

Loughshore Care Partnership

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their Trustees' Annual Report, combining the Directors' Report and Trustees' Report, and the unaudited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The trustees of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the trustees of Loughshore Care Partnership present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 March 2024.

The company is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP effective January 2015), the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

Structure, Governance and Management

Structure

The charity is an unincorporated organisation and is governed by its constitution. The Trustees have ultimate legal and financial responsibility for the affairs of Loughshore Care Partnership and manage the day to day affairs of the charity themselves. Board meetings are held on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. All trustees undertake an induction process which covers their roles, responsibilities and main duties, etc.

Financial Review

The results for the financial year are set out in the Statement of Financial Activity, the Balance Sheet and related notes contained within these financial accounts.

Results and Dividends

At the end of the financial year the company has assets of £106,144 (2023 - £114,295) and liabilities of £1,130 (2023 - £720). The net assets of the company have decreased by £(8,561).

Reserves Position and Policy

In recent years, the voluntary / charity sector has faced significant financial difficulties as a whole and the Trustees acknowledge that LCP operates in an environment where there will always be uncertainty over future income streams and expenditure requirements given the possibility that unforeseen expenses and liabilities that will emerge.

Against this background it is considered good practice to seek to build some financial reserves which will allow us to meet future commitments or unforeseen expenses without a negative impact on our ability to deliver our services or develop our business in the manner planned.

By holding reserves we are able to:

1. Absorb setbacks and take advantage of change and opportunity;
2. Demonstrate that we have thought through how we might secure our viability beyond the immediate future and provide reliable services over the longer term;
3. Demonstrate to potential funders that we are effectively managing our resources, and have given consideration to our long-term plans and viability.

There is no absolute level of free reserves that we as an organisation should hold but when looking at the level of free reserves consideration should include:

1. How secure is our present funding?
2. How long would it take to find alternative sources of funding?
3. If the organisation had to close, how long would it take to wind up in an orderly manner?
4. What costs could be involved in winding up? - consider:
 - a. Redundancy costs
 - b. Other staffing liabilities including maternity / paternity pay
 - c. Legal and accountancy costs

As a general guide an acceptable level of free reserve might be considered to be:

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1. Sufficient free reserves to provide cover for up to six months in relation to known liabilities; and
2. An additional provision of unrestricted reserves for unforeseen liabilities.

LCP continues to review and update its reserves policy on an annual basis to take account of any change in circumstance.

Trustees

The trustees who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Kevin Fox	Maria McGrath
Edith Stevenson – resigned	Sylvia Fegan
Ian Abraham – deceased	Emma Doyle
Mