Rankin
50 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7FW

Bankers

Ulster Bank Ltd
11-16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

Investment Custodian

The Trustees of the Methodist Church in Ireland
Edgehill House
9 Lennoxvale
Belfast
BT9 5BY

Belfast Central Mission

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Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2023

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

Belfast Central Mission is a company limited by guarantee. It is governed by its revised Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 18 September 2018. The charitable company is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under registration number NIC101271. BCM is the trading name of Belfast Central Mission.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the 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) (effective 1 January 2015).

Organisational Structure

The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the organisation. It meets regularly to review BCM's performance against its charitable objectives and review its financial performance. The Board consists of a Non-Executive Chairperson, the Superintendent of the Mission (ex officio, appointed by the Methodist Church in Ireland), Secretary (ex officio), Treasurer (ex officio), and up to 8 other nominated Directors. At least two of the Directors are nominated by the Congregational Meeting of the Grosvenor Hall Society. All appointments are confirmed by the members at the annual general meeting. The Board of Directors may at any time co-opt up to 2 additional Directors. The Board works closely with the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team who oversee the operations on a day-to-day basis.

Appointment of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is nominated by the Circuit Executive of South and Central Belfast Methodist Circuit sitting as the General Meeting of the Mission Committee of BCM and is reported annually to the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland. Every effort is made to ensure that there is a wide and relevant skill base amongst the Directors to enable the Board to perform its duties effectively.

Trustee induction and training

New Board Members go through an induction process with respect to that which covers their roles as Directors and as Trustees. They are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the requirements of the Charity Commission, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Strategic Plan, the decision-making processes and recent financial performance of the organisation, and operations of the organisation. Board members are encouraged to attend relevant external training events to assist them in the performance of their duties.

Pay policy for Key Management Personnel

The Board of Directors and the Senior Management Team comprise the key management personnel of the organisation. Details of remuneration of this group are disclosed in note 13 to the financial statements. The pay for all employees, including senior staff, is reviewed annually. The aim is to pay all employees a fair salary that is competitive within the charity sector, proportionate to the complexity of the role and in line with the organisation's charitable objectives and financial budgets.

Wider Network and Impact on Operating Policies

BCM, a company limited by guarantee, is also an agency of the Methodist Church in Ireland and seeks to abide by the basic rules of the Church including, but not limited to, no alcohol on properties and no engagement with, or benefit from, gambling. There is minimal impact on BCM's operating policies as a result of this relationship.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

Details of related party transactions are disclosed in note 25 to the financial statements. The organisation has entered into joint management agreements with two local housing associations, working to deliver Housing Support services for vulnerable people.

Objectives and activities

The primary objects of Belfast Central Mission, as stated in its governing document, are:

1. The advancement of the Christian religion in Ireland.
2. The relief of poverty, sickness, infirmity, or other necessitous circumstances through the provision of accommodation, care, counselling or education on a cross-community basis for people in Northern Ireland who are in need of such provision.

Belfast Central Mission

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Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2023

During 2023, BCM embarked on a strategic review in advance of a new strategic period (2024-2027). We have developed a three-year strategy which will enable the "Provision of quality compassionate support to people at their point of need", which in a shortened format is "Supporting people at their point of need". We are a diverse organisation operating in a range of settings. We aim to support as many people as we can with a focus on the following strategic intentions:

Excellence in our Delivery

- Recruit and retain the most capable individuals
- Enhance the well-being and development of our team
- Communicate more effectively
- Ensure financial health and viability
- Understand and respond to service user needs

Excellence within our Organisation

- Provide inspirational strategic leadership
- Maintain the high level of standards across the organisation
- Remain person-centred and maintain a positive culture of excellence, integrity and respect

Excellence in Sustainability

- Grow our profitability
- Diversify our sources of income

It is important that success is assessed and the primary measures that will be used are:

- The number of people helped with a focus on older people, young people and children and families.
- Stakeholder and service user satisfaction.
- Quality of service delivery.
- Impact and outcomes measurement.
- Trustee, employee, volunteer and congregation satisfaction.
- Sustainable financial growth.

The significant activities undertaken are set out below, categorised under the two objects of the Charity.

OBJECT ONE:

At the heart of the Mission's object of "advancement of the Christian religion" lies the "Grosvenor Hall" congregation, from which the wider work of the Mission emerged and which continues to worship weekly in Grosvenor House, as part of the Methodist Church in Ireland (MCI), and its South and Central Belfast Circuit, which currently includes three other societies/congregations: Donegall Road, Belfast South (in the Agape Centre on the Lisburn Road) and the Church of the Resurrection (the joint Methodist/Church of Ireland Church and Chaplaincy on Elmwood Avenue). It is through partnership with these congregations and other faith-based organisations, that most Object One activity takes place, together with the developing chaplaincy and worship life at BCM's Copelands elderly residential and dementia care facility in Millisle, building on the experience of providing spiritual support to our Kirk House facility in East Belfast, where a weekly service of worship also takes place drawing on the support of an ecumenical rota of local ministers.

2023 in Review

Weekly Sunday worship in Grosvenor House and pastoral care for the Grosvenor Hall congregation has continued throughout the year under report, and in partnership with other congregations on circuit other initiatives, including a Book Group, Public Theology Lectures and online seminars, a Centring Prayer Group and hybrid Bible studies have taken place, with joint activities during Advent, Christmas and Holy Week being particularly well supported. For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, BCM's Christmas Toy Appeal programme returned to the Grosvenor Hall, with the traditional launch service led by the Dundrod Silver Band. Congregations across the MCI and beyond have continued to provide strong support for this programme despite the cost-of-living crisis that has affected everyone, including our donors. With their help we supported more than 5000 children/families, a 20% increase on last year.

As a result of a presentation at the MCI Annual Conference on the cost-of-living crisis, we, together with our sister Methodist city missions, were pleased to receive a significant un-solicited donation from The Joseph Rank Trust that enabled our Object Two projects to provide additional need-based grants. This is an important reminder of the importance

Belfast Central Mission

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Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2023

of such partnerships going forward.

As part of the Four Corners Festival, Grosvenor House hosted the conclusion of this year's "Wonderful Wander" an exploration of the political, economic and spiritual history of our city centre, and in during the week of Homelessness Sunday, we also hosted the touring version of a photographic exhibition launched at Four Corners 2023 which focused on the causes and effects of homelessness, in all its forms, across our city. This also included, on International Homelessness Day, a conversation with one of our Housing Support workers, and others, on the issues involved.

In the context of a period of political inertia, as part of the Churches Initiative Group, a long-standing informal network of ministers and faith-based activists focused on peacebuilding, the Superintendent continued the long tradition of BCM's involvement in peace and reconciliation work in facilitating a series of conversations between local church leaders and political representatives.

The Grosvenor Hall Congregation continues to support Belfast Storehouse, a food/clothing/furniture project, with monthly food collection and ongoing fundraising.

Weekly worship in both Kirk House and Copelands continues, with the latter provided by our dedicated Chaplain, Rev. June Parke, who also seeks to support the spiritual wellbeing of residents, their families and staff. The Superintendent and Copelands Chaplain took part in an "Anna Chaplaincy" training course run by BRF, with a view to enhancing our chaplaincy service in Copelands, Kirk House and across the organisation.

We continue to be a training environment for Methodist Ministers in training, with Mrs. Julie Craythorne joining us for a two-year period from September 2023.

Following the aforementioned Strategic Review, the Board also appointed a Working Party to review the function, aims and objectives of Object One, and the consequent role of the Superintendent of the Mission in delivering this.

In parallel with this, at the end of 2023 the wider South and Central Belfast Methodist Circuit, of which the Grosvenor Hall congregation is a part, completed its merger with two neighbouring circuits to form the Belfast Central and South Circuit. As a result of this, the Mission Superintendent is no longer the Circuit Superintendent, removing some potential conflicts of interest and freeing up additional time and energy for more Mission-focused work.

Future Opportunities:

Subject to the outcome of the Review of Object One by the appointed Working Party -BCM will continue to support the continued existence of Christian faith expression within the city centre of Belfast, which is currently the Grosvenor Hall congregation, with the expectation that members of that congregation would continue to volunteer within, and fundraise for, the wider work of BCM.

As prepare for the retirement of our current Copelands Chaplain in June 2024, our current Minister in Training will take on that role on an interim basis and we will explore the potential for a more formal partnership with "Anna Chaplaincy" in order to enhance this service.

BCM will continue to partner with other organisations to take forward their mutual objects, including:

- Belfast Central and South Methodist Circuit
- Belfast City Centre Chaplaincy
- The Four Corners Festival
- Church Initiatives Group/Contemporary Christianity
- Christians Against Poverty
- Miscellaneous food banks

OBJECT TWO

2023 saw a continuance of recovery from the pandemic years, with delivery and funding continuing to stabilize in light of previous disruption. This stability has been felt from the top down, with a settled SMT, a full staff complement in HR and Finance and a new Development Manager role.

Challenges across Object Two services around staff recruitment and the rebuilding of staff teams have persisted during 2023, with some momentum gained as new HR structures begin to take effect. Financial performance has been and will continue to be impacted by rising costs, both for staff wages and materials.

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Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2023

Despite these challenging operating conditions BCM's Board, staff team and Management continued to put the service user and service excellence at the heart of everything that we do and highlights of achievements and performance over the year included:

- 6504 service users supported.
- 5050 Christmas toy parcels distributed.
- Full compliance with all regulatory requirements.
- Copelands fifth household open.
- Puddleducks and Kirk house back to pre-covid occupancy levels.
- New Governance guide developed and approved.
- New strategic planning process developed for implementation in 2023.
- Reaccreditation of Investing in Volunteers

A more detailed review of the significant charitable activities undertaken is set out below.

Housing Support for Younger People

- **Service Summary:** Housing Support for Young People (16-25 years) – located in Armagh, Dungannon, Magherafelt, North Down and Newtownards. The project supports young people who are homeless, struggling with housing issues, leaving care or requiring help with independent living. It uses a holistic person-centred approach and supports young people to identify and work towards their goals.
- **2023 in Review:** 95% of people that referred to HSYYP as homeless now have safer and settled accommodation, and this year seen another service user become a homeowner. Exit questionnaires this year had a 76% response rate, with 100% of respondents stating they were "highly satisfied" with the support received and they would recommend it to a friend. Last year, HSYYP underwent a successful validation visit and no recommendations for improvement were made. Staff continue to be successful with applying for grants. This money has supported so many young people and helped alleviate some of the financial pressures service users were facing during challenging times. The Bryson grant initiative has resulted in 51 service users being supported with electric, food or heating.

In 2023, Newtownards faced a severe housing crisis, with over 100 households presenting as homeless each month, with the waiting list for housing reaching 3,200 applicants, 2,200 of whom were deemed to be in housing stress. The leading cause of homelessness was accommodation being deemed unreasonable or unfit. To cope with the high demand, 652 placements were made to temporary accommodation over the year, highlighting the instability of the rental market as a contributing factor. 2023 was a year in which we achieved good outcomes for our service users and in the main achieved our aims and objectives. In 2023, we supported 56 of our service users access £11,730 worth of grants to support them at their point of need. We had 98% satisfaction rate from service users and 100% referral satisfaction rate. 80% of service users were successful in maintaining their home status with improved outcomes at the end of their period of support during 2023.

- **Future Opportunities:**
As we progress through our new strategic period, a major priority for HSYYP will be how we continue to include the voices of service users in shaping our service. This is not only best practice, but increasingly a requirement for future tendering. Across both areas, we are focusing on quality markers for the service and professional standards, and we are working to enhance our training, monitoring, and approach to due diligence.

We have lost a major funding stream this year in the Glasspool fund, which arranged direct support for young people setting up homes. Finding a suitable ongoing replacement for this resource will be vital. A risk as we look to the future, is also the worrying incline of young person referrals who demonstrate signs poor mental health. Having adequate skills and resources to best serve this user group will be a priority.

Housing Support for Older People

- **Service Summary**
Housing Support for Older People (aged 55+) – located in Armagh, Newry, Belfast, Craigavon and Dungannon. The project seeks to work in partnership with older people providing practical and emotional housing-related support, enabling them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

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- **2023 in Review:**

Housing Support for Older People (HSOP South) provided housing-related support to 120 service users across areas within the Southern Trust. The project offers floating support funded by Supporting People, to help older people remain independent at home. This support focused on direct housing support activities. Given the current housing crisis in Northern Ireland coupled with the cost-of-living crisis, service users often find themselves 'stuck.' The service assists them in accessing appropriate accommodation or remaining safe and well in their homes, promoting independence and combating loneliness and financial challenges.

The Belfast service enables elderly residents to live independently at home for as long as safely possible through its floating support service (up to 160 individuals) and peripatetic service (50 older people). This year, it received 247 referrals. The holistic, person-centered approach provides practical and emotional support across six core areas: housing, health/wellbeing, financial matters, meaningful activities, independent living skills, and support networks. Despite staffing challenges, the service helped clients maintain tenancies, manage health needs, access benefits, and enhance home safety/security. External funding from NIHE's Sustaining Tenancies grant allowed supporting 50 tenants with home maintenance/hoarding issues.

- **Future Opportunities**

Moving forward, the project aims to maintain steady referrals, reinforce person-centred practices, meet funder targets, and actively involve service users in evaluating/developing offerings. In the southern area, our service team have had disruption due to maternity leave, and so for 2024 we will be focusing on excellence in resettling our team into best ways of working. In Belfast, the team are working to secure additional funding to meet complex needs of older people with threatened tenancies. This support is bespoke to the individual, but a common issue continues to be hoarding, and poor upkeep of the home environment. Both the southern and Belfast teams will be focused on maximising our capacity as per our contractual terms.

A planned uplift in Supporting People funding should have a positive knock-on effect into the HSOP service during 2024, and we will continue to engage closely with our statutory partners to build the service.

Supported Housing for Young People

- **Service Summary**

Four services continue to operate within four different HSCT areas in Northern Ireland, offering a total of 35 units of accommodation. These include 29 self-contained flats, and the remaining units offer shared accommodation in two of the services. Two of the services are solely for young people who have been in the care of Social Services and the remaining two also offer additional accommodation to young people who present to the NIHE as homeless. The project staff offer both emotional and practical support for up to two years to try to ensure that the young people are ready for their own tenancies, have achieved their own goals and are a positive part of their communities.

- **2023 in review: Belfast:**

In 2023, Grampian Avenue supported a diverse group of service users with varying backgrounds including local and international individuals, those with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, trauma experiences, care experiences, and homelessness. Staff demonstrated exceptional commitment, helping service users realize their abilities, self-worth, and potential. Notable initiatives included staff training in restorative practices, participating in QUB's youth mental health seminar, and activities during Homeless Awareness Week. One success story involved a service user rebuilding family relationships by being closer to home and through facilitated communication. Strong friendships also formed between residents. Challenges remain with achieving optimum staffing levels and limited funding for outreach and activities. Despite this, Grampian Avenue provided tailored, person-centered support empowering service users and fostering their personal growth.

- **Dungannon:**

In 2023, Thomas Street housing empowered seven vulnerable young people through trauma-informed care and robust partnerships. Despite severe challenges like aggression, substance abuse, property damage and trauma histories, dedicated staff achieved remarkable outcomes. Residents were supported with benefits, employment, education, tenancy skills, health management and personal development. Staff's specialized training enabled individualized, holistic support. One young person's transformative journey exemplifies the impact, with substantial progress in harm reduction, self-regulation and future prospects.

- **Magherafelt:**

Tafelta Rise continued to provide vital services in 2023 through strong partnership working and individualized support programs. This multi-agency approach ensured comprehensive referral assistance, residential support, and transition services. Through tailored support plans, residents were supported across areas like independent

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living skills, employment, budgeting, and wellness. Three young people successfully moved into their own NIHE tenancies after the program. Feedback praised the valuable support services. Community partnerships allowed for provision of food, gifts, volunteering opportunities, and seasonal celebrations. A new relationship with Timpson Key Specialists contributed £1,500 towards the garden program.

- **Bangor**

In 2023, Riverside Place continued providing supported accommodation for vulnerable young people aged 16-21, aiming to support independence and self-care skills development. Outcomes were excellent across accessing benefits, maintaining tenancies, and developing independent living skills. Managing mental health improved significantly, with incidents declining 62% from 2022 due to a settled mix and support team. Challenges persisted with self-harm, substance misuse, mental health issues and staffing. Finding 'step down' unsupported housing options for young people leaving the service remained a priority. The service passed a favourable RQIA inspection, and employment and education goals continued to be positively met.

- **Therapeutic Counselling** for young people (16-25 years)

A BACP accredited senior counsellor supports young people with a range of issues including depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, identity issues, past abuse, domestic violence, bereavement and substance misuse. The service is flexible and understanding of the needs of this age group. The service can be offered face to face, via telephone or via zoom, following an initial face-to-face assessment.

- **Future Opportunities**

We have been working to increase the contribution from the Housing Executive into our projects, and re-evaluating the balance of funding across all funders is already being worked on to achieve greater sustainability and buy in from our statutory partners. For 2024, Supporting People funded projects have been earmarked for an increase in contributions from government, so a priority will be to ensure that we have a seat at the table in how those increases are dispensed.

Staffing and recruitment continue to be an issue across our houses, and with HR's support we are working to increase the effectiveness from our recruitment outreach. We are all too aware that cost of living remains a concern for our young residents, and we will work to find resources that support both their basic needs and aspirations. One of those unmet needs continues to be lack of suitable accommodation for those leaving our services, and so we are progressing plans to offer step down accommodation.

Within our sites for 2024, in Dungannon we are re-establishing an additional support worker funded by the Rank Foundation. At Grampian in Belfast, we are working to find similar provision after the end of a funded partnership with Hagan Homes. For Riverside, we aim to engage our young people with a programme of arts activities. At Tafelta, we are building on the success of last year's gardening and vegetable growing project, and we want our young people to develop further ideas of how this can benefit themselves and the local community.

Residential Care (Including Dementia Care) for Older People

- **Service Summary**

Kirk House offers each resident their own small flatlet in a home in which independence (for up to 46 residents). The staff prioritize maintaining freedom of choice, self-esteem and dignity for all residents. The level of care each resident receives is tailored to meet their individual needs. Copelands, Residential and Dementia care Opened to its first residents in 2021, providing a state-of-the-art, purpose-built care home for up to 60 residents accommodated within six small 'households' of ten. Each room is en-suite and the care offered is person-centered with a wide range of amenities. We are currently registered for 20 residential dementia and 30 residential beds.

- **2023 in Review**

In 2023, Copelands continued to grow with the opening of Harbour Way, increasing the total occupiable beds to 50 (20 Dementia residential rooms and 30 general residential rooms). This expansion created further jobs in the local community, with the current staffing team of 67 and ongoing recruitment. Copelands was recognised as one of the top 20 most recommended Care Homes in Northern Ireland by the Carehome.co.uk Awards. By the close of 2023, occupancy was consistently at capacity, with a growing waiting list of new referrals. We continue

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to see a high turnover of residents, with people actively choosing to wait until much later in life before moving in. During 2023, this has presented additional complexity on staffing and care provision around which we continue to successfully navigate.

In September 2023, Copelands held an official opening and two-year celebration event, with the Lord Lieutenant of County Down as the ceremonial guest. Plans for continued development include the appointment of a nurse manager to add nursing care services and support residents with increasing complex care needs.

In Kirk House, 2023 was a positive year, with stable occupancy and high levels of service feedback. The retained staff team have been vital to high service delivery, with a core team of 34 staff having a combined service of 300 years. More community engagement opportunities were provided for residents, and relatives became more involved, fostering a sense of community.

Kirk House celebrated its 30th Birthday, a milestone for its well-established reputation. Requests for care have shifted, with more referrals from those seeking social opportunities and companionship, in addition to those requiring physical care, as opposed to the previous preference for remaining at home.

- **Future Opportunities**

At Copelands we are progressing plans for a wraparound nursing provision at the home. With added complexity, this will take time to deliver, and so we are also considering options for the sixth household which is currently being held for this service. As the business grows into a mature trading position, the priority will be to continue to invest in the service and facilities.

We are affected across both sites by the ongoing challenges around recruitment, and so we are working to maximize our staffing and delivery models, which at Copelands differ slightly in the households of care framework. For both sites, recruitment and retention challenges are set within a highly competitive market for care and support personnel.

Community Services

- **Service Summary**

Community Services Project provides a range of services for older people in Belfast to promote inclusion, reducing loneliness and social isolation. Activities include lunch clubs and a befriending service. A variety of volunteering opportunities are provided. An annual Christmas programme provides a Christmas gift to more than 5,000 children in Northern Ireland.

- **2023 in review**

Throughout 2023, we continued to run the Wednesday Lunch Club, providing 35 members a warm space to socialise, enjoy hot meals and entertainment weekly. The club continues to significantly impact mental health through providing companionship and a sense of purpose. These meetings are highly valued by attendees and volunteers alike, and a challenge for the year ahead will be to reach new faces to replenish our membership. We also continue to Befriending Service for the elderly- a vital service for those who struggle to get out to lunch club. Special mention must go to the Christmas Toy Programme, which successfully supplied toys and gifts to well over 5000 children in need. This has grown in partnership with the support of a number of Civil Service teams and Saint Vincent de Paul. Our ambition for this annual appeal is to shift the emphasis away from interventions which build dependency, and in 2024 we hope to contribute to causes which cut the cause of need off at the source.

Future Opportunities

We continue to work towards expanding our programme on offer for our service users. Numbers using some of the services have begun to decline, and so a renewed push for volunteers and users will be a priority for the coming year. Having successfully renewed our Investing in Volunteers Award, we are keen to rebuild our voluntary presence across our services through wider outreach and training in our community settings. In working closely with the Trussell Trust, we are also keen to develop conversations around how the benefit of the Christmas Toy appeal can be enhanced- looking at the impacts of that work and working collaboratively to discourage dependency or misuse of that service.

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Parent Support Services

- **Service Summary**

Parents' Support and family support services are available in Armagh/Dungannon and North Down and Newtownards. We provide support to families to provide responsive nurturing care for their children ensuring their safety and helping them reach their developmental milestones. We offer practical and emotional support to parents to enhance their parenting capacity.

- **2023 in Review**

Newtownards: In 2023, 27 group sessions were delivered for families, and the Community Family Support Service for families with children aged 0-5 continued to grow and develop. The excellent work of the support workers led to positive outcomes for families leaving the service, with a 100% satisfaction rate from service users and referral agents.

Dungannon: Now in its 11th year and 5th year funded through the Southern Trust, the project has seen a sustained need and growing demand, illustrated by an increase in referrals from the Family Support Hub, which is projected to continue as family needs become more complex. The project benefits from the commitment of three wonderful volunteers who have thrived in 2023, maximising opportunities to impact families and gain valuable experiences.

- **Future Opportunities**

Sustainability is a central theme for both services. In Dungannon a new period of tendering in mid-2024 will determine how the service is funded in coming years, with a procurement exercise underway for the entire southern Trust area.

In Newtownards we lack a similar contractual approach for this type of service. The service there has recently reached the end of a funded period with Comic Relief. Although successful with some smaller funders, we have yet to secure significant long-term funding to support the development of the service beyond 2024. Securing long term funding will therefore be an immediate priority for both services.

Puddleducks Day Nursery

- **Service Summary**

Puddleducks was created in 2012 to support the charitable work of Belfast Central Mission and is registered for 70 children across 4 rooms. Although, as a business we must be self-sufficient and generate profit for BCM, we must also comply with the "Minimum standards for child-minding and Day Care for children" (2012 – amended 2018 -DHSSPS). Puddleducks is very aware of the high standards set across the wider organisation of BCM and strive to not only meet the minimum standards, but endeavour to create a reputation for best practice in providing the highest standard of childcare and learning experiences for all registered children

- **2023 in Review**

This year was challenging for Puddleducks, with occupancy levels impacted by hybrid working increasingly as the year went on. Since COVID this has been on the rise, but the effects haven't been fully felt until now when the last 'full cohorts' have started to graduate. We have had to work harder than ever to promote city centre childcare as a viable option for parents. Promotional activities like a new website, leaflet drops, paid ads, and staff competitions helped, but word-of-mouth remains the best source of referrals. Despite concerns, Puddleducks maintains a reputation for high-quality early years care and education with an enthusiastic staff team. Highlights included winning the Family First Award for 'Exceptional Day Care', attending Stormont meetings, receiving the Daynurseries.co.uk 'Top 20 Award', achieving a 5* Food Hygiene rating, and once again our annual inspection was positive.

- **Future Opportunities**

In response to the loss of some of our user audience, a priority for 2024 are to drive occupancy levels back to pre-pandemic levels. To do this we will build wider business partnerships with employers to directly appeal to parent users of the service. We also have plans to refresh and upgrade our outdoor play space and will be fundraising to help resource this project as a priority in response to user feedback.

Other Future Opportunities

During 2023, the BCM team embarked on a partnership project with the Trussell Trust in the greater Belfast area. The purpose of the role is to build the campaigning power of people affected by poverty- supporting them to speak out towards policy makers and community stakeholders on issues where they can make a difference. We have supported in hosting a post that commenced in April 2024 that runs for an initial two years.

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The organisation is proceeding with the receipt of the former Sandy Row Methodist Church premises, whose congregation has now merged with the Grosvenor Hall congregation. Upon completion of that transfer, we will gain a better understanding of what community benefit services could operate from that location, existing or new.

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES (during 2023)

- Housing Support - 415 older people
- Housing support -329 younger people
- Parent and family support – 100 families
- Christmas Support – 5050 children
- Puddleducks Day Nursery – 80 children
- Therapeutic Counselling service – 33 individuals
- Residential with care: 132 older people
- Supported Housing: 35 younger people
- Lunch club: 35 older people
- Volunteering: 15 befrienders and 5 lunch club volunteers

6504 people directly supported.

Housing Support for Young People (16-25 years) mid-Ulster

As a result of the support provided by the service

- 95% of referrals to HSYP as homeless now have more settled accommodation.
- 56% increase in referrals
- 204 young people supported
- 15K in support grants dispensed.

Housing support for young People (16-25 years) North Down & Ards area

As a result of the support provided by the service

- 125 people were supported.
- 80% were supported maintained their home status.
- 100% of users felt more secure in their home/received more benefits.

Housing Support for Older People (aged 55+ years) Belfast

As a result of the support provided by the service

- 247 were supported to access relevant benefits.
- 50 tenants were supported with home maintenance/hoarding issues.
- 100% were supported to manage their physical/ mental health
- 97% were supported to contribute to a wider society.

Housing Support for Older People (aged 60+ years) Southern Area

As a result of the support provided by the service

- 168 new referrals into the service from local partners.
- 36 household deep cleans delivered.
- 96% maintained their independence at home.
- 99% felt more secure because of support provided.
- 97% were supported to manage their physical/mental health.

Parent Support and Family Support Ards & North Down area

As a result of support

- 34 families were supported.
- 677 home visits were completed.
- 80 Individuals directly supported

Parent Support and Family Support in Armagh /Dungannon area

As a result of support

- 783 people helped by telephone advice and signposting.
- 66 families supported
- 100% of parents felt more confident and wellbeing had improved

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Public Benefit Statement

In setting objectives and planning activities for the year the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit and are confident that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

Financial review

Details of the results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 18 and the related notes. The charity had net outgoing resources for the year of £13,590 and the net movement in funds amounted to £1180 in the year, after gains on investments of £14,770

The greater part of charitable income has been used to meet the cost of carrying out the organisation's charitable objectives by providing support and care through various projects for both young and older people. Income comprises funding for the services BCM provides on behalf of the statutory sector, income from donations, appeals and legacies, income from charitable trusts, income from fundraising activities and income from small trading activities. The continued support from our donors has been invaluable. We are grateful to all the organisations and people who have financially supported us throughout the year.

It is the opinion of the Directors that the market value of the property is in excess of the net book value as disclosed in the balance sheet on page 25.

Investment powers and policy

Investments shown in note 18 to the financial statements are made in line with the policies of the Trustees of the Methodist Church in Ireland. The Directors intend that the real value of the charity's investments be maintained and enhanced over the long term by investment in a portfolio comprising equities, fixed income stocks and cash. They seek to achieve a balanced investment return from income and capital, with moderate risk. It is the charity's policy specifically to include investments which are consistent with the ethos of the Methodist Church. The proportions invested in equities, fixed income stocks and cash are reviewed from time to time to establish the ongoing suitability of that element of the investment policy. Please note that the investment portfolio was disposed of during 2023, and herein this section will no longer form part of the report unless new investing activity is undertaken.

Reserves policy

BCM's reserve policy recognises the need to use voluntary income to provide services for young and older people and the need to ensure that, once commitment has been given, sufficient funds exist to meet the commitment for as long as it is required and appropriate. However, the organisation must also ensure that relatively minor disruptions to its financial plans, or delays in receiving funding, do not result in having suddenly to cease activities in order to balance the books.

The existing reserves policy has been established whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets (the free reserves) held by the charity should be between 6 and 9 months of the unrestricted resources expended. These reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the charity and therefore to enable it to continue its current activities. Free reserves currently stand at £1,773,173 (designated funds are excluded) which approximates to 4.6 months -unrestricted expenditure.

This has arisen due to the investment in the Copelands Care Home. The Directors have considered the position and intend to return to holding 6-9 months free reserves over the next three years.

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Principal risks and uncertainties

Effective risk management is essential to keep Service Users and staff safe, to protect and grow both funding and reputation, and to meet the expectations of supporters and donors. All types of risks are considered, both internal and external, when reviewing and updating the risk register. Principal risks are defined as those that, without effective mitigation, are highly likely to occur and would have a severe impact on the organisations work, reputation or ability to achieve its objectives.

The risk areas considered as part of BCM's risk register include:

- Strategic
- Finance
- Operations
- External
- Legal and compliance

All risks are managed through senior staff identifying and managing risks as an integral part of their daily work, through staff in outlying projects reporting significant risks to senior management and through reporting mechanisms to the Trustees at Board meetings. The reporting of major risks at Board Meetings allows the Trustees to challenge any assumptions the organisation has made about risks and understand the context in which decisions are taken. This assists them to ensure that the most serious risks are being effectively managed. This risk management process aims to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the organisation is protected.

Signed on behalf of the trustees



Mr R Black (Chairperson)

Approved by the Trustees on 17 September 2024

Independent auditor's report to the members of Belfast Central Mission for the year ended 31 December 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Belfast Central Mission (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes to the financial statements, 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 Financial Reporting Standard 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- 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 accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts 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 charitable company'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.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Directors' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees 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 controls 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.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Belfast Central Mission for the year ended 31 December 2023

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2008, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement 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 purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

**Independent auditor’s report to the members of Belfast Central Mission
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

- 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 charitable company’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 charitable company 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor’s report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company’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 company’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 any party other than the charitable company and charitable company’s members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Dr Rosemary Peters Gallagher OBE FCA

.....17/09/2024

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

4th Floor
Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

Moore (NI) LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charitable company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

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Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	6	152,994	27,603	180,597	206,950
Charitable activities	7	4,765,042	2,618,567	7,383,609	7,158,751
Other trading activities		63,701	-	63,701	37,024
Investments	8	47,472	-	47,472	14,402
Other		12,643	13,023	25,666	2,379
Total income		5,041,852	2,659,193	7,701,045	7,419,506
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(34,908)	-	(34,908)	(91,213)
Charitable activities	9,10	(4,636,167)	(3,043,560)	(7,679,727)	(7,118,365)
Total expenditure		(4,671,075)	(3,043,560)	(7,714,635)	(7,209,578)
Net (expenditure)/income before gains on investments		370,777	(384,367)	(13,590)	209,928
Net (losses)/gains on investments		14,770	-	14,770	(86,153)
Net income before transfers	12	385,547	(384,367)	1,180	123,775
Transfer between funds	16	(128,673)	128,673	-	-
Net movement in funds		256,874	(255,694)	1,180	123,775
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		7,320,740	255,694	7,576,434	7,452,659
Total funds carried forward		7,577,614	-	7,577,614	7,576,434

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of comprehensive income has not been prepared.

The Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) is included in note 5 to the financial statements for the prior year ended 31 December 2022.

The notes on pages 21 to 33 form part of these financial statements

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	17	5,805,783	5,937,326
Fixed asset investments	18	-	682,070
		5,805,783	6,619,396
Current assets			
Debtors	19	189,377	671,331
Cash at bank and in hand		2,522,076	1,054,962
		2,711,453	1,726,293
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	(939,622)	(769,255)
Net current assets		1,771,831	957,038
Total assets less current liabilities		7,577,614	7,576,434
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
Net assets		7,577,614	7,576,434
The funds of the charitable company			
Restricted income funds	22	-	255,694
Unrestricted income funds	23	7,577,614	7,320,740
Total funds		7,577,614	7,576,434

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 17 September 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mr R Black (Chairperson)



Dr D Gallagher

Company Registration Number: NI055693

Belfast Central Mission
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
<i>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</i>	27	802,748	(185,389)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends and interest from investments	8	47,472	14,402
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets			-
Purchase of fixed assets	17	(79,946)	(20,408)
Proceeds from disposal of investments		696,840	-
Purchase of investments		-	-
<i>Net cash provided (used in) /by investing activities</i>		664,366	(6,006)
Cash flows from financing activities			
<i>Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities</i>			
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</i>		1,467,114	(191,395)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,054,962	1,246,357
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	28	2,522,076	1,054,962

The notes on pages 21 to 33 form part of these financial statements

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

1 Charitable company status

Belfast Central Mission is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is located at Grosvenor House, 5 Glengall Street, Belfast, BT12 5AD.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the 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) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

BCM meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note. The financial statements are presented in GBP Sterling, which is also the functional currency of the charitable company.

Tangible fixed assets

The cost of tangible fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental costs of acquisition. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual values, on a straight-line basis over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used are as follows:

	%
Property	0 – 2.5
Fixtures and fittings	10 & 20
Office equipment	10, 25 & 33½
Motor vehicles	25

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the Statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the charity's cash management.

Income

Donations and legacies that are of a general nature are recognised where there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Gifts in kind are valued at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Incoming resources from grants where related to performance and specific deliverables are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance. Income received relating to future periods is included within deferred income.

All income received arose in the UK.

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Total expenditure includes the allocation of support costs. Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. They include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charitable company's activities. Support costs have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources (e.g. time spent, number of staff, estimated usage).

Irrecoverable VAT

Any irrecoverable VAT is charged to the statement of financial activities, or capitalised as part of the cost of the related asset, where appropriate.

Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

Recognition of liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when an obligation arises to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently managed fund. Contributions are charged to the statement of financial activities in the period to which they relate.

Investments

Investments are stated in the balance sheet at market value as at the balance sheet date. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains or losses arising on revaluation and disposal throughout the year.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less provisions for bad debt.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charitable company has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

Operating lease agreements

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged against net incoming resources on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Going concern

The directors have assessed that Belfast Central Mission has adequate resources to meet the ongoing costs of the entity for a minimum of 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements. For this reason, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which presumes the realisation of assets and liabilities in the normal course of business.

3 Significant judgements and estimates

In the Trustees' opinions, there are no significant judgements, estimates and assumptions made about the recognition of assets, liabilities, income and expenses other than those outlined in the accounting policies above.

4 Taxation

The charity is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments, and surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of the charity's primary objectives.

The charity has partial exemption from VAT and expenditure is recorded accordingly.

5 Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	206,461	489	206,950
Charitable activities	4,162,823	2,995,928	7,158,751
Other trading activities	37,024	-	37,024
Investments	14,402	-	14,402
Other	2,229	150	2,379
Total income	4,422,939	2,996,567	7,419,506
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	(91,213)	-	(91,213)
Charitable activities	(3,971,627)	(3,146,738)	(7,118,365)
Total expenditure	(4,062,840)	(3,146,738)	(7,209,578)
Net gains on investments	360,099 (86,153)	(150,171) -	209,928 (86,153)
Net income before transfers	273,946	(150,171)	123,775
Transfer between funds	(26,074)	26,074	-
Net movement in funds	247,872	(124,097)	123,775
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	7,072,868	379,791	7,452,659
Total funds carried forward	7,320,740	255,694	7,576,434

*

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

6 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	60,391	27,603	87,994	69,111
Appeals	18,957	-	18,957	35,700
Legacies	73,646	-	73,646	102,139
	152,994	27,603	180,597	206,950

7 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Charitable trusts	47,222	-	47,222	63,156
Housing Executive	139,823	1,950,933	2,090,756	2,648,885
Residential rents	3,567,056	774,314	4,341,370	3,404,546
Health & Social Care Trusts	104,949	131,062	236,011	178,236
Congregational	25,370	-	25,370	18,694
Training	558	-	558	13,812
Other sources	880,064	(237,742)	642,322	831,422
	4,765,042	2,618,567	7,383,609	7,158,751

8 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Dividends	9,003	9,003	9,762
Bank interest	38,469	38,469	4,640
	47,472	47,472	14,402

9 Resources expended on charitable activities by activity type

	Staff costs £	Other costs £	Depreciation £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Operating expenses	5,712,320	1,709,438	211,151	7,632,909	7,032,394
Financing expenses	-	3,608	-	3,608	29,196
Society expenses	41,906	1,304	-	43,210	56,775
	5,754,226	1,714,350	211,151	7,679,727	7,118,365

In addition to the depreciation on charitable activities, there is £338 depreciation in raising funds

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

10 Resources expended on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Operating expenses	4,590,203	3,042,706	7,632,909	7,032,394
Financing expenses	2,754	854	3,608	29,196
Society expenses	43,210	-	43,210	56,775
	4,636,167	3,043,560	7,679,727	7,118,365

11 Financing costs

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Interest payable and similar charges				
On bank overdrafts	2,754	854	3,608	29,196

12 Net income before transfers

	2023 £	2022 £
This is stated after charging:		
Staff pension contributions	172,520	191,906
Depreciation – charge for year	211,489	223,754
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-
Auditors' fees		
Audit work	5,760	6,137
Non-audit services	-	-

13 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	4,682,614	4,596,634
Social security costs	362,122	402,063
Pension costs	172,520	191,906
	5,217,256	5,190,603

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

13 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel (continued)

Trustee remuneration and benefits amounted to £63,320 (2022: £62,178) for the year, being remuneration of £55,033 (2022: £54,041), other benefits of £72 (2022: £69) and pension contributions of £8,215 (2022: £8,068). These emoluments received by Reverend David Campton were in respect of his capacity as Superintendent of Belfast Central Mission and minister of the Grosvenor Hall congregation and not in his capacity as Trustee. The Trustee also received manse accommodation that is typical of such roles. No trustee expenses were paid (2022 – £nil) for the year. No Trustees received payments for the supply of ministerial and organist services (2022 - £nil).

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the Trustees, the Superintendent, the Chief Executive, Head of Community Services, Head of Residential Services, Head of Estates & Facilities, Head of Business Development, Head of HR and Head of Finance. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charitable company were £421,039 (2022: - £573,453).

The number of senior staff with employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) over £60,000

Band	2023	2022
£60,000 - £69,999	2	1
£70,000 - £79,999	1	1

14 Staff numbers

The charitable company reports that the average head count (number of staff employed) during the reporting period was 236 (2022 – 251). These can be analysed by project type as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Social & support projects	107	122
Care projects	110	104
Management & central administration	19	25
	236	251

15 Pensions

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of the staff. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the charitable company and amounted to £172,520 (2022: £191,906) of which £28,929 (2022: 28,929) was outstanding at the year end.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

16 Transfers between funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Unrestricted income funds		
<u>General funds</u>		
From Restricted income funds	(128,673)	(26,074)
(To)/from Designated funds	-	-
	(128,673)	(26,074)
<u>Designated funds</u>		
From/(to) General funds	-	-
From Restricted income funds	-	-
	(128,673)	(26,074)
Movement in Unrestricted income funds	(128,673)	(26,074)
Restricted income funds		
(To) General funds	128,673	26,074
Movement in Restricted income funds	128,673	26,074

The net transfer of (£128,673) from unrestricted income reserves to restricted income reserves relates to the Supported People Project and is made in order to fund prior year deficits totalling £64,809 and a 2023 deficit of £63,864.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

17 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Long leasehold property	Fixtures and fittings	Office equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 January 2023	6,748,149	75,000	818,675	398,326	11,912	8,052,062
Additions	-	-	69,967	9,979	-	79,946
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	6,748,149	75,000	888,642	408,305	11,912	8,132,008
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2023	1,199,038	-	552,965	350,821	11,912	2,114,736
Charge for year	140,722	-	40,750	30,017	-	211,489
On disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	1,339,760	-	593,715	380,838	11,912	2,326,225
Net Book Value						
At 31 December 2023	5,480,389	75,000	294,927	27,467	-	5,805,783
At 31 December 2022	5,549,111	75,000	265,710	47,505	-	5,937,326

Investment Properties

Belfast Central Mission owns an investment property located on 373-375 Springfield Road and leased on a long-term basis to a local community group. (Forthspring Inter Community Group) Due to legal issues arising from both the long-term lease and a charge over the property held by the Dept for Education (arising from a historic renovation capital grant) it has been impossible to determine the fair value of the investment property. The property has therefore been included in the accounts at a book value of £nil.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

18 Fixed asset investments

	Securities	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Movement in market value			
Market value at 1 January 2023	682,070	682,070	768,223
Additions in year	-	-	-
Disposals in year	(682,070)	(682,070)	-
Net gains/(losses) on revaluations in the year:	-	-	-
- own investments	-	-	(84,049)
- investments held on behalf of other churches	-	-	(2,104)
Market value at 31 December 2023	-	-	682,070
Historical cost	233,910	233,910	233,910
Analysed by			
Unlisted securities	-	-	682,070
	-	-	682,070

Analysis of investments at 31 December 2023 between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Securities	-	-	-	682,327
	-	-	-	682,327

All investments are UK investments.

19 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade debtors	72,778	84,645
Other debtors	-	4,422
Prepayments and accrued income	116,599	581,531
Amounts due from related party	-	733
	189,377	671,331

An impairment loss of £nil (2022: £14,208) was recognised against trade debtors.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

20 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	249,484	204,808
Taxation and social security costs	86,260	85,491
Other creditors	509,122	210,059
Accruals and deferred income	94,756	268,897
	939,622	769,255

Accruals and deferred income include deferred grants amounting to £nil (2022: £183,960).

Other creditors includes a liability of £320,503 relating to the Supporting People Project, funded by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

21 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 December 2023 the charitable company had future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	-	-
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	-
	-	-

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

22 Restricted income funds

	Balance at 1 Jan 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers, Investment gains/(losses)	Balance at 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Supporting People	255,694	2,659,192	(3,043,559)	128,673	-

The Supporting People Project provides housing support services across Northern Ireland funded by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and regional Trusts. Detail of the transfer is in note 16.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

23 Unrestricted income funds

	Balance at 1 Jan 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	97,544	-	-	-	-	97,544
General funds	7,223,196	5,041,852	(4,671,075)	14,770	(128,673)	7,480,070
	7,320,740	5,041,852	(4,671,075)	14,770	(128,673)	7,577,614

Designated funds represent funds set aside for the continued development of our Copelands project (a housing scheme for older people).

General funds are amounts which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives of the charitable company.

24 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets	Investments	Net current assets	Long term liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted income funds	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted income funds:	-	-	-	-	-
Designated funds	-	-	97,544	-	97,544
General funds	5,805,783	-	1,674,287	-	7,480,070
Total funds	5,805,783	-	1,771,831	-	7,577,614

25 Related party transactions

At the period end an amount of £nil (2022: £6,184) is owing to Belfast Central Mission by BCM Services Limited. BCM Services Limited has a total of three directors, all of whom are also directors of Belfast Central Mission.

26 Company limited by guarantee

Every Trustee promises, if the charitable company is dissolved while such person remains a Trustee or within 12 months afterwards, to pay up to £1 towards the costs of dissolution and the liabilities incurred by the charitable company while the contributor was a Trustee.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

27 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	1,180	123,775
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	211,489	223,754
(Gains)/losses on investments	(14,770)	86,153
Dividends and interest from investments	(47,472)	(14,402)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	481,953	(479,133)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	170,368	(125,536)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	802,748	(185,389)

28 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash in hand	19,287	12,594
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	2,502,789	1,042,368
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,522,076	1,054,962

Belfast Central Mission

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101271

Annual report

Company Registration Number NI055693
Charity Registration Number NIC101271

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements **for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

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Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Trustees

Mr R Black (Chairperson)	Dr D Gallagher
Rev D Campton	Mr W J Halliday (Resigned July 2023)
Mr C P Clarke	Miss S McCaughan (Resigned October 2023)
Mrs M Copeland	Mr W Robinson
Miss M J Dwyer	Rev S Sheerin
Mr J D Edmondson (Treasurer- resigned June 2023)	Mrs H Taylor (Appointed September 2023)
Mr D Ferguson	

Superintendent

Rev D Campton

Chief Executive

Mr N Conway

Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Care & Quality Governance

Position made redundant.

Head of Community Services

Mrs J Love

Head of Residential Services

Mrs L Payam

Head of Business Development

Mr A Irwin (Appointed May 2023)

Head of Finance

Mrs J Sloan (Appointed May 2023)

Head of HR

Mrs J Miskelly (Appointed Sept 2023)

Head of Estates & Facilities

Mr N Emery

Registered Office

Grosvenor House
5 Glengall Street
Belfast
BT12 5AD

Reference and administrative details (continued)

Auditors

Moore (N.I.) LLP
Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

Solicitors

Cleaver Fulton Rankin
50 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7FW

Bankers

Ulster Bank Ltd
11-16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

Investment Custodian

The Trustees of the Methodist Church in Ireland
Edgehill House
9 Lennoxvale
Belfast
BT9 5BY

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2023

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

Belfast Central Mission is a company limited by guarantee. It is governed by its revised Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 18 September 2018. The charitable company is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under registration number NIC101271. BCM is the trading name of Belfast Central Mission.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the 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) (effective 1 January 2015).

Organisational Structure

The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the organisation. It meets regularly to review BCM's performance against its charitable objectives and review its financial performance. The Board consists of a Non-Executive Chairperson, the Superintendent of the Mission (ex officio, appointed by the Methodist Church in Ireland), Secretary (ex officio), Treasurer (ex officio), and up to 8 other nominated Directors. At least two of the Directors are nominated by the Congregational Meeting of the Grosvenor Hall Society. All appointments are confirmed by the members at the annual general meeting. The Board of Directors may at any time co-opt up to 2 additional Directors. The Board works closely with the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team who oversee the operations on a day-to-day basis.

Appointment of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is nominated by the Circuit Executive of South and Central Belfast Methodist Circuit sitting as the General Meeting of the Mission Committee of BCM and is reported annually to the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland. Every effort is made to ensure that there is a wide and relevant skill base amongst the Directors to enable the Board to perform its duties effectively.

Trustee induction and training

New Board Members go through an induction process with respect to that which covers their roles as Directors and as Trustees. They are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the requirements of the Charity Commission, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Strategic Plan, the decision-making processes and recent financial performance of the organisation, and operations of the organisation. Board members are encouraged to attend relevant external training events to assist them in the performance of their duties.

Pay policy for Key Management Personnel

The Board of Directors and the Senior Management Team comprise the key management personnel of the organisation. Details of remuneration of this group are disclosed in note 13 to the financial statements. The pay for all employees, including senior staff, is reviewed annually. The aim is to pay all employees a fair salary that is competitive within the charity sector, proportionate to the complexity of the role and in line with the organisation's charitable objectives and financial budgets.

Wider Network and Impact on Operating Policies

BCM, a company limited by guarantee, is also an agency of the Methodist Church in Ireland and seeks to abide by the basic rules of the Church including, but not limited to, no alcohol on properties and no engagement with, or benefit from, gambling. There is minimal impact on BCM's operating policies as a result of this relationship.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

Details of related party transactions are disclosed in note 25 to the financial statements. The organisation has entered into joint management agreements with two local housing associations, working to deliver Housing Support services for vulnerable people.

Objectives and activities

The primary objects of Belfast Central Mission, as stated in its governing document, are:

1. The advancement of the Christian religion in Ireland.
2. The relief of poverty, sickness, infirmity, or other necessitous circumstances through the provision of accommodation, care, counselling or education on a cross-community basis for people in Northern Ireland who are in need of such provision.

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During 2023, BCM embarked on a strategic review in advance of a new strategic period (2024-2027). We have developed a three-year strategy which will enable the "Provision of quality compassionate support to people at their point of need", which in a shortened format is "Supporting people at their point of need". We are a diverse organisation operating in a range of settings. We aim to support as many people as we can with a focus on the following strategic intentions:

Excellence in our Delivery

- Recruit and retain the most capable individuals
- Enhance the well-being and development of our team
- Communicate more effectively
- Ensure financial health and viability
- Understand and respond to service user needs

Excellence within our Organisation

- Provide inspirational strategic leadership
- Maintain the high level of standards across the organisation
- Remain person-centred and maintain a positive culture of excellence, integrity and respect

Excellence in Sustainability

- Grow our profitability
- Diversify our sources of income

It is important that success is assessed and the primary measures that will be used are:

- The number of people helped with a focus on older people, young people and children and families.
- Stakeholder and service user satisfaction.
- Quality of service delivery.
- Impact and outcomes measurement.
- Trustee, employee, volunteer and congregation satisfaction.
- Sustainable financial growth.

The significant activities undertaken are set out below, categorised under the two objects of the Charity.

OBJECT ONE:

At the heart of the Mission's object of "advancement of the Christian religion" lies the "Grosvenor Hall" congregation, from which the wider work of the Mission emerged and which continues to worship weekly in Grosvenor House, as part of the Methodist Church in Ireland (MCI), and its South and Central Belfast Circuit, which currently includes three other societies/congregations: Donegall Road, Belfast South (in the Agape Centre on the Lisburn Road) and the Church of the Resurrection (the joint Methodist/Church of Ireland Church and Chaplaincy on Elmwood Avenue). It is through partnership with these congregations and other faith-based organisations, that most Object One activity takes place, together with the developing chaplaincy and worship life at BCM's Copelands elderly residential and dementia care facility in Millisle, building on the experience of providing spiritual support to our Kirk House facility in East Belfast, where a weekly service of worship also takes place drawing on the support of an ecumenical rota of local ministers.

2023 in Review

Weekly Sunday worship in Grosvenor House and pastoral care for the Grosvenor Hall congregation has continued throughout the year under report, and in partnership with other congregations on circuit other initiatives, including a Book Group, Public Theology Lectures and online seminars, a Centring Prayer Group and hybrid Bible studies have taken place, with joint activities during Advent, Christmas and Holy Week being particularly well supported. For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, BCM's Christmas Toy Appeal programme returned to the Grosvenor Hall, with the traditional launch service led by the Dundrod Silver Band. Congregations across the MCI and beyond have continued to provide strong support for this programme despite the cost-of-living crisis that has affected everyone, including our donors. With their help we supported more than 5000 children/families, a 20% increase on last year.

As a result of a presentation at the MCI Annual Conference on the cost-of-living crisis, we, together with our sister Methodist city missions, were pleased to receive a significant un-solicited donation from The Joseph Rank Trust that enabled our Object Two projects to provide additional need-based grants. This is an important reminder of the importance

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of such partnerships going forward.

As part of the Four Corners Festival, Grosvenor House hosted the conclusion of this year's "Wonderful Wander" an exploration of the political, economic and spiritual history of our city centre, and in during the week of Homelessness Sunday, we also hosted the touring version of a photographic exhibition launched at Four Corners 2023 which focused on the causes and effects of homelessness, in all its forms, across our city. This also included, on International Homelessness Day, a conversation with one of our Housing Support workers, and others, on the issues involved.

In the context of a period of political inertia, as part of the Churches Initiative Group, a long-standing informal network of ministers and faith-based activists focused on peacebuilding, the Superintendent continued the long tradition of BCM's involvement in peace and reconciliation work in facilitating a series of conversations between local church leaders and political representatives.

The Grosvenor Hall Congregation continues to support Belfast Storehouse, a food/clothing/furniture project, with monthly food collection and ongoing fundraising.

Weekly worship in both Kirk House and Copelands continues, with the latter provided by our dedicated Chaplain, Rev. June Parke, who also seeks to support the spiritual wellbeing of residents, their families and staff. The Superintendent and Copelands Chaplain took part in an "Anna Chaplaincy" training course run by BRF, with a view to enhancing our chaplaincy service in Copelands, Kirk House and across the organisation.

We continue to be a training environment for Methodist Ministers in training, with Mrs. Julie Craythorne joining us for a two-year period from September 2023.

Following the aforementioned Strategic Review, the Board also appointed a Working Party to review the function, aims and objectives of Object One, and the consequent role of the Superintendent of the Mission in delivering this.

In parallel with this, at the end of 2023 the wider South and Central Belfast Methodist Circuit, of which the Grosvenor Hall congregation is a part, completed its merger with two neighbouring circuits to form the Belfast Central and South Circuit. As a result of this, the Mission Superintendent is no longer the Circuit Superintendent, removing some potential conflicts of interest and freeing up additional time and energy for more Mission-focused work.

Future Opportunities:

Subject to the outcome of the Review of Object One by the appointed Working Party -BCM will continue to support the continued existence of Christian faith expression within the city centre of Belfast, which is currently the Grosvenor Hall congregation, with the expectation that members of that congregation would continue to volunteer within, and fundraise for, the wider work of BCM.

As prepare for the retirement of our current Copelands Chaplain in June 2024, our current Minister in Training will take on that role on an interim basis and we will explore the potential for a more formal partnership with "Anna Chaplaincy" in order to enhance this service.

BCM will continue to partner with other organisations to take forward their mutual objects, including:

- Belfast Central and South Methodist Circuit
- Belfast City Centre Chaplaincy
- The Four Corners Festival
- Church Initiatives Group/Contemporary Christianity
- Christians Against Poverty
- Miscellaneous food banks

OBJECT TWO

2023 saw a continuance of recovery from the pandemic years, with delivery and funding continuing to stabilize in light of previous disruption. This stability has been felt from the top down, with a settled SMT, a full staff complement in HR and Finance and a new Development Manager role.

Challenges across Object Two services around staff recruitment and the rebuilding of staff teams have persisted during 2023, with some momentum gained as new HR structures begin to take effect. Financial performance has been and will continue to be impacted by rising costs, both for staff wages and materials.

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Despite these challenging operating conditions BCM's Board, staff team and Management continued to put the service user and service excellence at the heart of everything that we do and highlights of achievements and performance over the year included:

- 6504 service users supported.
- 5050 Christmas toy parcels distributed.
- Full compliance with all regulatory requirements.
- Copelands fifth household open.
- Puddleducks and Kirk house back to pre-covid occupancy levels.
- New Governance guide developed and approved.
- New strategic planning process developed for implementation in 2023.
- Reaccreditation of Investing in Volunteers

A more detailed review of the significant charitable activities undertaken is set out below.

Housing Support for Younger People

- **Service Summary:** Housing Support for Young People (16-25 years) – located in Armagh, Dungannon, Magherafelt, North Down and Newtownards. The project supports young people who are homeless, struggling with housing issues, leaving care or requiring help with independent living. It uses a holistic person-centred approach and supports young people to identify and work towards their goals.
- **2023 in Review:** 95% of people that referred to HSYYP as homeless now have safer and settled accommodation, and this year seen another service user become a homeowner. Exit questionnaires this year had a 76% response rate, with 100% of respondents stating they were "highly satisfied" with the support received and they would recommend it to a friend. Last year, HSYYP underwent a successful validation visit and no recommendations for improvement were made. Staff continue to be successful with applying for grants. This money has supported so many young people and helped alleviate some of the financial pressures service users were facing during challenging times. The Bryson grant initiative has resulted in 51 service users being supported with electric, food or heating.

In 2023, Newtownards faced a severe housing crisis, with over 100 households presenting as homeless each month, with the waiting list for housing reaching 3,200 applicants, 2,200 of whom were deemed to be in housing stress. The leading cause of homelessness was accommodation being deemed unreasonable or unfit. To cope with the high demand, 652 placements were made to temporary accommodation over the year, highlighting the instability of the rental market as a contributing factor. 2023 was a year in which we achieved good outcomes for our service users and in the main achieved our aims and objectives. In 2023, we supported 56 of our service users access £11,730 worth of grants to support them at their point of need. We had 98% satisfaction rate from service users and 100% referral satisfaction rate. 80% of service users were successful in maintaining their home status with improved outcomes at the end of their period of support during 2023.

- **Future Opportunities:**
As we progress through our new strategic period, a major priority for HSYYP will be how we continue to include the voices of service users in shaping our service. This is not only best practice, but increasingly a requirement for future tendering. Across both areas, we are focusing on quality markers for the service and professional standards, and we are working to enhance our training, monitoring, and approach to due diligence.

We have lost a major funding stream this year in the Glasspool fund, which arranged direct support for young people setting up homes. Finding a suitable ongoing replacement for this resource will be vital. A risk as we look to the future, is also the worrying incline of young person referrals who demonstrate signs poor mental health. Having adequate skills and resources to best serve this user group will be a priority.

Housing Support for Older People

- **Service Summary**
Housing Support for Older People (aged 55+) – located in Armagh, Newry, Belfast, Craigavon and Dungannon. The project seeks to work in partnership with older people providing practical and emotional housing-related support, enabling them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

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- **2023 in Review:**

Housing Support for Older People (HSOP South) provided housing-related support to 120 service users across areas within the Southern Trust. The project offers floating support funded by Supporting People, to help older people remain independent at home. This support focused on direct housing support activities. Given the current housing crisis in Northern Ireland coupled with the cost-of-living crisis, service users often find themselves 'stuck.' The service assists them in accessing appropriate accommodation or remaining safe and well in their homes, promoting independence and combating loneliness and financial challenges.

The Belfast service enables elderly residents to live independently at home for as long as safely possible through its floating support service (up to 160 individuals) and peripatetic service (50 older people). This year, it received 247 referrals. The holistic, person-centered approach provides practical and emotional support across six core areas: housing, health/wellbeing, financial matters, meaningful activities, independent living skills, and support networks. Despite staffing challenges, the service helped clients maintain tenancies, manage health needs, access benefits, and enhance home safety/security. External funding from NIHE's Sustaining Tenancies grant allowed supporting 50 tenants with home maintenance/hoarding issues.

- **Future Opportunities**

Moving forward, the project aims to maintain steady referrals, reinforce person-centred practices, meet funder targets, and actively involve service users in evaluating/developing offerings. In the southern area, our service team have had disruption due to maternity leave, and so for 2024 we will be focusing on excellence in resettling our team into best ways of working. In Belfast, the team are working to secure additional funding to meet complex needs of older people with threatened tenancies. This support is bespoke to the individual, but a common issue continues to be hoarding, and poor upkeep of the home environment. Both the southern and Belfast teams will be focused on maximising our capacity as per our contractual terms.

A planned uplift in Supporting People funding should have a positive knock-on effect into the HSOP service during 2024, and we will continue to engage closely with our statutory partners to build the service.

Supported Housing for Young People

- **Service Summary**

Four services continue to operate within four different HSCT areas in Northern Ireland, offering a total of 35 units of accommodation. These include 29 self-contained flats, and the remaining units offer shared accommodation in two of the services. Two of the services are solely for young people who have been in the care of Social Services and the remaining two also offer additional accommodation to young people who present to the NIHE as homeless. The project staff offer both emotional and practical support for up to two years to try to ensure that the young people are ready for their own tenancies, have achieved their own goals and are a positive part of their communities.

- **2023 in review: Belfast:**

In 2023, Grampian Avenue supported a diverse group of service users with varying backgrounds including local and international individuals, those with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, trauma experiences, care experiences, and homelessness. Staff demonstrated exceptional commitment, helping service users realize their abilities, self-worth, and potential. Notable initiatives included staff training in restorative practices, participating in QUB's youth mental health seminar, and activities during Homeless Awareness Week. One success story involved a service user rebuilding family relationships by being closer to home and through facilitated communication. Strong friendships also formed between residents. Challenges remain with achieving optimum staffing levels and limited funding for outreach and activities. Despite this, Grampian Avenue provided tailored, person-centered support empowering service users and fostering their personal growth.

- **Dungannon:**

In 2023, Thomas Street housing empowered seven vulnerable young people through trauma-informed care and robust partnerships. Despite severe challenges like aggression, substance abuse, property damage and trauma histories, dedicated staff achieved remarkable outcomes. Residents were supported with benefits, employment, education, tenancy skills, health management and personal development. Staff's specialized training enabled individualized, holistic support. One young person's transformative journey exemplifies the impact, with substantial progress in harm reduction, self-regulation and future prospects.

- **Magherafelt:**

Tafelta Rise continued to provide vital services in 2023 through strong partnership working and individualized support programs. This multi-agency approach ensured comprehensive referral assistance, residential support, and transition services. Through tailored support plans, residents were supported across areas like independent

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living skills, employment, budgeting, and wellness. Three young people successfully moved into their own NIHE tenancies after the program. Feedback praised the valuable support services. Community partnerships allowed for provision of food, gifts, volunteering opportunities, and seasonal celebrations. A new relationship with Timpson Key Specialists contributed £1,500 towards the garden program.

- **Bangor**

In 2023, Riverside Place continued providing supported accommodation for vulnerable young people aged 16-21, aiming to support independence and self-care skills development. Outcomes were excellent across accessing benefits, maintaining tenancies, and developing independent living skills. Managing mental health improved significantly, with incidents declining 62% from 2022 due to a settled mix and support team. Challenges persisted with self-harm, substance misuse, mental health issues and staffing. Finding 'step down' unsupported housing options for young people leaving the service remained a priority. The service passed a favourable RQIA inspection, and employment and education goals continued to be positively met.

- **Therapeutic Counselling** for young people (16-25 years)

A BACP accredited senior counsellor supports young people with a range of issues including depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, identity issues, past abuse, domestic violence, bereavement and substance misuse. The service is flexible and understanding of the needs of this age group. The service can be offered face to face, via telephone or via zoom, following an initial face-to-face assessment.

- **Future Opportunities**

We have been working to increase the contribution from the Housing Executive into our projects, and re-evaluating the balance of funding across all funders is already being worked on to achieve greater sustainability and buy in from our statutory partners. For 2024, Supporting People funded projects have been earmarked for an increase in contributions from government, so a priority will be to ensure that we have a seat at the table in how those increases are dispensed.

Staffing and recruitment continue to be an issue across our houses, and with HR's support we are working to increase the effectiveness from our recruitment outreach. We are all too aware that cost of living remains a concern for our young residents, and we will work to find resources that support both their basic needs and aspirations. One of those unmet needs continues to be lack of suitable accommodation for those leaving our services, and so we are progressing plans to offer step down accommodation.

Within our sites for 2024, in Dungannon we are re-establishing an additional support worker funded by the Rank Foundation. At Grampian in Belfast, we are working to find similar provision after the end of a funded partnership with Hagan Homes. For Riverside, we aim to engage our young people with a programme of arts activities. At Tafelta, we are building on the success of last year's gardening and vegetable growing project, and we want our young people to develop further ideas of how this can benefit themselves and the local community.

Residential Care (Including Dementia Care) for Older People

- **Service Summary**

Kirk House offers each resident their own small flatlet in a home in which independence (for up to 46 residents). The staff prioritize maintaining freedom of choice, self-esteem and dignity for all residents. The level of care each resident receives is tailored to meet their individual needs. Copelands, Residential and Dementia care Opened to its first residents in 2021, providing a state-of-the-art, purpose-built care home for up to 60 residents accommodated within six small 'households' of ten. Each room is en-suite and the care offered is person-centered with a wide range of amenities. We are currently registered for 20 residential dementia and 30 residential beds.

- **2023 in Review**

In 2023, Copelands continued to grow with the opening of Harbour Way, increasing the total occupiable beds to 50 (20 Dementia residential rooms and 30 general residential rooms). This expansion created further jobs in the local community, with the current staffing team of 67 and ongoing recruitment. Copelands was recognised as one of the top 20 most recommended Care Homes in Northern Ireland by the Carehome.co.uk Awards. By the close of 2023, occupancy was consistently at capacity, with a growing waiting list of new referrals. We continue

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to see a high turnover of residents, with people actively choosing to wait until much later in life before moving in. During 2023, this has presented additional complexity on staffing and care provision around which we continue to successfully navigate.

In September 2023, Copelands held an official opening and two-year celebration event, with the Lord Lieutenant of County Down as the ceremonial guest. Plans for continued development include the appointment of a nurse manager to add nursing care services and support residents with increasing complex care needs.

In Kirk House, 2023 was a positive year, with stable occupancy and high levels of service feedback. The retained staff team have been vital to high service delivery, with a core team of 34 staff having a combined service of 300 years. More community engagement opportunities were provided for residents, and relatives became more involved, fostering a sense of community.

Kirk House celebrated its 30th Birthday, a milestone for its well-established reputation. Requests for care have shifted, with more referrals from those seeking social opportunities and companionship, in addition to those requiring physical care, as opposed to the previous preference for remaining at home.

- **Future Opportunities**

At Copelands we are progressing plans for a wraparound nursing provision at the home. With added complexity, this will take time to deliver, and so we are also considering options for the sixth household which is currently being held for this service. As the business grows into a mature trading position, the priority will be to continue to invest in the service and facilities.

We are affected across both sites by the ongoing challenges around recruitment, and so we are working to maximize our staffing and delivery models, which at Copelands differ slightly in the households of care framework. For both sites, recruitment and retention challenges are set within a highly competitive market for care and support personnel.

Community Services

- **Service Summary**

Community Services Project provides a range of services for older people in Belfast to promote inclusion, reducing loneliness and social isolation. Activities include lunch clubs and a befriending service. A variety of volunteering opportunities are provided. An annual Christmas programme provides a Christmas gift to more than 5,000 children in Northern Ireland.

- **2023 in review**

Throughout 2023, we continued to run the Wednesday Lunch Club, providing 35 members a warm space to socialise, enjoy hot meals and entertainment weekly. The club continues to significantly impact mental health through providing companionship and a sense of purpose. These meetings are highly valued by attendees and volunteers alike, and a challenge for the year ahead will be to reach new faces to replenish our membership. We also continue to Befriending Service for the elderly- a vital service for those who struggle to get out to lunch club. Special mention must go to the Christmas Toy Programme, which successfully supplied toys and gifts to well over 5000 children in need. This has grown in partnership with the support of a number of Civil Service teams and Saint Vincent de Paul. Our ambition for this annual appeal is to shift the emphasis away from interventions which build dependency, and in 2024 we hope to contribute to causes which cut the cause of need off at the source.

Future Opportunities

We continue to work towards expanding our programme on offer for our service users. Numbers using some of the services have begun to decline, and so a renewed push for volunteers and users will be a priority for the coming year. Having successfully renewed our Investing in Volunteers Award, we are keen to rebuild our voluntary presence across our services through wider outreach and training in our community settings. In working closely with the Trussell Trust, we are also keen to develop conversations around how the benefit of the Christmas Toy appeal can be enhanced- looking at the impacts of that work and working collaboratively to discourage dependency or misuse of that service.

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Parent Support Services

- **Service Summary**

Parents' Support and family support services are available in Armagh/Dungannon and North Down and Newtownards. We provide support to families to provide responsive nurturing care for their children ensuring their safety and helping them reach their developmental milestones. We offer practical and emotional support to parents to enhance their parenting capacity.

- **2023 in Review**

Newtownards: In 2023, 27 group sessions were delivered for families, and the Community Family Support Service for families with children aged 0-5 continued to grow and develop. The excellent work of the support workers led to positive outcomes for families leaving the service, with a 100% satisfaction rate from service users and referral agents.

Dungannon: Now in its 11th year and 5th year funded through the Southern Trust, the project has seen a sustained need and growing demand, illustrated by an increase in referrals from the Family Support Hub, which is projected to continue as family needs become more complex. The project benefits from the commitment of three wonderful volunteers who have thrived in 2023, maximising opportunities to impact families and gain valuable experiences.

- **Future Opportunities**

Sustainability is a central theme for both services. In Dungannon a new period of tendering in mid-2024 will determine how the service is funded in coming years, with a procurement exercise underway for the entire southern Trust area.

In Newtownards we lack a similar contractual approach for this type of service. The service there has recently reached the end of a funded period with Comic Relief. Although successful with some smaller funders, we have yet to secure significant long-term funding to support the development of the service beyond 2024. Securing long term funding will therefore be an immediate priority for both services.

Puddleducks Day Nursery

- **Service Summary**

Puddleducks was created in 2012 to support the charitable work of Belfast Central Mission and is registered for 70 children across 4 rooms. Although, as a business we must be self-sufficient and generate profit for BCM, we must also comply with the "Minimum standards for child-minding and Day Care for children" (2012 – amended 2018 -DHSSPS). Puddleducks is very aware of the high standards set across the wider organisation of BCM and strive to not only meet the minimum standards, but endeavour to create a reputation for best practice in providing the highest standard of childcare and learning experiences for all registered children

- **2023 in Review**

This year was challenging for Puddleducks, with occupancy levels impacted by hybrid working increasingly as the year went on. Since COVID this has been on the rise, but the effects haven't been fully felt until now when the last 'full cohorts' have started to graduate. We have had to work harder than ever to promote city centre childcare as a viable option for parents. Promotional activities like a new website, leaflet drops, paid ads, and staff competitions helped, but word-of-mouth remains the best source of referrals. Despite concerns, Puddleducks maintains a reputation for high-quality early years care and education with an enthusiastic staff team. Highlights included winning the Family First Award for 'Exceptional Day Care', attending Stormont meetings, receiving the Daynurseries.co.uk 'Top 20 Award', achieving a 5* Food Hygiene rating, and once again our annual inspection was positive.

- **Future Opportunities**

In response to the loss of some of our user audience, a priority for 2024 are to drive occupancy levels back to pre-pandemic levels. To do this we will build wider business partnerships with employers to directly appeal to parent users of the service. We also have plans to refresh and upgrade our outdoor play space and will be fundraising to help resource this project as a priority in response to user feedback.

Other Future Opportunities

During 2023, the BCM team embarked on a partnership project with the Trussell Trust in the greater Belfast area. The purpose of the role is to build the campaigning power of people affected by poverty- supporting them to speak out towards policy makers and community stakeholders on issues where they can make a difference. We have supported in hosting a post that commenced in April 2024 that runs for an initial two years.

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The organisation is proceeding with the receipt of the former Sandy Row Methodist Church premises, whose congregation has now merged with the Grosvenor Hall congregation. Upon completion of that transfer, we will gain a better understanding of what community benefit services could operate from that location, existing or new.

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES (during 2023)

- Housing Support - 415 older people
- Housing support -329 younger people
- Parent and family support – 100 families
- Christmas Support – 5050 children
- Puddleducks Day Nursery – 80 children
- Therapeutic Counselling service – 33 individuals
- Residential with care: 132 older people
- Supported Housing: 35 younger people
- Lunch club: 35 older people
- Volunteering: 15 befrienders and 5 lunch club volunteers

6504 people directly supported.

Housing Support for Young People (16-25 years) mid-Ulster

As a result of the support provided by the service

- 95% of referrals to HSYP as homeless now have more settled accommodation.
- 56% increase in referrals
- 204 young people supported
- 15K in support grants dispensed.

Housing support for young People (16-25 years) North Down & Ards area

As a result of the support provided by the service

- 125 people were supported.
- 80% were supported maintained their home status.
- 100% of users felt more secure in their home/received more benefits.

Housing Support for Older People (aged 55+ years) Belfast

As a result of the support provided by the service

- 247 were supported to access relevant benefits.
- 50 tenants were supported with home maintenance/hoarding issues.
- 100% were supported to manage their physical/ mental health
- 97% were supported to contribute to a wider society.

Housing Support for Older People (aged 60+ years) Southern Area

As a result of the support provided by the service

- 168 new referrals into the service from local partners.
- 36 household deep cleans delivered.
- 96% maintained their independence at home.
- 99% felt more secure because of support provided.
- 97% were supported to manage their physical/mental health.

Parent Support and Family Support Ards & North Down area

As a result of support

- 34 families were supported.
- 677 home visits were completed.
- 80 Individuals directly supported

Parent Support and Family Support in Armagh /Dungannon area

As a result of support

- 783 people helped by telephone advice and signposting.
- 66 families supported
- 100% of parents felt more confident and wellbeing had improved

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Public Benefit Statement

In setting objectives and planning activities for the year the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit and are confident that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

Financial review

Details of the results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 18 and the related notes. The charity had net outgoing resources for the year of £13,590 and the net movement in funds amounted to £1180 in the year, after gains on investments of £14,770

The greater part of charitable income has been used to meet the cost of carrying out the organisation's charitable objectives by providing support and care through various projects for both young and older people. Income comprises funding for the services BCM provides on behalf of the statutory sector, income from donations, appeals and legacies, income from charitable trusts, income from fundraising activities and income from small trading activities. The continued support from our donors has been invaluable. We are grateful to all the organisations and people who have financially supported us throughout the year.

It is the opinion of the Directors that the market value of the property is in excess of the net book value as disclosed in the balance sheet on page 25.

Investment powers and policy

Investments shown in note 18 to the financial statements are made in line with the policies of the Trustees of the Methodist Church in Ireland. The Directors intend that the real value of the charity's investments be maintained and enhanced over the long term by investment in a portfolio comprising equities, fixed income stocks and cash. They seek to achieve a balanced investment return from income and capital, with moderate risk. It is the charity's policy specifically to include investments which are consistent with the ethos of the Methodist Church. The proportions invested in equities, fixed income stocks and cash are reviewed from time to time to establish the ongoing suitability of that element of the investment policy. Please note that the investment portfolio was disposed of during 2023, and herein this section will no longer form part of the report unless new investing activity is undertaken.

Reserves policy

BCM's reserve policy recognises the need to use voluntary income to provide services for young and older people and the need to ensure that, once commitment has been given, sufficient funds exist to meet the commitment for as long as it is required and appropriate. However, the organisation must also ensure that relatively minor disruptions to its financial plans, or delays in receiving funding, do not result in having suddenly to cease activities in order to balance the books.

The existing reserves policy has been established whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets (the free reserves) held by the charity should be between 6 and 9 months of the unrestricted resources expended. These reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the charity and therefore to enable it to continue its current activities. Free reserves currently stand at £1,773,173 (designated funds are excluded) which approximates to 4.6 months -unrestricted expenditure.

This has arisen due to the investment in the Copelands Care Home. The Directors have considered the position and intend to return to holding 6-9 months free reserves over the next three years.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2023

Principal risks and uncertainties

Effective risk management is essential to keep Service Users and staff safe, to protect and grow both funding and reputation, and to meet the expectations of supporters and donors. All types of risks are considered, both internal and external, when reviewing and updating the risk register. Principal risks are defined as those that, without effective mitigation, are highly likely to occur and would have a severe impact on the organisations work, reputation or ability to achieve its objectives.

The risk areas considered as part of BCM's risk register include:

- Strategic
- Finance
- Operations
- External
- Legal and compliance

All risks are managed through senior staff identifying and managing risks as an integral part of their daily work, through staff in outlying projects reporting significant risks to senior management and through reporting mechanisms to the Trustees at Board meetings. The reporting of major risks at Board Meetings allows the Trustees to challenge any assumptions the organisation has made about risks and understand the context in which decisions are taken. This assists them to ensure that the most serious risks are being effectively managed. This risk management process aims to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the organisation is protected.

Signed on behalf of the trustees



Mr R Black (Chairperson)

Approved by the Trustees on 17 September 2024

Independent auditor's report to the members of Belfast Central Mission for the year ended 31 December 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Belfast Central Mission (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes to the financial statements, 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 Financial Reporting Standard 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- 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 accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts 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 charitable company'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.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Directors' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees 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 controls 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.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Belfast Central Mission for the year ended 31 December 2023

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2008, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement 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 purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

**Independent auditor’s report to the members of Belfast Central Mission
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

- 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 charitable company’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 charitable company 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor’s report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company’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 company’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 any party other than the charitable company and charitable company’s members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Dr Rosemary Peters Gallagher OBE FCA

.....17/09/2024

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

4th Floor
Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

Moore (NI) LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charitable company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	6	152,994	27,603	180,597	206,950
Charitable activities	7	4,765,042	2,618,567	7,383,609	7,158,751
Other trading activities		63,701	-	63,701	37,024
Investments	8	47,472	-	47,472	14,402
Other		12,643	13,023	25,666	2,379
Total income		5,041,852	2,659,193	7,701,045	7,419,506
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(34,908)	-	(34,908)	(91,213)
Charitable activities	9,10	(4,636,167)	(3,043,560)	(7,679,727)	(7,118,365)
Total expenditure		(4,671,075)	(3,043,560)	(7,714,635)	(7,209,578)
Net (expenditure)/income before gains on investments		370,777	(384,367)	(13,590)	209,928
Net (losses)/gains on investments		14,770	-	14,770	(86,153)
Net income before transfers	12	385,547	(384,367)	1,180	123,775
Transfer between funds	16	(128,673)	128,673	-	-
Net movement in funds		256,874	(255,694)	1,180	123,775
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		7,320,740	255,694	7,576,434	7,452,659
Total funds carried forward		7,577,614	-	7,577,614	7,576,434

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of comprehensive income has not been prepared.

The Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) is included in note 5 to the financial statements for the prior year ended 31 December 2022.

The notes on pages 21 to 33 form part of these financial statements

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	17	5,805,783	5,937,326
Fixed asset investments	18	-	682,070
		5,805,783	6,619,396
Current assets			
Debtors	19	189,377	671,331
Cash at bank and in hand		2,522,076	1,054,962
		2,711,453	1,726,293
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	(939,622)	(769,255)
Net current assets		1,771,831	957,038
Total assets less current liabilities		7,577,614	7,576,434
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
Net assets		7,577,614	7,576,434
The funds of the charitable company			
Restricted income funds	22	-	255,694
Unrestricted income funds	23	7,577,614	7,320,740
Total funds		7,577,614	7,576,434

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 17 September 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mr R Black (Chairperson)



Dr D Gallagher

Company Registration Number: NI055693

Belfast Central Mission
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
<i>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</i>	27	802,748	(185,389)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends and interest from investments	8	47,472	14,402
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets			-
Purchase of fixed assets	17	(79,946)	(20,408)
Proceeds from disposal of investments		696,840	-
Purchase of investments		-	-
<i>Net cash provided (used in) /by investing activities</i>		664,366	(6,006)
Cash flows from financing activities			
<i>Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities</i>			
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</i>		1,467,114	(191,395)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,054,962	1,246,357
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	28	2,522,076	1,054,962

The notes on pages 21 to 33 form part of these financial statements

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

1 Charitable company status

Belfast Central Mission is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is located at Grosvenor House, 5 Glengall Street, Belfast, BT12 5AD.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the 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) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

BCM meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note. The financial statements are presented in GBP Sterling, which is also the functional currency of the charitable company.

Tangible fixed assets

The cost of tangible fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental costs of acquisition. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual values, on a straight-line basis over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used are as follows:

	%
Property	0 – 2.5
Fixtures and fittings	10 & 20
Office equipment	10, 25 & 33½
Motor vehicles	25

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the Statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the charity's cash management.

Income

Donations and legacies that are of a general nature are recognised where there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Gifts in kind are valued at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Incoming resources from grants where related to performance and specific deliverables are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance. Income received relating to future periods is included within deferred income.

All income received arose in the UK.

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Total expenditure includes the allocation of support costs. Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. They include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charitable company's activities. Support costs have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources (e.g. time spent, number of staff, estimated usage).

Irrecoverable VAT

Any irrecoverable VAT is charged to the statement of financial activities, or capitalised as part of the cost of the related asset, where appropriate.

Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

Recognition of liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when an obligation arises to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently managed fund. Contributions are charged to the statement of financial activities in the period to which they relate.

Investments

Investments are stated in the balance sheet at market value as at the balance sheet date. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains or losses arising on revaluation and disposal throughout the year.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less provisions for bad debt.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charitable company has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

Operating lease agreements

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged against net incoming resources on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Going concern

The directors have assessed that Belfast Central Mission has adequate resources to meet the ongoing costs of the entity for a minimum of 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements. For this reason, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which presumes the realisation of assets and liabilities in the normal course of business.

3 Significant judgements and estimates

In the Trustees' opinions, there are no significant judgements, estimates and assumptions made about the recognition of assets, liabilities, income and expenses other than those outlined in the accounting policies above.

4 Taxation

The charity is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments, and surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of the charity's primary objectives.

The charity has partial exemption from VAT and expenditure is recorded accordingly.

5 Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	206,461	489	206,950
Charitable activities	4,162,823	2,995,928	7,158,751
Other trading activities	37,024	-	37,024
Investments	14,402	-	14,402
Other	2,229	150	2,379
Total income	4,422,939	2,996,567	7,419,506
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	(91,213)	-	(91,213)
Charitable activities	(3,971,627)	(3,146,738)	(7,118,365)
Total expenditure	(4,062,840)	(3,146,738)	(7,209,578)
Net gains on investments	360,099 (86,153)	(150,171) -	209,928 (86,153)
Net income before transfers	273,946	(150,171)	123,775
Transfer between funds	(26,074)	26,074	-
Net movement in funds	247,872	(124,097)	123,775
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	7,072,868	379,791	7,452,659
Total funds carried forward	7,320,740	255,694	7,576,434

*

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

6 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	60,391	27,603	87,994	69,111
Appeals	18,957	-	18,957	35,700
Legacies	73,646	-	73,646	102,139
	152,994	27,603	180,597	206,950

7 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Charitable trusts	47,222	-	47,222	63,156
Housing Executive	139,823	1,950,933	2,090,756	2,648,885
Residential rents	3,567,056	774,314	4,341,370	3,404,546
Health & Social Care Trusts	104,949	131,062	236,011	178,236
Congregational	25,370	-	25,370	18,694
Training	558	-	558	13,812
Other sources	880,064	(237,742)	642,322	831,422
	4,765,042	2,618,567	7,383,609	7,158,751

8 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Dividends	9,003	9,003	9,762
Bank interest	38,469	38,469	4,640
	47,472	47,472	14,402

9 Resources expended on charitable activities by activity type

	Staff costs £	Other costs £	Depreciation £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Operating expenses	5,712,320	1,709,438	211,151	7,632,909	7,032,394
Financing expenses	-	3,608	-	3,608	29,196
Society expenses	41,906	1,304	-	43,210	56,775
	5,754,226	1,714,350	211,151	7,679,727	7,118,365

In addition to the depreciation on charitable activities, there is £338 depreciation in raising funds

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

10 Resources expended on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Operating expenses	4,590,203	3,042,706	7,632,909	7,032,394
Financing expenses	2,754	854	3,608	29,196
Society expenses	43,210	-	43,210	56,775
	4,636,167	3,043,560	7,679,727	7,118,365

11 Financing costs

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Interest payable and similar charges				
On bank overdrafts	2,754	854	3,608	29,196

12 Net income before transfers

	2023 £	2022 £
This is stated after charging:		
Staff pension contributions	172,520	191,906
Depreciation – charge for year	211,489	223,754
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-
Auditors' fees		
Audit work	5,760	6,137
Non-audit services	-	-

13 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	4,682,614	4,596,634
Social security costs	362,122	402,063
Pension costs	172,520	191,906
	5,217,256	5,190,603

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

13 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel (continued)

Trustee remuneration and benefits amounted to £63,320 (2022: £62,178) for the year, being remuneration of £55,033 (2022: £54,041), other benefits of £72 (2022: £69) and pension contributions of £8,215 (2022: £8,068). These emoluments received by Reverend David Campton were in respect of his capacity as Superintendent of Belfast Central Mission and minister of the Grosvenor Hall congregation and not in his capacity as Trustee. The Trustee also received manse accommodation that is typical of such roles. No trustee expenses were paid (2022 – £nil) for the year. No Trustees received payments for the supply of ministerial and organist services (2022 - £nil).

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the Trustees, the Superintendent, the Chief Executive, Head of Community Services, Head of Residential Services, Head of Estates & Facilities, Head of Business Development, Head of HR and Head of Finance. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charitable company were £421,039 (2022: - £573,453).

The number of senior staff with employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) over £60,000

Band	2023	2022
£60,000 - £69,999	2	1
£70,000 - £79,999	1	1

14 Staff numbers

The charitable company reports that the average head count (number of staff employed) during the reporting period was 236 (2022 – 251). These can be analysed by project type as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Social & support projects	107	122
Care projects	110	104
Management & central administration	19	25
	236	251

15 Pensions

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of the staff. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the charitable company and amounted to £172,520 (2022: £191,906) of which £28,929 (2022: 28,929) was outstanding at the year end.

Belfast Central Mission

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16 Transfers between funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Unrestricted income funds		
<u>General funds</u>		
From Restricted income funds	(128,673)	(26,074)
(To)/from Designated funds	-	-
	(128,673)	(26,074)
<u>Designated funds</u>		
From/(to) General funds	-	-
From Restricted income funds	-	-
	(128,673)	(26,074)
Movement in Unrestricted income funds	(128,673)	(26,074)
Restricted income funds		
(To) General funds	128,673	26,074
Movement in Restricted income funds	128,673	26,074

The net transfer of (£128,673) from unrestricted income reserves to restricted income reserves relates to the Supported People Project and is made in order to fund prior year deficits totalling £64,809 and a 2023 deficit of £63,864.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

17 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Long leasehold property	Fixtures and fittings	Office equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 January 2023	6,748,149	75,000	818,675	398,326	11,912	8,052,062
Additions	-	-	69,967	9,979	-	79,946
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	6,748,149	75,000	888,642	408,305	11,912	8,132,008
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2023	1,199,038	-	552,965	350,821	11,912	2,114,736
Charge for year	140,722	-	40,750	30,017	-	211,489
On disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	1,339,760	-	593,715	380,838	11,912	2,326,225
Net Book Value						
At 31 December 2023	5,480,389	75,000	294,927	27,467	-	5,805,783
At 31 December 2022	5,549,111	75,000	265,710	47,505	-	5,937,326

Investment Properties

Belfast Central Mission owns an investment property located on 373-375 Springfield Road and leased on a long-term basis to a local community group. (Forthspring Inter Community Group) Due to legal issues arising from both the long-term lease and a charge over the property held by the Dept for Education (arising from a historic renovation capital grant) it has been impossible to determine the fair value of the investment property. The property has therefore been included in the accounts at a book value of £nil.

Belfast Central Mission

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18 Fixed asset investments

	Securities	2023	2022
Movement in market value	£	£	£
Market value at 1 January 2023	682,070	682,070	768,223
Additions in year	-	-	-
Disposals in year	(682,070)	(682,070)	-
Net gains/(losses) on revaluations in the year:	-	-	-
- own investments	-	-	(84,049)
- investments held on behalf of other churches	-	-	(2,104)
Market value at 31 December 2023	-	-	682,070
Historical cost	233,910	233,910	233,910
Analysed by			
Unlisted securities	-	-	682,070
	-	-	682,070

Analysis of investments at 31 December 2023 between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Securities	-	-	-	682,327
	-	-	-	682,327

All investments are UK investments.

19 Debtors

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year	£	£
Trade debtors	72,778	84,645
Other debtors	-	4,422
Prepayments and accrued income	116,599	581,531
Amounts due from related party	-	733
	189,377	671,331

An impairment loss of £nil (2022: £14,208) was recognised against trade debtors.

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20 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	249,484	204,808
Taxation and social security costs	86,260	85,491
Other creditors	509,122	210,059
Accruals and deferred income	94,756	268,897
	939,622	769,255

Accruals and deferred income include deferred grants amounting to £nil (2022: £183,960).

Other creditors includes a liability of £320,503 relating to the Supporting People Project, funded by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

21 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 December 2023 the charitable company had future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	-	-
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	-
	-	-

Belfast Central Mission

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22 Restricted income funds

	Balance at 1 Jan 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers, Investment gains/(losses)	Balance at 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Supporting People	255,694	2,659,192	(3,043,559)	128,673	-

The Supporting People Project provides housing support services across Northern Ireland funded by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and regional Trusts. Detail of the transfer is in note 16.

Belfast Central Mission

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23 Unrestricted income funds

	Balance at 1 Jan 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	97,544	-	-	-	-	97,544
General funds	7,223,196	5,041,852	(4,671,075)	14,770	(128,673)	7,480,070
	7,320,740	5,041,852	(4,671,075)	14,770	(128,673)	7,577,614

Designated funds represent funds set aside for the continued development of our Copelands project (a housing scheme for older people).

General funds are amounts which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives of the charitable company.

24 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets	Investments	Net current assets	Long term liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted income funds	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted income funds:	-	-	-	-	-
Designated funds	-	-	97,544	-	97,544
General funds	5,805,783	-	1,674,287	-	7,480,070
Total funds	5,805,783	-	1,771,831	-	7,577,614

25 Related party transactions

At the period end an amount of £nil (2022: £6,184) is owing to Belfast Central Mission by BCM Services Limited. BCM Services Limited has a total of three directors, all of whom are also directors of Belfast Central Mission.

26 Company limited by guarantee

Every Trustee promises, if the charitable company is dissolved while such person remains a Trustee or within 12 months afterwards, to pay up to £1 towards the costs of dissolution and the liabilities incurred by the charitable company while the contributor was a Trustee.

Belfast Central Mission

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27 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	1,180	123,775
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	211,489	223,754
(Gains)/losses on investments	(14,770)	86,153
Dividends and interest from investments	(47,472)	(14,402)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	481,953	(479,133)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	170,368	(125,536)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	802,748	(185,389)

28 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash in hand	19,287	12,594
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	2,502,789	1,042,368
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,522,076	1,054,962

Belfast Central Mission

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101271

Annual return

Company Registration Number NI055693
Charity Registration Number NIC101271

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements **for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

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Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Trustees

Mr R Black (Chairperson)	Dr D Gallagher
Rev D Campton	Mr W J Halliday (Resigned July 2023)
Mr C P Clarke	Miss S McCaughan (Resigned October 2023)
Mrs M Copeland	Mr W Robinson
Miss M J Dwyer	Rev S Sheerin
Mr J D Edmondson (Treasurer- resigned June 2023)	Mrs H Taylor (Appointed September 2023)
Mr D Ferguson	

Superintendent

Rev D Campton

Chief Executive

Mr N Conway

Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Care & Quality Governance

Position made redundant.

Head of Community Services

Mrs J Love

Head of Residential Services

Mrs L Payam

Head of Business Development

Mr A Irwin (Appointed May 2023)

Head of Finance

Mrs J Sloan (Appointed May 2023)

Head of HR

Mrs J Miskelly (Appointed Sept 2023)

Head of Estates & Facilities

Mr N Emery

Registered Office

Grosvenor House
5 Glengall Street
Belfast
BT12 5AD

Reference and administrative details (continued)

Auditors

Moore (N.I.) LLP
Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

Solicitors

Cleaver Fulton Rankin
50 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7FW

Bankers

Ulster Bank Ltd
11-16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

Investment Custodian

The Trustees of the Methodist Church in Ireland
Edgehill House
9 Lennoxvale
Belfast
BT9 5BY

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Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2023

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

Belfast Central Mission is a company limited by guarantee. It is governed by its revised Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 18 September 2018. The charitable company is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under registration number NIC101271. BCM is the trading name of Belfast Central Mission.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the 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) (effective 1 January 2015).

Organisational Structure

The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the organisation. It meets regularly to review BCM's performance against its charitable objectives and review its financial performance. The Board consists of a Non-Executive Chairperson, the Superintendent of the Mission (ex officio, appointed by the Methodist Church in Ireland), Secretary (ex officio), Treasurer (ex officio), and up to 8 other nominated Directors. At least two of the Directors are nominated by the Congregational Meeting of the Grosvenor Hall Society. All appointments are confirmed by the members at the annual general meeting. The Board of Directors may at any time co-opt up to 2 additional Directors. The Board works closely with the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team who oversee the operations on a day-to-day basis.

Appointment of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is nominated by the Circuit Executive of South and Central Belfast Methodist Circuit sitting as the General Meeting of the Mission Committee of BCM and is reported annually to the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland. Every effort is made to ensure that there is a wide and relevant skill base amongst the Directors to enable the Board to perform its duties effectively.

Trustee induction and training

New Board Members go through an induction process with respect to that which covers their roles as Directors and as Trustees. They are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the requirements of the Charity Commission, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Strategic Plan, the decision-making processes and recent financial performance of the organisation, and operations of the organisation. Board members are encouraged to attend relevant external training events to assist them in the performance of their duties.

Pay policy for Key Management Personnel

The Board of Directors and the Senior Management Team comprise the key management personnel of the organisation. Details of remuneration of this group are disclosed in note 13 to the financial statements. The pay for all employees, including senior staff, is reviewed annually. The aim is to pay all employees a fair salary that is competitive within the charity sector, proportionate to the complexity of the role and in line with the organisation's charitable objectives and financial budgets.

Wider Network and Impact on Operating Policies

BCM, a company limited by guarantee, is also an agency of the Methodist Church in Ireland and seeks to abide by the basic rules of the Church including, but not limited to, no alcohol on properties and no engagement with, or benefit from, gambling. There is minimal impact on BCM's operating policies as a result of this relationship.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

Details of related party transactions are disclosed in note 25 to the financial statements. The organisation has entered into joint management agreements with two local housing associations, working to deliver Housing Support services for vulnerable people.

Objectives and activities

The primary objects of Belfast Central Mission, as stated in its governing document, are:

1. The advancement of the Christian religion in Ireland.
2. The relief of poverty, sickness, infirmity, or other necessitous circumstances through the provision of accommodation, care, counselling or education on a cross-community basis for people in Northern Ireland who are in need of such provision.

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During 2023, BCM embarked on a strategic review in advance of a new strategic period (2024-2027). We have developed a three-year strategy which will enable the "Provision of quality compassionate support to people at their point of need", which in a shortened format is "Supporting people at their point of need". We are a diverse organisation operating in a range of settings. We aim to support as many people as we can with a focus on the following strategic intentions:

Excellence in our Delivery

- Recruit and retain the most capable individuals
- Enhance the well-being and development of our team
- Communicate more effectively
- Ensure financial health and viability
- Understand and respond to service user needs

Excellence within our Organisation

- Provide inspirational strategic leadership
- Maintain the high level of standards across the organisation
- Remain person-centred and maintain a positive culture of excellence, integrity and respect

Excellence in Sustainability

- Grow our profitability
- Diversify our sources of income

It is important that success is assessed and the primary measures that will be used are:

- The number of people helped with a focus on older people, young people and children and families.
- Stakeholder and service user satisfaction.
- Quality of service delivery.
- Impact and outcomes measurement.
- Trustee, employee, volunteer and congregation satisfaction.
- Sustainable financial growth.

The significant activities undertaken are set out below, categorised under the two objects of the Charity.

OBJECT ONE:

At the heart of the Mission's object of "advancement of the Christian religion" lies the "Grosvenor Hall" congregation, from which the wider work of the Mission emerged and which continues to worship weekly in Grosvenor House, as part of the Methodist Church in Ireland (MCI), and its South and Central Belfast Circuit, which currently includes three other societies/congregations: Donegall Road, Belfast South (in the Agape Centre on the Lisburn Road) and the Church of the Resurrection (the joint Methodist/Church of Ireland Church and Chaplaincy on Elmwood Avenue). It is through partnership with these congregations and other faith-based organisations, that most Object One activity takes place, together with the developing chaplaincy and worship life at BCM's Copelands elderly residential and dementia care facility in Millisle, building on the experience of providing spiritual support to our Kirk House facility in East Belfast, where a weekly service of worship also takes place drawing on the support of an ecumenical rota of local ministers.

2023 in Review

Weekly Sunday worship in Grosvenor House and pastoral care for the Grosvenor Hall congregation has continued throughout the year under report, and in partnership with other congregations on circuit other initiatives, including a Book Group, Public Theology Lectures and online seminars, a Centring Prayer Group and hybrid Bible studies have taken place, with joint activities during Advent, Christmas and Holy Week being particularly well supported. For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, BCM's Christmas Toy Appeal programme returned to the Grosvenor Hall, with the traditional launch service led by the Dundrod Silver Band. Congregations across the MCI and beyond have continued to provide strong support for this programme despite the cost-of-living crisis that has affected everyone, including our donors. With their help we supported more than 5000 children/families, a 20% increase on last year.

As a result of a presentation at the MCI Annual Conference on the cost-of-living crisis, we, together with our sister Methodist city missions, were pleased to receive a significant un-solicited donation from The Joseph Rank Trust that enabled our Object Two projects to provide additional need-based grants. This is an important reminder of the importance

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Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2023

of such partnerships going forward.

As part of the Four Corners Festival, Grosvenor House hosted the conclusion of this year's "Wonderful Wander" an exploration of the political, economic and spiritual history of our city centre, and in during the week of Homelessness Sunday, we also hosted the touring version of a photographic exhibition launched at Four Corners 2023 which focused on the causes and effects of homelessness, in all its forms, across our city. This also included, on International Homelessness Day, a conversation with one of our Housing Support workers, and others, on the issues involved.

In the context of a period of political inertia, as part of the Churches Initiative Group, a long-standing informal network of ministers and faith-based activists focused on peacebuilding, the Superintendent continued the long tradition of BCM's involvement in peace and reconciliation work in facilitating a series of conversations between local church leaders and political representatives.

The Grosvenor Hall Congregation continues to support Belfast Storehouse, a food/clothing/furniture project, with monthly food collection and ongoing fundraising.

Weekly worship in both Kirk House and Copelands continues, with the latter provided by our dedicated Chaplain, Rev. June Parke, who also seeks to support the spiritual wellbeing of residents, their families and staff. The Superintendent and Copelands Chaplain took part in an "Anna Chaplaincy" training course run by BRF, with a view to enhancing our chaplaincy service in Copelands, Kirk House and across the organisation.

We continue to be a training environment for Methodist Ministers in training, with Mrs. Julie Craythorne joining us for a two-year period from September 2023.

Following the aforementioned Strategic Review, the Board also appointed a Working Party to review the function, aims and objectives of Object One, and the consequent role of the Superintendent of the Mission in delivering this.

In parallel with this, at the end of 2023 the wider South and Central Belfast Methodist Circuit, of which the Grosvenor Hall congregation is a part, completed its merger with two neighbouring circuits to form the Belfast Central and South Circuit. As a result of this, the Mission Superintendent is no longer the Circuit Superintendent, removing some potential conflicts of interest and freeing up additional time and energy for more Mission-focused work.

Future Opportunities:

Subject to the outcome of the Review of Object One by the appointed Working Party -BCM will continue to support the continued existence of Christian faith expression within the city centre of Belfast, which is currently the Grosvenor Hall congregation, with the expectation that members of that congregation would continue to volunteer within, and fundraise for, the wider work of BCM.

As prepare for the retirement of our current Copelands Chaplain in June 2024, our current Minister in Training will take on that role on an interim basis and we will explore the potential for a more formal partnership with "Anna Chaplaincy" in order to enhance this service.

BCM will continue to partner with other organisations to take forward their mutual objects, including:

- Belfast Central and South Methodist Circuit
- Belfast City Centre Chaplaincy
- The Four Corners Festival
- Church Initiatives Group/Contemporary Christianity
- Christians Against Poverty
- Miscellaneous food banks

OBJECT TWO

2023 saw a continuance of recovery from the pandemic years, with delivery and funding continuing to stabilize in light of previous disruption. This stability has been felt from the top down, with a settled SMT, a full staff complement in HR and Finance and a new Development Manager role.

Challenges across Object Two services around staff recruitment and the rebuilding of staff teams have persisted during 2023, with some momentum gained as new HR structures begin to take effect. Financial performance has been and will continue to be impacted by rising costs, both for staff wages and materials.

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Despite these challenging operating conditions BCM's Board, staff team and Management continued to put the service user and service excellence at the heart of everything that we do and highlights of achievements and performance over the year included:

- 6504 service users supported.
- 5050 Christmas toy parcels distributed.
- Full compliance with all regulatory requirements.
- Copelands fifth household open.
- Puddleducks and Kirk house back to pre-covid occupancy levels.
- New Governance guide developed and approved.
- New strategic planning process developed for implementation in 2023.
- Reaccreditation of Investing in Volunteers

A more detailed review of the significant charitable activities undertaken is set out below.

Housing Support for Younger People

- **Service Summary:** Housing Support for Young People (16-25 years) – located in Armagh, Dungannon, Magherafelt, North Down and Newtownards. The project supports young people who are homeless, struggling with housing issues, leaving care or requiring help with independent living. It uses a holistic person-centred approach and supports young people to identify and work towards their goals.
- **2023 in Review:** 95% of people that referred to HSYYP as homeless now have safer and settled accommodation, and this year seen another service user become a homeowner. Exit questionnaires this year had a 76% response rate, with 100% of respondents stating they were "highly satisfied" with the support received and they would recommend it to a friend. Last year, HSYYP underwent a successful validation visit and no recommendations for improvement were made. Staff continue to be successful with applying for grants. This money has supported so many young people and helped alleviate some of the financial pressures service users were facing during challenging times. The Bryson grant initiative has resulted in 51 service users being supported with electric, food or heating.

In 2023, Newtownards faced a severe housing crisis, with over 100 households presenting as homeless each month, with the waiting list for housing reaching 3,200 applicants, 2,200 of whom were deemed to be in housing stress. The leading cause of homelessness was accommodation being deemed unreasonable or unfit. To cope with the high demand, 652 placements were made to temporary accommodation over the year, highlighting the instability of the rental market as a contributing factor. 2023 was a year in which we achieved good outcomes for our service users and in the main achieved our aims and objectives. In 2023, we supported 56 of our service users access £11,730 worth of grants to support them at their point of need. We had 98% satisfaction rate from service users and 100% referral satisfaction rate. 80% of service users were successful in maintaining their home status with improved outcomes at the end of their period of support during 2023.

- **Future Opportunities:**
As we progress through our new strategic period, a major priority for HSYYP will be how we continue to include the voices of service users in shaping our service. This is not only best practice, but increasingly a requirement for future tendering. Across both areas, we are focusing on quality markers for the service and professional standards, and we are working to enhance our training, monitoring, and approach to due diligence.

We have lost a major funding stream this year in the Glasspool fund, which arranged direct support for young people setting up homes. Finding a suitable ongoing replacement for this resource will be vital. A risk as we look to the future, is also the worrying incline of young person referrals who demonstrate signs poor mental health. Having adequate skills and resources to best serve this user group will be a priority.

Housing Support for Older People

- **Service Summary**
Housing Support for Older People (aged 55+) – located in Armagh, Newry, Belfast, Craigavon and Dungannon. The project seeks to work in partnership with older people providing practical and emotional housing-related support, enabling them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

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- **2023 in Review:**

Housing Support for Older People (HSOP South) provided housing-related support to 120 service users across areas within the Southern Trust. The project offers floating support funded by Supporting People, to help older people remain independent at home. This support focused on direct housing support activities. Given the current housing crisis in Northern Ireland coupled with the cost-of-living crisis, service users often find themselves 'stuck.' The service assists them in accessing appropriate accommodation or remaining safe and well in their homes, promoting independence and combating loneliness and financial challenges.

The Belfast service enables elderly residents to live independently at home for as long as safely possible through its floating support service (up to 160 individuals) and peripatetic service (50 older people). This year, it received 247 referrals. The holistic, person-centered approach provides practical and emotional support across six core areas: housing, health/wellbeing, financial matters, meaningful activities, independent living skills, and support networks. Despite staffing challenges, the service helped clients maintain tenancies, manage health needs, access benefits, and enhance home safety/security. External funding from NIHE's Sustaining Tenancies grant allowed supporting 50 tenants with home maintenance/hoarding issues.

- **Future Opportunities**

Moving forward, the project aims to maintain steady referrals, reinforce person-centred practices, meet funder targets, and actively involve service users in evaluating/developing offerings. In the southern area, our service team have had disruption due to maternity leave, and so for 2024 we will be focusing on excellence in resettling our team into best ways of working. In Belfast, the team are working to secure additional funding to meet complex needs of older people with threatened tenancies. This support is bespoke to the individual, but a common issue continues to be hoarding, and poor upkeep of the home environment. Both the southern and Belfast teams will be focused on maximising our capacity as per our contractual terms.

A planned uplift in Supporting People funding should have a positive knock-on effect into the HSOP service during 2024, and we will continue to engage closely with our statutory partners to build the service.

Supported Housing for Young People

- **Service Summary**

Four services continue to operate within four different HSCT areas in Northern Ireland, offering a total of 35 units of accommodation. These include 29 self-contained flats, and the remaining units offer shared accommodation in two of the services. Two of the services are solely for young people who have been in the care of Social Services and the remaining two also offer additional accommodation to young people who present to the NIHE as homeless. The project staff offer both emotional and practical support for up to two years to try to ensure that the young people are ready for their own tenancies, have achieved their own goals and are a positive part of their communities.

- **2023 in review: Belfast:**

In 2023, Grampian Avenue supported a diverse group of service users with varying backgrounds including local and international individuals, those with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, trauma experiences, care experiences, and homelessness. Staff demonstrated exceptional commitment, helping service users realize their abilities, self-worth, and potential. Notable initiatives included staff training in restorative practices, participating in QUB's youth mental health seminar, and activities during Homeless Awareness Week. One success story involved a service user rebuilding family relationships by being closer to home and through facilitated communication. Strong friendships also formed between residents. Challenges remain with achieving optimum staffing levels and limited funding for outreach and activities. Despite this, Grampian Avenue provided tailored, person-centered support empowering service users and fostering their personal growth.

- **Dungannon:**

In 2023, Thomas Street housing empowered seven vulnerable young people through trauma-informed care and robust partnerships. Despite severe challenges like aggression, substance abuse, property damage and trauma histories, dedicated staff achieved remarkable outcomes. Residents were supported with benefits, employment, education, tenancy skills, health management and personal development. Staff's specialized training enabled individualized, holistic support. One young person's transformative journey exemplifies the impact, with substantial progress in harm reduction, self-regulation and future prospects.

- **Magherafelt:**

Tafelta Rise continued to provide vital services in 2023 through strong partnership working and individualized support programs. This multi-agency approach ensured comprehensive referral assistance, residential support, and transition services. Through tailored support plans, residents were supported across areas like independent

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living skills, employment, budgeting, and wellness. Three young people successfully moved into their own NIHE tenancies after the program. Feedback praised the valuable support services. Community partnerships allowed for provision of food, gifts, volunteering opportunities, and seasonal celebrations. A new relationship with Timpson Key Specialists contributed £1,500 towards the garden program.

- **Bangor**

In 2023, Riverside Place continued providing supported accommodation for vulnerable young people aged 16-21, aiming to support independence and self-care skills development. Outcomes were excellent across accessing benefits, maintaining tenancies, and developing independent living skills. Managing mental health improved significantly, with incidents declining 62% from 2022 due to a settled mix and support team. Challenges persisted with self-harm, substance misuse, mental health issues and staffing. Finding 'step down' unsupported housing options for young people leaving the service remained a priority. The service passed a favourable RQIA inspection, and employment and education goals continued to be positively met.

- **Therapeutic Counselling** for young people (16-25 years)

A BACP accredited senior counsellor supports young people with a range of issues including depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, identity issues, past abuse, domestic violence, bereavement and substance misuse. The service is flexible and understanding of the needs of this age group. The service can be offered face to face, via telephone or via zoom, following an initial face-to-face assessment.

- **Future Opportunities**

We have been working to increase the contribution from the Housing Executive into our projects, and re-evaluating the balance of funding across all funders is already being worked on to achieve greater sustainability and buy in from our statutory partners. For 2024, Supporting People funded projects have been earmarked for an increase in contributions from government, so a priority will be to ensure that we have a seat at the table in how those increases are dispensed.

Staffing and recruitment continue to be an issue across our houses, and with HR's support we are working to increase the effectiveness from our recruitment outreach. We are all too aware that cost of living remains a concern for our young residents, and we will work to find resources that support both their basic needs and aspirations. One of those unmet needs continues to be lack of suitable accommodation for those leaving our services, and so we are progressing plans to offer step down accommodation.

Within our sites for 2024, in Dungannon we are re-establishing an additional support worker funded by the Rank Foundation. At Grampian in Belfast, we are working to find similar provision after the end of a funded partnership with Hagan Homes. For Riverside, we aim to engage our young people with a programme of arts activities. At Tafelta, we are building on the success of last year's gardening and vegetable growing project, and we want our young people to develop further ideas of how this can benefit themselves and the local community.

Residential Care (Including Dementia Care) for Older People

- **Service Summary**

Kirk House offers each resident their own small flatlet in a home in which independence (for up to 46 residents). The staff prioritize maintaining freedom of choice, self-esteem and dignity for all residents. The level of care each resident receives is tailored to meet their individual needs. Copelands, Residential and Dementia care Opened to its first residents in 2021, providing a state-of-the-art, purpose-built care home for up to 60 residents accommodated within six small 'households' of ten. Each room is en-suite and the care offered is person-centered with a wide range of amenities. We are currently registered for 20 residential dementia and 30 residential beds.

- **2023 in Review**

In 2023, Copelands continued to grow with the opening of Harbour Way, increasing the total occupiable beds to 50 (20 Dementia residential rooms and 30 general residential rooms). This expansion created further jobs in the local community, with the current staffing team of 67 and ongoing recruitment. Copelands was recognised as one of the top 20 most recommended Care Homes in Northern Ireland by the Carehome.co.uk Awards. By the close of 2023, occupancy was consistently at capacity, with a growing waiting list of new referrals. We continue

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to see a high turnover of residents, with people actively choosing to wait until much later in life before moving in. During 2023, this has presented additional complexity on staffing and care provision around which we continue to successfully navigate.

In September 2023, Copelands held an official opening and two-year celebration event, with the Lord Lieutenant of County Down as the ceremonial guest. Plans for continued development include the appointment of a nurse manager to add nursing care services and support residents with increasing complex care needs.

In Kirk House, 2023 was a positive year, with stable occupancy and high levels of service feedback. The retained staff team have been vital to high service delivery, with a core team of 34 staff having a combined service of 300 years. More community engagement opportunities were provided for residents, and relatives became more involved, fostering a sense of community.

Kirk House celebrated its 30th Birthday, a milestone for its well-established reputation. Requests for care have shifted, with more referrals from those seeking social opportunities and companionship, in addition to those requiring physical care, as opposed to the previous preference for remaining at home.

- **Future Opportunities**

At Copelands we are progressing plans for a wraparound nursing provision at the home. With added complexity, this will take time to deliver, and so we are also considering options for the sixth household which is currently being held for this service. As the business grows into a mature trading position, the priority will be to continue to invest in the service and facilities.

We are affected across both sites by the ongoing challenges around recruitment, and so we are working to maximize our staffing and delivery models, which at Copelands differ slightly in the households of care framework. For both sites, recruitment and retention challenges are set within a highly competitive market for care and support personnel.

Community Services

- **Service Summary**

Community Services Project provides a range of services for older people in Belfast to promote inclusion, reducing loneliness and social isolation. Activities include lunch clubs and a befriending service. A variety of volunteering opportunities are provided. An annual Christmas programme provides a Christmas gift to more than 5,000 children in Northern Ireland.

- **2023 in review**

Throughout 2023, we continued to run the Wednesday Lunch Club, providing 35 members a warm space to socialise, enjoy hot meals and entertainment weekly. The club continues to significantly impact mental health through providing companionship and a sense of purpose. These meetings are highly valued by attendees and volunteers alike, and a challenge for the year ahead will be to reach new faces to replenish our membership. We also continue to Befriending Service for the elderly- a vital service for those who struggle to get out to lunch club. Special mention must go to the Christmas Toy Programme, which successfully supplied toys and gifts to well over 5000 children in need. This has grown in partnership with the support of a number of Civil Service teams and Saint Vincent de Paul. Our ambition for this annual appeal is to shift the emphasis away from interventions which build dependency, and in 2024 we hope to contribute to causes which cut the cause of need off at the source.

Future Opportunities

We continue to work towards expanding our programme on offer for our service users. Numbers using some of the services have begun to decline, and so a renewed push for volunteers and users will be a priority for the coming year. Having successfully renewed our Investing in Volunteers Award, we are keen to rebuild our voluntary presence across our services through wider outreach and training in our community settings. In working closely with the Trussell Trust, we are also keen to develop conversations around how the benefit of the Christmas Toy appeal can be enhanced- looking at the impacts of that work and working collaboratively to discourage dependency or misuse of that service.

Belfast Central Mission

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Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2023

Parent Support Services

- **Service Summary**

Parents' Support and family support services are available in Armagh/Dungannon and North Down and Newtownards. We provide support to families to provide responsive nurturing care for their children ensuring their safety and helping them reach their developmental milestones. We offer practical and emotional support to parents to enhance their parenting capacity.

- **2023 in Review**

Newtownards: In 2023, 27 group sessions were delivered for families, and the Community Family Support Service for families with children aged 0-5 continued to grow and develop. The excellent work of the support workers led to positive outcomes for families leaving the service, with a 100% satisfaction rate from service users and referral agents.

Dungannon: Now in its 11th year and 5th year funded through the Southern Trust, the project has seen a sustained need and growing demand, illustrated by an increase in referrals from the Family Support Hub, which is projected to continue as family needs become more complex. The project benefits from the commitment of three wonderful volunteers who have thrived in 2023, maximising opportunities to impact families and gain valuable experiences.

- **Future Opportunities**

Sustainability is a central theme for both services. In Dungannon a new period of tendering in mid-2024 will determine how the service is funded in coming years, with a procurement exercise underway for the entire southern Trust area.

In Newtownards we lack a similar contractual approach for this type of service. The service there has recently reached the end of a funded period with Comic Relief. Although successful with some smaller funders, we have yet to secure significant long-term funding to support the development of the service beyond 2024. Securing long term funding will therefore be an immediate priority for both services.

Puddleducks Day Nursery

- **Service Summary**

Puddleducks was created in 2012 to support the charitable work of Belfast Central Mission and is registered for 70 children across 4 rooms. Although, as a business we must be self-sufficient and generate profit for BCM, we must also comply with the "Minimum standards for child-minding and Day Care for children" (2012 – amended 2018 -DHSSPS). Puddleducks is very aware of the high standards set across the wider organisation of BCM and strive to not only meet the minimum standards, but endeavour to create a reputation for best practice in providing the highest standard of childcare and learning experiences for all registered children

- **2023 in Review**

This year was challenging for Puddleducks, with occupancy levels impacted by hybrid working increasingly as the year went on. Since COVID this has been on the rise, but the effects haven't been fully felt until now when the last 'full cohorts' have started to graduate. We have had to work harder than ever to promote city centre childcare as a viable option for parents. Promotional activities like a new website, leaflet drops, paid ads, and staff competitions helped, but word-of-mouth remains the best source of referrals. Despite concerns, Puddleducks maintains a reputation for high-quality early years care and education with an enthusiastic staff team. Highlights included winning the Family First Award for 'Exceptional Day Care', attending Stormont meetings, receiving the Daynurseries.co.uk 'Top 20 Award', achieving a 5* Food Hygiene rating, and once again our annual inspection was positive.

- **Future Opportunities**

In response to the loss of some of our user audience, a priority for 2024 are to drive occupancy levels back to pre-pandemic levels. To do this we will build wider business partnerships with employers to directly appeal to parent users of the service. We also have plans to refresh and upgrade our outdoor play space and will be fundraising to help resource this project as a priority in response to user feedback.

Other Future Opportunities

During 2023, the BCM team embarked on a partnership project with the Trussell Trust in the greater Belfast area. The purpose of the role is to build the campaigning power of people affected by poverty- supporting them to speak out towards policy makers and community stakeholders on issues where they can make a difference. We have supported in hosting a post that commenced in April 2024 that runs for an initial two years.

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The organisation is proceeding with the receipt of the former Sandy Row Methodist Church premises, whose congregation has now merged with the Grosvenor Hall congregation. Upon completion of that transfer, we will gain a better understanding of what community benefit services could operate from that location, existing or new.

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES (during 2023)

- Housing Support - 415 older people
- Housing support -329 younger people
- Parent and family support – 100 families
- Christmas Support – 5050 children
- Puddleducks Day Nursery – 80 children
- Therapeutic Counselling service – 33 individuals
- Residential with care: 132 older people
- Supported Housing: 35 younger people
- Lunch club: 35 older people
- Volunteering: 15 befrienders and 5 lunch club volunteers

6504 people directly supported.

Housing Support for Young People (16-25 years) mid-Ulster

As a result of the support provided by the service

- 95% of referrals to HSYP as homeless now have more settled accommodation.
- 56% increase in referrals
- 204 young people supported
- 15K in support grants dispensed.

Housing support for young People (16-25 years) North Down & Ards area

As a result of the support provided by the service

- 125 people were supported.
- 80% were supported maintained their home status.
- 100% of users felt more secure in their home/received more benefits.

Housing Support for Older People (aged 55+ years) Belfast

As a result of the support provided by the service

- 247 were supported to access relevant benefits.
- 50 tenants were supported with home maintenance/hoarding issues.
- 100% were supported to manage their physical/ mental health
- 97% were supported to contribute to a wider society.

Housing Support for Older People (aged 60+ years) Southern Area

As a result of the support provided by the service

- 168 new referrals into the service from local partners.
- 36 household deep cleans delivered.
- 96% maintained their independence at home.
- 99% felt more secure because of support provided.
- 97% were supported to manage their physical/mental health.

Parent Support and Family Support Ards & North Down area

As a result of support

- 34 families were supported.
- 677 home visits were completed.
- 80 Individuals directly supported

Parent Support and Family Support in Armagh /Dungannon area

As a result of support

- 783 people helped by telephone advice and signposting.
- 66 families supported
- 100% of parents felt more confident and wellbeing had improved

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Public Benefit Statement

In setting objectives and planning activities for the year the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit and are confident that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

Financial review

Details of the results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 18 and the related notes. The charity had net outgoing resources for the year of £13,590 and the net movement in funds amounted to £1180 in the year, after gains on investments of £14,770

The greater part of charitable income has been used to meet the cost of carrying out the organisation's charitable objectives by providing support and care through various projects for both young and older people. Income comprises funding for the services BCM provides on behalf of the statutory sector, income from donations, appeals and legacies, income from charitable trusts, income from fundraising activities and income from small trading activities. The continued support from our donors has been invaluable. We are grateful to all the organisations and people who have financially supported us throughout the year.

It is the opinion of the Directors that the market value of the property is in excess of the net book value as disclosed in the balance sheet on page 25.

Investment powers and policy

Investments shown in note 18 to the financial statements are made in line with the policies of the Trustees of the Methodist Church in Ireland. The Directors intend that the real value of the charity's investments be maintained and enhanced over the long term by investment in a portfolio comprising equities, fixed income stocks and cash. They seek to achieve a balanced investment return from income and capital, with moderate risk. It is the charity's policy specifically to include investments which are consistent with the ethos of the Methodist Church. The proportions invested in equities, fixed income stocks and cash are reviewed from time to time to establish the ongoing suitability of that element of the investment policy. Please note that the investment portfolio was disposed of during 2023, and herein this section will no longer form part of the report unless new investing activity is undertaken.

Reserves policy

BCM's reserve policy recognises the need to use voluntary income to provide services for young and older people and the need to ensure that, once commitment has been given, sufficient funds exist to meet the commitment for as long as it is required and appropriate. However, the organisation must also ensure that relatively minor disruptions to its financial plans, or delays in receiving funding, do not result in having suddenly to cease activities in order to balance the books.

The existing reserves policy has been established whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets (the free reserves) held by the charity should be between 6 and 9 months of the unrestricted resources expended. These reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the charity and therefore to enable it to continue its current activities. Free reserves currently stand at £1,773,173 (designated funds are excluded) which approximates to 4.6 months -unrestricted expenditure.

This has arisen due to the investment in the Copelands Care Home. The Directors have considered the position and intend to return to holding 6-9 months free reserves over the next three years.

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Principal risks and uncertainties

Effective risk management is essential to keep Service Users and staff safe, to protect and grow both funding and reputation, and to meet the expectations of supporters and donors. All types of risks are considered, both internal and external, when reviewing and updating the risk register. Principal risks are defined as those that, without effective mitigation, are highly likely to occur and would have a severe impact on the organisations work, reputation or ability to achieve its objectives.

The risk areas considered as part of BCM's risk register include:

- Strategic
- Finance
- Operations
- External
- Legal and compliance

All risks are managed through senior staff identifying and managing risks as an integral part of their daily work, through staff in outlying projects reporting significant risks to senior management and through reporting mechanisms to the Trustees at Board meetings. The reporting of major risks at Board Meetings allows the Trustees to challenge any assumptions the organisation has made about risks and understand the context in which decisions are taken. This assists them to ensure that the most serious risks are being effectively managed. This risk management process aims to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the organisation is protected.

Signed on behalf of the trustees



Mr R Black (Chairperson)

Approved by the Trustees on 17 September 2024

Independent auditor's report to the members of Belfast Central Mission for the year ended 31 December 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Belfast Central Mission (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes to the financial statements, 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 Financial Reporting Standard 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- 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 accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts 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 charitable company'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.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Directors' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees 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 controls 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.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Belfast Central Mission for the year ended 31 December 2023

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2008, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement 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 purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

**Independent auditor’s report to the members of Belfast Central Mission
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

- 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 charitable company’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 charitable company 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor’s report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company’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 company’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 any party other than the charitable company and charitable company’s members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Dr Rosemary Peters Gallagher OBE FCA

.....17/09/2024

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

4th Floor
Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

Moore (NI) LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charitable company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Belfast Central Mission

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Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	6	152,994	27,603	180,597	206,950
Charitable activities	7	4,765,042	2,618,567	7,383,609	7,158,751
Other trading activities		63,701	-	63,701	37,024
Investments	8	47,472	-	47,472	14,402
Other		12,643	13,023	25,666	2,379
Total income		5,041,852	2,659,193	7,701,045	7,419,506
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(34,908)	-	(34,908)	(91,213)
Charitable activities	9,10	(4,636,167)	(3,043,560)	(7,679,727)	(7,118,365)
Total expenditure		(4,671,075)	(3,043,560)	(7,714,635)	(7,209,578)
Net (expenditure)/income before gains on investments		370,777	(384,367)	(13,590)	209,928
Net (losses)/gains on investments		14,770	-	14,770	(86,153)
Net income before transfers	12	385,547	(384,367)	1,180	123,775
Transfer between funds	16	(128,673)	128,673	-	-
Net movement in funds		256,874	(255,694)	1,180	123,775
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		7,320,740	255,694	7,576,434	7,452,659
Total funds carried forward		7,577,614	-	7,577,614	7,576,434

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of comprehensive income has not been prepared.

The Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) is included in note 5 to the financial statements for the prior year ended 31 December 2022.

The notes on pages 21 to 33 form part of these financial statements

Belfast Central Mission

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Balance sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	17	5,805,783	5,937,326
Fixed asset investments	18	-	682,070
		5,805,783	6,619,396
Current assets			
Debtors	19	189,377	671,331
Cash at bank and in hand		2,522,076	1,054,962
		2,711,453	1,726,293
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	(939,622)	(769,255)
Net current assets		1,771,831	957,038
Total assets less current liabilities		7,577,614	7,576,434
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
Net assets		7,577,614	7,576,434
The funds of the charitable company			
Restricted income funds	22	-	255,694
Unrestricted income funds	23	7,577,614	7,320,740
Total funds		7,577,614	7,576,434

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 17 September 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mr R Black (Chairperson)



Dr D Gallagher

Company Registration Number: NI055693

Belfast Central Mission
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Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
<i>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</i>	27	802,748	(185,389)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends and interest from investments	8	47,472	14,402
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets			-
Purchase of fixed assets	17	(79,946)	(20,408)
Proceeds from disposal of investments		696,840	-
Purchase of investments		-	-
<i>Net cash provided (used in) /by investing activities</i>		664,366	(6,006)
Cash flows from financing activities			
<i>Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities</i>			
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</i>		1,467,114	(191,395)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,054,962	1,246,357
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	28	2,522,076	1,054,962

The notes on pages 21 to 33 form part of these financial statements

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

1 Charitable company status

Belfast Central Mission is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is located at Grosvenor House, 5 Glengall Street, Belfast, BT12 5AD.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the 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) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

BCM meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note. The financial statements are presented in GBP Sterling, which is also the functional currency of the charitable company.

Tangible fixed assets

The cost of tangible fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental costs of acquisition. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual values, on a straight-line basis over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used are as follows:

	%
Property	0 – 2.5
Fixtures and fittings	10 & 20
Office equipment	10, 25 & 33½
Motor vehicles	25

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the Statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the charity's cash management.

Income

Donations and legacies that are of a general nature are recognised where there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Gifts in kind are valued at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Incoming resources from grants where related to performance and specific deliverables are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance. Income received relating to future periods is included within deferred income.

All income received arose in the UK.

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Belfast Central Mission

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2 Accounting policies (continued)

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Total expenditure includes the allocation of support costs. Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. They include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charitable company's activities. Support costs have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources (e.g. time spent, number of staff, estimated usage).

Irrecoverable VAT

Any irrecoverable VAT is charged to the statement of financial activities, or capitalised as part of the cost of the related asset, where appropriate.

Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

Recognition of liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when an obligation arises to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently managed fund. Contributions are charged to the statement of financial activities in the period to which they relate.

Investments

Investments are stated in the balance sheet at market value as at the balance sheet date. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains or losses arising on revaluation and disposal throughout the year.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less provisions for bad debt.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charitable company has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

Operating lease agreements

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged against net incoming resources on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Belfast Central Mission

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2 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Going concern

The directors have assessed that Belfast Central Mission has adequate resources to meet the ongoing costs of the entity for a minimum of 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements. For this reason, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which presumes the realisation of assets and liabilities in the normal course of business.

3 Significant judgements and estimates

In the Trustees' opinions, there are no significant judgements, estimates and assumptions made about the recognition of assets, liabilities, income and expenses other than those outlined in the accounting policies above.

4 Taxation

The charity is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments, and surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of the charity's primary objectives.

The charity has partial exemption from VAT and expenditure is recorded accordingly.

5 Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	206,461	489	206,950
Charitable activities	4,162,823	2,995,928	7,158,751
Other trading activities	37,024	-	37,024
Investments	14,402	-	14,402
Other	2,229	150	2,379
Total income	4,422,939	2,996,567	7,419,506
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	(91,213)	-	(91,213)
Charitable activities	(3,971,627)	(3,146,738)	(7,118,365)
Total expenditure	(4,062,840)	(3,146,738)	(7,209,578)
Net gains on investments	360,099 (86,153)	(150,171) -	209,928 (86,153)
Net income before transfers	273,946	(150,171)	123,775
Transfer between funds	(26,074)	26,074	-
Net movement in funds	247,872	(124,097)	123,775
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	7,072,868	379,791	7,452,659
Total funds carried forward	7,320,740	255,694	7,576,434

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Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

6 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	60,391	27,603	87,994	69,111
Appeals	18,957	-	18,957	35,700
Legacies	73,646	-	73,646	102,139
	152,994	27,603	180,597	206,950

7 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Charitable trusts	47,222	-	47,222	63,156
Housing Executive	139,823	1,950,933	2,090,756	2,648,885
Residential rents	3,567,056	774,314	4,341,370	3,404,546
Health & Social Care Trusts	104,949	131,062	236,011	178,236
Congregational	25,370	-	25,370	18,694
Training	558	-	558	13,812
Other sources	880,064	(237,742)	642,322	831,422
	4,765,042	2,618,567	7,383,609	7,158,751

8 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Dividends	9,003	9,003	9,762
Bank interest	38,469	38,469	4,640
	47,472	47,472	14,402

9 Resources expended on charitable activities by activity type

	Staff costs £	Other costs £	Depreciation £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Operating expenses	5,712,320	1,709,438	211,151	7,632,909	7,032,394
Financing expenses	-	3,608	-	3,608	29,196
Society expenses	41,906	1,304	-	43,210	56,775
	5,754,226	1,714,350	211,151	7,679,727	7,118,365

In addition to the depreciation on charitable activities, there is £338 depreciation in raising funds

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

10 Resources expended on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Operating expenses	4,590,203	3,042,706	7,632,909	7,032,394
Financing expenses	2,754	854	3,608	29,196
Society expenses	43,210	-	43,210	56,775
	4,636,167	3,043,560	7,679,727	7,118,365

11 Financing costs

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Interest payable and similar charges				
On bank overdrafts	2,754	854	3,608	29,196

12 Net income before transfers

	2023 £	2022 £
This is stated after charging:		
Staff pension contributions	172,520	191,906
Depreciation – charge for year	211,489	223,754
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-
Auditors' fees		
Audit work	5,760	6,137
Non-audit services	-	-

13 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	4,682,614	4,596,634
Social security costs	362,122	402,063
Pension costs	172,520	191,906
	5,217,256	5,190,603

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

13 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel (continued)

Trustee remuneration and benefits amounted to £63,320 (2022: £62,178) for the year, being remuneration of £55,033 (2022: £54,041), other benefits of £72 (2022: £69) and pension contributions of £8,215 (2022: £8,068). These emoluments received by Reverend David Campton were in respect of his capacity as Superintendent of Belfast Central Mission and minister of the Grosvenor Hall congregation and not in his capacity as Trustee. The Trustee also received manse accommodation that is typical of such roles. No trustee expenses were paid (2022 – £nil) for the year. No Trustees received payments for the supply of ministerial and organist services (2022 - £nil).

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the Trustees, the Superintendent, the Chief Executive, Head of Community Services, Head of Residential Services, Head of Estates & Facilities, Head of Business Development, Head of HR and Head of Finance. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charitable company were £421,039 (2022: - £573,453).

The number of senior staff with employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) over £60,000

Band	2023	2022
£60,000 - £69,999	2	1
£70,000 - £79,999	1	1

14 Staff numbers

The charitable company reports that the average head count (number of staff employed) during the reporting period was 236 (2022 – 251). These can be analysed by project type as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Social & support projects	107	122
Care projects	110	104
Management & central administration	19	25
	236	251

15 Pensions

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of the staff. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the charitable company and amounted to £172,520 (2022: £191,906) of which £28,929 (2022: 28,929) was outstanding at the year end.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

16 Transfers between funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Unrestricted income funds		
<u>General funds</u>		
From Restricted income funds	(128,673)	(26,074)
(To)/from Designated funds	-	-
	(128,673)	(26,074)
<u>Designated funds</u>		
From/(to) General funds	-	-
From Restricted income funds	-	-
	(128,673)	(26,074)
Movement in Unrestricted income funds	(128,673)	(26,074)
Restricted income funds		
(To) General funds	128,673	26,074
Movement in Restricted income funds	128,673	26,074

The net transfer of (£128,673) from unrestricted income reserves to restricted income reserves relates to the Supported People Project and is made in order to fund prior year deficits totalling £64,809 and a 2023 deficit of £63,864.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

17 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Long leasehold property	Fixtures and fittings	Office equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 January 2023	6,748,149	75,000	818,675	398,326	11,912	8,052,062
Additions	-	-	69,967	9,979	-	79,946
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	6,748,149	75,000	888,642	408,305	11,912	8,132,008
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2023	1,199,038	-	552,965	350,821	11,912	2,114,736
Charge for year	140,722	-	40,750	30,017	-	211,489
On disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	1,339,760	-	593,715	380,838	11,912	2,326,225
Net Book Value						
At 31 December 2023	5,480,389	75,000	294,927	27,467	-	5,805,783
At 31 December 2022	5,549,111	75,000	265,710	47,505	-	5,937,326

Investment Properties

Belfast Central Mission owns an investment property located on 373-375 Springfield Road and leased on a long-term basis to a local community group. (Forthspring Inter Community Group) Due to legal issues arising from both the long-term lease and a charge over the property held by the Dept for Education (arising from a historic renovation capital grant) it has been impossible to determine the fair value of the investment property. The property has therefore been included in the accounts at a book value of £nil.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

18 Fixed asset investments

	Securities	2023	2022
Movement in market value	£	£	£
Market value at 1 January 2023	682,070	682,070	768,223
Additions in year	-	-	-
Disposals in year	(682,070)	(682,070)	-
Net gains/(losses) on revaluations in the year:	-	-	-
- own investments	-	-	(84,049)
- investments held on behalf of other churches	-	-	(2,104)
Market value at 31 December 2023	-	-	682,070
Historical cost	233,910	233,910	233,910
Analysed by			
Unlisted securities	-	-	682,070
	-	-	682,070

Analysis of investments at 31 December 2023 between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Securities	-	-	-	682,327
	-	-	-	682,327

All investments are UK investments.

19 Debtors

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year	£	£
Trade debtors	72,778	84,645
Other debtors	-	4,422
Prepayments and accrued income	116,599	581,531
Amounts due from related party	-	733
	189,377	671,331

An impairment loss of £nil (2022: £14,208) was recognised against trade debtors.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

20 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	249,484	204,808
Taxation and social security costs	86,260	85,491
Other creditors	509,122	210,059
Accruals and deferred income	94,756	268,897
	939,622	769,255

Accruals and deferred income include deferred grants amounting to £nil (2022: £183,960).

Other creditors includes a liability of £320,503 relating to the Supporting People Project, funded by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

21 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 December 2023 the charitable company had future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	-	-
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	-
	-	-

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

22 Restricted income funds

	Balance at 1 Jan 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers, Investment gains/(losses)	Balance at 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Supporting People	255,694	2,659,192	(3,043,559)	128,673	-

The Supporting People Project provides housing support services across Northern Ireland funded by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and regional Trusts. Detail of the transfer is in note 16.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

23 Unrestricted income funds

	Balance at 1 Jan 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	97,544	-	-	-	-	97,544
General funds	7,223,196	5,041,852	(4,671,075)	14,770	(128,673)	7,480,070
	7,320,740	5,041,852	(4,671,075)	14,770	(128,673)	7,577,614

Designated funds represent funds set aside for the continued development of our Copelands project (a housing scheme for older people).

General funds are amounts which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives of the charitable company.

24 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Investments £	Net current assets £	Long term liabilities £	Total £
Restricted income funds	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted income funds:	-	-	-	-	-
Designated funds	-	-	97,544	-	97,544
General funds	5,805,783	-	1,674,287	-	7,480,070
Total funds	5,805,783	-	1,771,831	-	7,577,614

25 Related party transactions

At the period end an amount of £nil (2022: £6,184) is owing to Belfast Central Mission by BCM Services Limited. BCM Services Limited has a total of three directors, all of whom are also directors of Belfast Central Mission.

26 Company limited by guarantee

Every Trustee promises, if the charitable company is dissolved while such person remains a Trustee or within 12 months afterwards, to pay up to £1 towards the costs of dissolution and the liabilities incurred by the charitable company while the contributor was a Trustee.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

27 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	1,180	123,775
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	211,489	223,754
(Gains)/losses on investments	(14,770)	86,153
Dividends and interest from investments	(47,472)	(14,402)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	481,953	(479,133)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	170,368	(125,536)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	802,748	(185,389)

28 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash in hand	19,287	12,594
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	2,502,789	1,042,368
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,522,076	1,054,962

Belfast Central Mission

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101271

Accounts

Company Registration Number NI055693
Charity Registration Number NIC101271

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

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Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	6	206,461	489	206,950	360,187
Charitable activities	7	4,162,823	2,995,928	7,158,751	5,597,777
Other trading activities		37,024	-	37,024	31,341
Investments	8	14,402	-	14,402	8,937
Other		2,229	150	2,379	37,558
Total income		4,422,939	2,996,567	7,419,506	6,035,800
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(91,213)	-	(91,213)	(75,194)
Charitable activities	9,10	(3,971,627)	(3,146,738)	(7,118,365)	(5,887,038)
Total expenditure		(4,062,840)	(3,146,738)	(7,209,578)	(5,962,232)
Net (expenditure)/income before gains on investments		360,099	(150,171)	209,928	73,568
Net (losses)/gains on investments		(86,153)		(86,153)	102,061
Net income before transfers	12	273,946	(150,171)	123,775	175,629
Transfer between funds	16	(26,074)	26,074	-	-
Net movement in funds		247,872	(124,097)	123,775	175,629
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		7,072,868	379,791	7,452,659	7,277,030
Total funds carried forward		7,320,740	255,694	7,576,434	7,452,659

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of comprehensive income has not been prepared.

The Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) is included in note 5 to the financial statements for the prior year ended 31 December 2021.

The notes on pages 21 to 33 form part of these financial statements

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	17	5,937,326	6,140,671
Fixed asset investments	18	682,070	768,223
		6,619,396	6,908,894
Current assets			
Debtors	19	671,331	192,198
Cash at bank and in hand		1,054,962	2,666,534
		1,726,293	2,858,732
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	(769,255)	(2,314,967)
Net current assets		957,038	543,765
Total assets less current liabilities		7,576,434	7,452,659
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
Net assets		7,576,434	7,452,659
The funds of the charitable company			
Restricted income funds	22	255,694	379,791
Unrestricted income funds	23	7,320,740	7,072,868
Total funds		7,576,434	7,452,659

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 28 September 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



Mr R Black (Chairperson)



Dr D Gallagher (Hon Secretary)

Company Registration Number: NI055693

The notes on pages 21 to 33 form part of these financial statements

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
<i>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</i>	27	(185,389)	113,284
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends and interest from investments	8	14,402	8,937
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets		-	109,027
Purchase of fixed assets	17	(20,408)	(652,645)
Proceeds from disposal of investments		-	750,000
Purchase of investments		-	(753,888)
<i>Net cash provided (used in) /by investing activities</i>		(6,006)	(538,569)
Cash flows from financing activities			
<i>Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities</i>			-
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</i>		(191,395)	(425,285)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,246,357	1,671,642
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	28	1,054,962	1,246,357

The notes on pages 21 to 33 form part of these financial statements

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

1 Charitable company status

Belfast Central Mission is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is located at Grosvenor House, 5 Glengall Street, Belfast, BT12 5AD.

2 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the 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) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

BCM meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note. The financial statements are presented in GBP Sterling, which is also the functional currency of the charitable company.

Tangible fixed assets

The cost of tangible fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental costs of acquisition. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual values, on a straight-line basis over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used are as follows:

	%
Property	0 – 2.5
Fixtures and fittings	10 & 20
Office equipment	10, 25 & 33 $\frac{1}{3}$
Motor vehicles	25

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. In the Statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the charity's cash management.

Income

Donations and legacies that are of a general nature are recognised where there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Gifts in kind are valued at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Incoming resources from grants where related to performance and specific deliverables are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance. Income received relating to future periods is included within deferred income.

All income received arose in the UK.

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Total expenditure includes the allocation of support costs. Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. They include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charitable company's activities. Support costs have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources (e.g. time spent, number of staff, estimated usage).

Irrecoverable VAT

Any irrecoverable VAT is charged to the statement of financial activities, or capitalised as part of the cost of the related asset, where appropriate.

Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

Recognition of liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when an obligation arises to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently managed fund. Contributions are charged to the statement of financial activities in the period to which they relate.

Investments

Investments are stated in the balance sheet at market value as at the balance sheet date. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains or losses arising on revaluation and disposal throughout the year.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less provisions for bad debt.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charitable company has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

Operating lease agreements

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged against net incoming resources on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Going concern

The directors have assessed that Belfast Central Mission has adequate resources to meet the ongoing costs of the entity for a minimum of 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements. For this reason, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which presumes the realisation of assets and liabilities in the normal course of business.

3 Significant judgements and estimates

In the Trustees' opinions, there are no significant judgements, estimates and assumptions made about the recognition of assets, liabilities, income and expenses other than those outlined in the accounting policies above.

4 Taxation

The charity is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments, and surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of the charity's primary objectives.

The charity has partial exemption from VAT and expenditure is recorded accordingly.

5 Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	169,374	190,813	360,187
Charitable activities	2,522,057	3,075,720	5,597,777
Other trading activities	31,341	-	31,341
Investments	8,937	-	8,937
Other	34,245	3,313	37,558
Total income	2,765,954	3,269,846	6,035,800
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	(75,194)	-	(75,194)
Charitable activities	(2,750,700)	(3,136,338)	(5,887,038)
Total expenditure	(2,825,894)	(3,136,338)	(5,962,232)
Net gains on investments	(59,940) 102,061	133,508 -	73,568 102,061
Net income before transfers	42,121	133,508	175,629
Transfer between funds	133,511	(133,511)	-
Net movement in funds	175,632	(3)	175,629
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	6,897,236	379,794	7,277,030
Total funds carried forward	7,072,868	379,791	7,452,659

*

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

6 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations	68,622	489	69,111	179,965
Appeals	35,700	-	35,700	49,614
Legacies	102,139	-	102,139	130,608
	206,461	489	206,950	360,187

7 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Charitable trusts	63,156	-	63,156	54,298
Housing Executive	581,270	2,067,615	2,648,885	1,935,906
Residential rents	2,655,649	748,897	3,404,546	2,644,840
Health & Social Care Trusts	128,262	49,974	178,236	333,423
Congregational	18,694	-	18,694	29,764
Training	10,470	3,342	13,812	9,720
Other sources	705,322	126,100	831,422	589,826
	4,162,823	2,995,928	7,158,751	5,597,777

8 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Dividends	9,762	9,762	4,667
Bank interest	4,640	4,640	4,270
	14,402	14,402	8,937

9 Resources expended on charitable activities by activity type

	Staff costs £	Other costs £	Depreciation £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Operating expenses	5,471,240	1,337,600	223,554	7,032,394	5,808,115
Financing expenses	-	29,196	-	29,196	26,852
Society expenses	50,616	6,159	-	56,775	52,071
	5,521,856	1,372,955	223,554	7,118,365	5,887,038

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

10 Resources expended on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Operating expenses	3,890,562	3,141,832	7,032,394	5,808,115
Financing expenses	24,290	4,906	29,196	26,852
Society expenses	56,775	-	56,775	52,071
	3,971,627	3,146,738	7,118,365	5,887,038

11 Financing costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Interest payable and similar charges				
On bank overdrafts	24,290	4,906	29,196	26,852

12 Net income before transfers

	2022 £	2021 £
This is stated after charging:		
Staff pension contributions	191,906	160,712
Depreciation – charge for year	223,754	184,137
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	(108,150)
Auditors' fees		
Audit work	6,137	5,688
Non-audit services	-	-

13 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	4,596,634	3,940,412
Social security costs	402,063	320,566
Pension costs	191,906	160,712
	5,190,603	4,421,690

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13 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel (continued)

Trustee remuneration and benefits amounted to £62,178 (2021: £64,501) for the year, being remuneration of £54,041 (2021: £51,906), other benefits of £69 (2021: £4,726) and pension contributions of £8,068 (2021: £7,868). These emoluments received by Reverend David Campton were in respect of his capacity as Superintendent of Belfast Central Mission and minister of the Grosvenor Hall congregation and not in his capacity as Trustee. The Trustee also received manse accommodation that is typical of such roles. No trustee expenses were paid (2021 – nil) for the year. No Trustees received payments for the supply of ministerial and organist services (2021 - nil).

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the Trustees, the Superintendent, the Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Finance & Business Support, Interim Senior Finance Manager, Head of Community Services, Head of Residential Services, Head of People & Organisational Development and Head of Estates & Facilities. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charitable company were £554,505 (2021: - £425,836). One employee received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of between £70,000 and £79,999 (2021: One employee between £70,000 and £79,999).

14 Staff numbers

The charitable company reports that the average head count (number of staff employed) during the reporting period was 251 (2021 – 251). These can be analysed by project type as follows:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Social & support projects	122	131
Care projects	104	89
Management & central administration	25	31
	251	251

15 Pensions

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of the staff. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the charitable company and amounted to £191,906 (2021: £160,712) of which £28,929(2021: £26,077) was outstanding at year end.

Belfast Central Mission

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16 Transfers between funds

	2022	2021
	£	£
Unrestricted income funds		
<u>General funds</u>		
From Restricted income funds	(26,074)	133,511
(To)/from Designated funds	-	(51,662)
	(26,074)	81,849
<u>Designated funds</u>		
From/(to) General funds	-	51,662
From Restricted income funds	-	-
Movement in Unrestricted income funds	(26,074)	133,511
Restricted income funds		
(To) General funds	26,074	(133,511)
Movement in Restricted income funds	26,074	(133,511)

The net transfer of (£26,074) from unrestricted income reserves to restricted income reserves is made up of:

- Transfers of (£131,651) from unrestricted to restricted reserves in respect of net financial deficits in supported housing projects; and
- Transfers of £105,577 from restricted to unrestricted reserves for projects where a funding restriction no longer applies.

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

17 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Long leasehold property	Fixtures and fittings	Office equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 January 2022	6,748,149	75,000	801,875	394,718	11,912	8,031,654
Additions	-	-	16,800	3,608	-	20,408
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	6,748,149	-	818,675	398,326	11,912	8,052,062
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2022	1,058,316	-	508,551	313,556	10,560	1,890,983
Charge for year	140,722	-	44,415	37,265	1,352	223,754
On disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	1,199,038	-	552,966	350,821	11,912	2,114,736
Net Book Value						
At 31 December 2022	5,549,111	75,000	265,710	47,504	-	5,937,326
At 31 December 2021	5,689,833	75,000	293,324	81,162	1,352	6,140,671

Belfast Central Mission

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18 Fixed asset investments

	Securities	2022	2021
	£	£	£
Movement in market value			
Market value at 1 January 2022	768,223	768,223	665,657
Additions in year	-	-	-
Disposals in year	-	-	-
Net gains/(losses) on revaluations in the year:			
- own investments	(84,049)	(84,049)	102,061
- investments held on behalf of other churches	(2,104)	(2,104)	505
Market value at 31 December 2022	682,070	682,070	768,223
Historical cost	233,910	233,910	233,910
Analysed by			
Unlisted securities	682,070	682,070	768,223
	682,070	682,070	768,223

Analysis of investments at 31 December 2022 between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2022	2022	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Securities	680,327	1,743	682,070	768,223
	680,327	1,743	682,070	768,223

All investments are UK investments.

19 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade debtors	84,645	51,985
Other debtors	4,422	4,283
Prepayments and accrued income	581,531	135,746
Amounts due from related party	733	184
	671,331	192,198

An impairment loss of £14,208 (2021: £5,003) was recognised against trade debtors.

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20 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Bank overdraft	-	1,420,177
Trade creditors	204,808	194,546
Taxation and social security costs	85,491	81,983
Other creditors	210,059	141,531
Accruals and deferred income	268,897	476,730
	769,255	2,314,967

Accruals and deferred income include deferred grants amounting to £183,960 (2021: £219,103).

21 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 December 2022 the charitable company had future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	-	-
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	-
	-	-

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22 Restricted income funds

	Balance at 1 Jan 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers, Investment gains/(losses)	Balance at 31 Dec 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Quayside	88,816	-	-	(88,816)	-
Supported Housing Projects	(21,627)	1,640,203	(1,810,661)	170,458	(21,627)
Kirk House - SNMA	(68,508)	-	-	-	(68,508)
Community Services	10,903	-	-	(10,903)	-
Floating Support for Young People Dungannon	72,047	330,617	(312,459)	(18,158)	72,047
Floating Support for Young People Ards	43,043	228,320	(223,058)	(5,262)	43,043
Floating Support for Older People Belfast	124,014	474,411	(459,024)	(15,387)	124,014
Floating Support for Older People Dungannon	125,245	323,016	(341,536)	-	106,725
Parent Support, Dungannon	4,891	-	-	(4,891)	-
Christian Faith Projects	967	-	-	(967)	-
	379,791	2,996,567	(3,146,738)	26,074	255,694

Within the figures for restricted funds is funding from Supporting People for eight supported housing and floating support projects and our residential home, Kirk House. This fund has moved as follows over the year:

	Balance at 1 Jan 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers, Investment gains/(losses)	Balance at 31 Dec 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Supporting People	274,214	2,996,567	(3,146,738)	131,651	255,694

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23 Unrestricted income funds

	Balance at 1 Jan 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	97,544	-	-	-	-	97,544
General funds	6,975,324	4,422,939	(4,062,840)	(86,153)	(26,074)	7,223,196
	7,072,868	4,422,939	(4,062,840)	(86,153)	(26,074)	7,320,740

Designated funds represent funds set aside for the continued development of our Copelands project (a housing scheme for older people).

General funds are amounts which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives of the charitable company.

24 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets	Investments	Net current assets	Long term liabilities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted income funds	-	-	255,694	-	255,694
Unrestricted income funds:					
Designated funds	-	-	97,544	-	97,544
General funds	5,937,326	682,070	603,800	-	7,223,196
Total funds	5,937,326	682,070	957,038	-	7,576,434

25 Related party transactions

At the period end an amount of £6,184 (2021: £6,184) is owing to Belfast Central Mission by BCM Services Limited against which a provision of £6,000 has been made. BCM Services Limited has a total of three directors, all of whom are also directors of Belfast Central Mission.

26 Company limited by guarantee

Every Trustee promises, if the charitable company is dissolved while such person remains a Trustee or within 12 months afterwards, to pay up to £1 towards the costs of dissolution and the liabilities incurred by the charitable company while the contributor was a Trustee.

Belfast Central Mission

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27 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	123,775	175,629
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	223,754	184,137
(Gains)/losses on investments	86,153	(102,566)
Dividends and interest from investments	(14,402)	(8,937)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	(108,150)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(479,133)	29,608
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(125,536)	(56,437)
<i>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</i>	<u>(185,389)</u>	<u>113,284</u>

28 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash in hand	12,594	7,507
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	1,042,368	2,659,027
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	-	(1,420,177)
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>1,054,962</u>	<u>1,246,357</u>

Belfast Central Mission

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101271

Annual report

Company Registration Number NI055693
Charity Registration Number NIC101271

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

Belfast Central Mission

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

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Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Reference and administrative details

Trustees

Mr R Black (Chairperson)
Rev D Campton
Mr C P Clarke
Mrs M Copeland
Ms M J Dwyer
Mr J D Edmondson (Treasurer) (resigned 30 June 2023)
Mr D Ferguson

Dr D Gallagher (Hon Secretary)
Mr W J Halliday (resigned 30 April 2023)
Miss S McCaughan
Mr W Robinson
Rev S Sheerin

Superintendent

Rev D Campton

Chief Executive

Mr N Conway

Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Care & Quality Governance

Mrs L Kavanagh (Resigned on 14/09/22)

Director of Business and Corporate Services

Mrs L Maclean (Position made redundant on 30/12/22)

Interim Senior Finance Manager

Mr L McSorley

Head of Community Services

Mrs J Love

Head of Residential Services

Mrs L Payam

Head of People & Organisational Development

Mrs G McGurnaghan

Head of Estates & Facilities

Mr N Emery

Registered Office

Grosvenor House
5 Glengall Street
Belfast
BT12 5AD

Auditors

Moore (N.I.) LLP
Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

Solicitors

Cleaver Fulton Rankin
50 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7FW

Bankers

Ulster Bank Ltd
11-16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

Investment Custodian

The Trustees of the Methodist Church in Ireland
Edgehill House
9 Lennoxvale
Belfast
BT9 5BY

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Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2022

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

Belfast Central Mission is a company limited by guarantee. It is governed by its revised Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 18 September 2018. The charitable company is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under registration number NIC101271. BCM is the trading name of Belfast Central Mission.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the 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) (effective 1 January 2015).

Organisational Structure

The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the organisation. It meets regularly to review BCM's performance against its charitable objectives and review its financial performance. The Board consists of a Non-Executive Chairperson, the Superintendent of the Mission (ex officio, appointed by the Methodist Church in Ireland), Secretary, Treasurer (ex officio), and up to eight other nominated Directors. At least two of the Directors are nominated by the Congregational Meeting of the Grosvenor Hall Society. All appointments are confirmed by the members at the annual general meeting. The Board of Directors may at any time co-opt up to 2 additional Directors. The Board works closely with the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team who oversee the operations on a day-to-day basis.

Appointment of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is nominated by the Circuit Executive of South and Central Belfast Methodist Circuit sitting as the General Meeting of the Mission Committee of BCM and is reported annually to the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland via its Governance Board. Every effort is made to ensure that there is a wide and relevant skill base amongst the Directors to enable the Board to perform its duties effectively.

Trustee induction and training

New Board Members go through an induction process with respect to that which covers their roles as Directors and as Trustees. They are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the requirements of the Charity Commission, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Strategic Plan, the decision-making processes and recent financial performance of the organisation, and operations of the organisation. Board members are encouraged to attend relevant external training events to assist them in the performance of their duties.

Pay policy for Key Management Personnel

The Board of Directors and the Senior Management Team comprise the key management personnel of the organisation. Details of remuneration of this group are disclosed in note 13 to the financial statements. The pay for all employees, including senior staff, is reviewed annually. The aim is to pay all employees a fair salary that is competitive within the charity sector, proportionate to the complexity of the role and in line with the organisation's charitable objectives and financial budgets.

Wider Network and Impact on Operating Policies

BCM, a company limited by guarantee, is also an agency of the Methodist Church in Ireland and seeks to abide by the basic rules of the Church including, but not limited to, no alcohol on properties and no engagement with, or benefit from, gambling. There is minimal impact on BCM's operating policies as a result of this relationship.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

Details of related party transactions are disclosed in note 25 to the financial statements. The organisation has entered into joint management agreements with two local housing associations, working to deliver Housing Support services for vulnerable people.

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Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2022

Objectives and activities

The primary objects of Belfast Central Mission, as stated in its governing document, are:

1. The advancement of the Christian religion in Ireland.
2. The relief of poverty, sickness, infirmity, or other necessitous circumstances through the provision of accommodation, care, counselling or education on a cross community basis for people in Northern Ireland who are in need of such provision.

The charity has been working through the five-year strategic plan, entitled "Improving Peoples' Lives". The overarching aim is to support as many people as possible with a focus on the following priorities:

- Investing to grow, so that the charity continues to be recognised as a leading provider of social care services.
- Developing a continuum of services for older people, including those living with dementia.
- Developing new opportunities to support vulnerable young people and families.
- Achieving a greater degree of financial independence through a diversification of income generation.
- Continuing to work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders and potential partners.
- Investing in modern, integrated technologies that allow us to work efficiently and effectively, regardless of location.
- Developing an active and engaged Board, workforce, and team of volunteers.
- Providing opportunity for the exploration and development of 21st Century expressions of God's mission in the world.

The strategies for achieving these priorities are set out in the Strategy Map categorised in four main headings:

1. Service Users and Stakeholders
2. Operations and Processes
3. People and Innovation
4. Finance and Resources

It is important that success is assessed and the primary measures that will be used are:

- The number of people helped with a focus on older people, young people and children and families.
- Stakeholder and service user satisfaction.
- Quality of service delivery.
- Impact and outcomes - improving lives.
- Trustee, employee, volunteer and congregation satisfaction.
- Sustainable financial growth.

The significant activities undertaken are set out below, categorised under the two objects of the Charity.

OBJECT ONE:

The order and language of BCM's charitable objects reflect its origin as the first expression of the 19th century Methodist "Missions" movement in Britain, seeking to address the spiritual, physical and economic needs of the poorer residents of the then expanding industrial cities, who often felt excluded by established churches, including Methodist ones. In 1889 Belfast Central Mission was established by the Methodist Church in Ireland with religious meetings initially in Ginnett's Circus, later to be replaced by the current Grand Opera House. Five years later the first Grosvenor Hall was built further up Glengall Street/Grosvenor Road and that site has been the base for both BCM and the worshipping, witnessing congregation at its heart ever since.

The "Grosvenor Hall" congregation continues to worship weekly in Grosvenor House, as part of the Methodist Church in Ireland, and its South and Central Belfast Circuit, which includes four other societies/congregations: Sandy Row, Donegall Road, Belfast South (in the Agape Centre on the Lisburn Road) and the Church of the Resurrection (the joint Methodist/Church of Ireland Church and Chaplaincy on Elmwood Avenue). Circuit activities include:

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- Services of worship, including a livestreamed service for those who unable to attend in person.
- Pastoral Care.
- Bible studies, both in person and online.
- Prayer meetings and prayer chain.
- Various "Interest Groups" (including a Public Theology Group, Social Responsibility Working Group, Good Book Group and South Belfast Ladies), exploring various areas of relevant concern, via seminars, lectures and discussions.
- Social events through which members and attendees can grow in fellowship, with some generating financial support for the wider work of the charity and other charitable or mission purposes.

Since opening our Copelands elderly residential and dementia care facility in Millisle, BCM has embedded a part-time Chaplain as an integral part of the care there. The Superintendent and the part-time Chaplain are responsible, not only for the provision of weekly worship services, but also pastoral care for residents, their families and staff. This builds on the experience gained in delivering care within our Kirk House facility in East Belfast, where a weekly service of worship is provided by an ecumenical rota of local ministers.

BCM also seeks to further the broader Christian witness within the city by partnering with other organisations in common cause, including allowing its property to be used, providing financial support and advice. These include:

- Forthspring Inter Community Project. BCM is a member organisation of this charitable company, which is a community relations and community development project based in the premises of what was formerly Springfield Road Methodist Church on the West Belfast interface. It works with children, young people, women and older people and during the year under report temporarily hosted the Belfast Multi-Cultural Association, as well as "Soul Space", an innovative Anabaptist faith expression.
- Belfast City Centre Chaplaincy, which trains and places volunteer chaplains of all denominations in the city centre. Again, BCM is a member organisation of this charitable company.
- The Linen Quarter Business Improvement District, an independent not for profit company focused on developing and promoting the geographical area in which BCM's headquarters, Grosvenor House, is based. The Mission Superintendent represents the faith and voluntary sector on the Board of company.
- The 4 Corners Festival, a faith-based peace-building festival aimed at improving community relations in the city of Belfast. The Mission Superintendent is a member of the Board and part of the planning team, and Grosvenor House regularly hosts events during the festival.

OBJECT TWO:

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Housing Support for Young People (16-25 years) – located in Armagh, Dungannon, Magherafelt, North Down and Newtownards. The project supports young people who are homeless, struggling with housing issues, leaving care or requiring help with independent living. It uses a holistic person-centred approach and supports young people to identify and work towards their goals.
- Housing Support for Older People (aged 55+) – located in Armagh, Newry, Belfast, Craigavon and Dungannon. The project seeks to work in partnership with older people providing practical and emotional housing-related support, enabling them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.
- Parents' Support and family support services are available in Armagh/Dungannon and North Down and Newtownards. We provide support to families to provide responsive nurturing care for their children ensuring their safety and helping them reach their developmental milestones. We offer practical and emotional support to parents to enhance their parenting capacity.
- Community Services Project provides a range of services for older people in Belfast to promote inclusion and reduce loneliness and social isolation. Activities include Lunch Clubs and a befriending service. A variety of volunteering opportunities are provided. An annual Christmas programme provides a Christmas gift to more than 4,000 children in Northern Ireland.
- Puddleducks Day Nursery provides quality day care for 70 children in Belfast. The nursery uses an approach to encourage every child to reach their potential in an atmosphere of respectful care.
- Therapeutic Counselling for young people (16-25 years). A BACP accredited senior counsellor supports young people with a range of issues including depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, identity issues, past abuse, domestic violence, bereavement, gender identity issues and substance misuse. The service is flexible and accessed quickly.

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RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

- **Housing with Care (including Dementia care) for Older People** – located in Belfast and Millisle.

Kirk House

Caring for up to 46 residents, Kirk House offers each resident their own small flatlet in a home in which independence, freedom of choice, self-esteem and dignity are respected and promoted. The level of care each resident receives is tailored to meet their individual needs.

Copelands, Residential and Dementia care

Opened to its first residents in 2021, Copelands is a state-of-the-art, purpose-built care home for up to 60 residents accommodated within six small 'households' of ten. Each room is en-suite and the care offered is person-centred with a wide range of amenities. We are currently registered for 20 residential dementia and 30 residential beds.

- **Supported Housing for Young People (16-21 years)** – located in Bangor, Belfast, Dungannon and Magherafelt.

Four services continue to operate within four different HSCT areas in Northern Ireland, offering a total of 35 units of accommodation. These include 29 self-contained flats, and the remaining units offer shared accommodation in two of the services. Two of the services are solely for young people who have been in the care of Social Services and the remaining two also offer additional accommodation to young people who present to the NIHE as homeless. The project staff offer both emotional and practical support for up to two years to try to ensure that the young people are ready for their own tenancies, have achieved their own goals and are a positive part of their communities.

- **Therapeutic Counselling for young people (16-25 years).**

A BACP accredited senior counsellor supports young people with a range of issues including depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, identity issues, past abuse, domestic violence, bereavement, and substance misuse. The service is flexible and understanding of the needs of this age group. The service can be offered face to face, via telephone or via zoom, following an initial face to face assessment.

As can be seen from the Social Care programme outlined above, BCM is a diverse organisation providing a range of services for older people, young people, children, and families. These services are open to all in the community and whilst the work can be challenging and demanding, we firmly believe that the staff teams possess the necessary skills to deliver positive outcomes for the Service Users.

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance

OBJECT ONE

In the year under report "routine" activities were gradually re-established following the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the limitations initially imposed by social distancing requirements, which were finally eased in the second half of the year, the Grosvenor Hall congregation continued to meet each Sunday in person for worship, and indeed hosted a number of significant events:

- The Radio Ulster broadcast of the Sunday Morning Service as part of the 4 Corners Festival, with the Belfast Community Gospel Choir and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rev. Justin Welby as preacher.
- The 2022 commissioning service for the United Methodist Church's Global Mission Partners & Fellows.
- A service marking the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, reflecting BCM's history as one of the first recipients in NI of the Queens Award for Volunteering.

Some other pre-covid congregational programmes including daily prayer, mid-week communion in the Gallagher Chapel in Grosvenor House, and children's Sunday School, have not yet been re-established, but in partnership with other congregations on circuit, other initiatives including a series of hybrid Bible studies have continued.

For the third year BCM's Christmas Gift programme was hosted in the hall of Donegall Road Methodist Church, one of our circuit congregations, with its traditional launch service also taking place there. It and other congregations across the Methodist Church in Ireland and beyond have continued to provide strong support for this programme despite the cost-of-living crisis that has affected everyone, including our donors. But with their help we supported more than 4000

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children/families, more than ever before.

The Chaplaincy service in our new Copelands initiative has been well-received and perhaps has had a greater impact than we initially expected. The four-month sabbatical of our chaplain there, Rev June Parke, was facilitated by the support of two other CPE-trained Healthcare Chaplains.

We were able to fully re-establish the weekly service (including the sacrament of communion on one occasion) and access for pastoral care into Kirk House, which had a massive positive benefit on the wellbeing of residents.

In January, New City Press published a collection of poetry written by the Mission Superintendent entitled "Doodlings and Doggerel" with the proceeds going to BCM's Copelands Chaplaincy project.

Partnership with other organisations has resulted in a range of initiatives including:

- The continued growth and development of Belfast City Centre Chaplains revising their governance structures and administration, to enable them to sustainably address the challenges of a city facing economic uncertainty.
- In response to a commitment within the Methodist Church in Ireland to address the issue of poverty locally and across the island, since June 2022 the Grosvenor Hall Congregation has entered into a partnership with Belfast Storehouse, a food/clothing/furniture bank, to contribute to a monthly food collection and ongoing fundraising.

This latter initiative was established as a training exercise by a student minister, supervised by the Superintendent on placement with the Circuit and Grosvenor Hall congregation.

The Superintendent continued his work facilitating the review and revision of the work and witness of the wider South and Central Belfast Methodist Circuit under the heading "What's Our Story? – The Next Chapter." As a development of this, in conjunction with the North East District Superintendent of the Methodist Church in Ireland and neighbouring Circuit Superintendents, the Mission Superintendent is facilitating a conversation regarding the possible merger and reorganisation of those circuits.

This process will run in parallel with the Strategic Review of BCM initiated towards the end of 2022, which, for the first time, includes a detailed review of the function, aims and objectives of Object One.

OBJECT TWO

The effects of the world-wide pandemic continued to have an impact on BCM and its operations over the course of 2022 and as we emerged from the pandemic, BCM like many organisations has had to adapt to a new and changing environment.

Challenges included staff recruitment and the rebuilding of staff teams which had become dispersed during covid. Earned income began to recover back to pre-covid levels but this slow recovery has had an impact on financial performance in 2022. A particular challenge was the impact on Copelands and its projected occupancy levels. Given that the Copelands deficit accounts for a significant part of the deficit position, immediate actions were required to correct this situation.

In order to protect the financial viability of the organisation and on the back of an external organisational review, the Board made the difficult decision to restructure the senior management team with two senior management positions becoming redundant.

Despite these challenging operating conditions BCM's Board, staff team and Management continued to put the service user and service excellence at the heart of everything that we do and highlights of achievements and performance over the year included:

- 1,380 service users supported.
- 4,200 Christmas toy parcels distributed.
- Full compliance with all regulatory requirements.
- Copelands fourth household open.
- Puddleducks and Kirk House back to pre-covid occupancy levels.
- New Governance guide developed and approved.
- New strategic planning process developed for implementation in 2023.

A more detailed review of the significant charitable activities undertaken is set out below.

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COMMUNITY SERVICES

With the use of technology BCM's Community based services have adapted to working remotely and the closure of office bases. A mixture of face to face and online contact has allowed teams to maintain supportive contact with their service users.

A restructuring of the Housing Support service for Older People in Belfast has resulted in an expansion of the service and lower caseloads for front line staff. However, recruitment of new staff and volunteers has proved difficult in 2022.

With funding from the Homelessness Prevention Fund, we were able to provide rent deposits enabling younger and older service users to secure private rented accommodation in a very competitive market.

Funding from the Sustaining Tenancies Fund has provided resources to help our older service users maintain and sustain their tenancies.

Community and volunteer services, continue to provide opportunities for volunteering. The weekly Lunch Club continues to cater for older people and, with funding from Belfast City Council, a varied programme of health enhancing activities was provided. The Befriending service continues to offer a mixture of face to face and telephone contact for older people across Belfast and in the Dungannon area. Volunteers enhance and complement the work of the housing support and family support services providing our service users with befrienders, emotional support, and practical help.

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

- Housing Support - 591 older people
- Housing support -298 younger people
- Parent and family support – 164 families
- Christmas Support – 4,200 children
- Puddleducks Day Nursery – 90 children
- Therapeutic Counselling service – 33 individuals

Housing Support for Young People (16-25 years) mid-Ulster

As a result of the support provided by the service

- 99% of our service users maintained their tenancies.
- 95% of Service users supported to manage their Physical/mental health.
- 84% were supported to gain employment and or enhance skills/education.
- 100% were supported to feel secure in their own home.

Housing support for young People (16-25 years) North Down & Ards area

As a result of the support provided by the service

- 79% were supported to gain employment and or enhance skills/education.
- 100% were supported to maintain their tenancy.
- 96% were supported to contribute to wider society.
- 100% felt more secure in their homes.

Housing Support for Older People (aged 55+ years) Belfast

As a result of the support provided by the service

- 84% were supported to access relevant benefits.
- 100% were supported to maintain tenancy.
- 100% felt more secure because of support provided.
- 87% were supported to manage their physical/mental health.
- 86% were supported to contribute to a wider society.

Housing Support for Older People (aged 60+ years) Southern Area

As a result of the support provided by the service

- 96% supported to access relevant welfare benefits.
- 79% were supported to gain employment and or enhance skills/education
- 99% felt more secure in their own home.
- 97% were supported to manage their Physical/mental health.

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Parent Support and Family Support Ards & North Down area

As a result of support

- 34 families were supported.
- 529 1-1 home visits were completed.
- 25 activity packs given to children.

Parent Support and Family Support in Armagh /Dungannon area

As a result of support

- 59 families with 120 children received home-based support.
- 76 families helped by telephone advice and signposting.
- 294 home visits.
- 100% of parents felt more confident as a parent.

Community Services projects

BCM provides support for older people in the community in the greater Belfast area, through a Wednesday Lunch Club and a Befriending Programme. An annual Christmas programme supports families in need at Christmas by providing children with donations of toys. Volunteers continue to play a vital role in the delivery of these services.

As a result of community services

- 30 people (on average) attended the Lunch Club each week and were supported by the six dedicated volunteers.
- 15 befriending volunteers, who visited 18 service users.
- 4,200 toys / gifts distributed at Christmas.
- Families in North Down and Mid Ulster benefited from additional support provided by six volunteers.
- Residents in Kirk House benefitted from companionship provided by the volunteer-led knitting events.

Puddleducks Day Nursery

The nursery operated at an average 69% capacity throughout 2022 with numbers increasing steadily from April. Feedback from parents has continued to be extremely positive with a satisfaction rate of 100% recorded.

Our annual inspection took place. We received a very positive report and have been recognised as fully compliant with legislation and minimum standards. No recommendations for improvement were identified.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

- Kirk House – 45
- Copelands - 38
- Supported Housing – 39
- Therapeutic Counselling – 33

Kirk House

During 2022 we continued to involve residents in how Kirk House is run, through regular meetings of the Resident's Forum. In these meetings lots of topics were discussed for improvement i.e., food, menus, and the activities programme. The Forum continued to develop, and residents were involved in the recruitment of staff and with the setup of Copelands. It is our aim to create a partnership between Kirk House and Copelands.

There were 2 RQIA inspections in 2022. One in January and the other in June. The June inspection was to follow up on recommendations from January and there was evidence that these were all met.

The report noted that the home was clean, well-lit and there was a homely atmosphere. Staff were attentive to the residents and carried out their work in a compassionate manner. Residents said that living in the home was a good experience.

It was evident that staff were knowledgeable and well trained to deliver safe and effective care.

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No new areas for improvement were identified as a result of this inspection. Residents said that living in the home was a good experience. Residents who were unable to voice their opinions were observed to be relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings and in their interactions with staff.

Copelands, Residential & Dementia Care

Copelands opened to residents in June 2021. The team have worked tirelessly to create a homely, safe, person-centred environment for the residents. With four 'households', we provide care for both Dementia Residential and Residential clients. The building is very impressive and extremely comfortable and as the service develops so does the programme offered to our residents.

The unannounced care inspection by RQIA in July 2022 confirmed that the home was safe, compassionate and effective and well led.

It noted that the living areas were fresh and clean and free from malodor. Good practice was observed in relation to the care of the residents and the feedback from both residents and relatives was very positive.

Supported Housing for Young People

All the services continued to offer the highest level of support to some of the most vulnerable young people. External monitoring is carried out by the HSCT, Supporting People and RQIA.

All the services are safe, effective, compassionate and well led.

The teams have developed to meet the ever-increasing support needs of this service user group and are keen to continue to develop their expertise.

Hagan Homes funding continued this year to enable us to provide an additional worker in Belfast and the Rank Foundation funding has enabled the same in Dungannon. These additional staff enable an outreach element to our work.

Therapeutic Counselling

Provides a community based therapeutic counselling service to young people aged 16-25 years old in the North Down and Ards to improve their mental health and emotional well-being and prevent self-harm and/or suicide.

This service promotes the life chances of care experienced young people so that they can reach their full potential. Using the nationally recognised CORE outcomes tool to measure global distress, the service measures client progress and showed a positive change in the overall core score for all clients before exiting the service. Clients reported a 100% satisfaction rate.

Public Benefit Statement

In setting objectives and planning activities for the year the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit and are confident that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

Financial review

Details of the results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 18 and the related notes. The charity had net incoming resources for the year of £209,928 and the net movement in funds amounted to £123,775 in the year, after unrealised losses on investments of £86,153.

The greater part of charitable income has been used to meet the cost of carrying out the organisation's charitable objectives by providing support and care through various projects for both young and older people. Income comprises funding for the services BCM provides on behalf of the statutory sector, income from donations, appeals and legacies, income from charitable trusts, income from fundraising activities and income from small trading activities. The continued support from our donors has been invaluable. We are grateful to all the organisations and people who have financially supported us throughout the year.

It is the opinion of the Directors that the market value of the property is in excess of the net book value as disclosed in

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the balance sheet on page 25.

Investment powers and policy

Investments shown in note 18 to the financial statements are made in line with the policies of the Trustees of the Methodist Church in Ireland. The Directors intend that the real value of the charity's investments be maintained and enhanced over the long term by investment in a portfolio comprising equities, fixed income stocks and cash. They seek to achieve a balanced investment return from income and capital, with moderate risk. It is the charity's policy specifically to include investments which are consistent with the ethos of the Methodist Church. The proportions invested in equities, fixed income stocks and cash are reviewed from time to time to establish the ongoing suitability of that element of the investment policy. The investments are shown at market value in the balance sheet and have reduced in market value by £86,153 since the previous year end.

Reserves policy

BCM's reserve policy recognises the need to use voluntary income to provide services for young and older people and the need to ensure that, once commitment has been given, sufficient funds exist to meet the commitment for as long as it is required and appropriate. However, the organisation must also ensure that relatively minor disruptions to its financial plans, or delays in receiving funding, do not result in having suddenly to cease activities in order to balance the books.

The existing reserves policy has been established whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets (the free reserves) held by the charity should be between 6 and 9 months of the unrestricted resources expended. These reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the charity and therefore to enable it to continue its current activities. Free reserves currently stand at £1,388,819 (designated funds are excluded) which approximates to 4 months -unrestricted expenditure.

This has arisen due to the investment in the Copelands Care Home. The Directors have considered the position and intend to return to holding 6-9 months free reserves over the next three years.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Effective risk management is essential to keep Service Users and staff safe, to protect and grow both funding and reputation, and to meet the expectations of supporters and donors. All types of risks are considered, both internal and external, when reviewing and updating the risk register. Principal risks are defined as those that, without effective mitigation, are highly likely to occur and would have a severe impact on the organisations work, reputation or ability to achieve its objectives.

The risk areas considered as part of BCM's risk register include:

- Strategic
- Finance
- Operations
- External
- Legal and compliance

All risks are managed through senior staff identifying and managing risks as an integral part of their daily work, through staff in outlying projects reporting significant risks to senior management and through reporting mechanisms to the Trustees at Board meetings. The reporting of major risks at Board Meetings allows the Trustees to challenge any assumptions the organisation has made about risks and understand the context in which decisions are taken. This assists them to ensure that the most serious risks are being effectively managed. This risk management process aims to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the organisation is protected.

Plans for future periods

OBJECT ONE:

BCM will continue to support the ongoing existence of a regular worshipping congregation in the Grosvenor Hall, with the expectation that members of that congregation would continue to volunteer within, and fundraise for, the wider work of BCM. However, the demographic make-up of the current congregation and prevailing trends in church attendance suggest that the congregation in its current form may not be sustainable for many more years, demanding further reflection, with the current congregation and other interested parties, on what a Methodist presence in Belfast City Centre might look like in the future.

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This will take place within the context of BCM's Strategic Review of Object One, and the possible amalgamation of the circuit with other adjacent circuits, building on the learning of the recent formation of our current circuit and ministry team from three previous circuits. What is understood is that the Mission Superintendent cannot continue to also act as the Circuit Superintendent.

To facilitate the internal demands on the Mission Superintendent in the face of this period of review and revision, and to reduce the numbers of conflicts of interest, he will disengage from sitting on a number of governing bodies and there will be a review of his role in the internal governance and management of BCM.

We hope to continue as a suitable training environment for Student Ministers, not just the one currently on placement, but in future years too.

The Superintendent and Copelands Chaplain intend to participate in an Anna Chaplaincy training course run by BRF, with a possible view to a more formal partnership and using this chaplaincy model in the expansion of our service in Copelands, Kirk House and elsewhere, and prepare for continuity of the service on the retirement of our current Chaplain in June 2024.

BCM will continue to partner with other organisations to take forward their mutual objects, including:

- Belfast City Centre Chaplaincy
- The 4 Corners Festival
- Christians Against Poverty
- Miscellaneous food banks

OBJECT TWO:

A new Strategic Plan for the period 2023-27 has been commissioned and will start to be implemented in 2023.

Key elements of our plans for 2023 include:

Excellence in delivery

- Commission independent review of staff terms and conditions
- Review internal communications
- Completion of restructuring of Corporate Services Department
- Continued implementation of improvements to systems and processes, included integrated IT systems
- Review staff health and well-being policy
- Further develop our volunteering programme

Excellence in our organisation

- Undertake governance review and implement recommendations
- Complete full review of Object One.
- Succession planning for the Board and Senior team.

Excellence in sustainability

- Kirk House and Puddleducks progress back to pre-covid occupancy levels
- Opening of 5th household at Copelands
- Develop a business case for the provision of nursing care at Copelands
- Refresh website and social media
- Identify new opportunities for Social Enterprise
- Refresh fundraising strategy

These plans will need to be flexible and responsive to wider environmental factors and are subject to change.

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Trustees' annual report, incorporating the Strategic Report, for the year ended 31 December 2022

Provision of information to auditor

Each of the persons who is a Trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as each Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware, and
- each Trustee has 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 charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of Belfast Central Mission for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the charitable company financial statements and then apply them consistently
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, including the Charity SORP, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor

The reappointment of the auditor, Moore (N.I.) LLP will be proposed at the AGM, under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the trustees



Mr R Black (Chairperson)

Approved by the Trustees on 28 September 2023

Belfast Central Mission

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101271

Annual return

Company Registration Number NI055693
Charity Registration Number NIC101271

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Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

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Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

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Independent auditor's report to the members of Belfast Central Mission for the year ended 31 December 2022

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Belfast Central Mission (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes to the financial statements, 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 Financial Reporting Standard 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- 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 accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts 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 charitable company'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.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Directors' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees 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 controls 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.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Belfast Central Mission for the year ended 31 December 2022

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2008, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement 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 purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

**Independent auditor's report to the members of Belfast Central Mission
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

- 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 charitable company'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 charitable company 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company'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 company'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 any party other than the charitable company and charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Dr Rosemary Peters Gallagher OBE FCA

..... 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

28 September 2023

4th Floor
Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

Moore (NI) LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charitable company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006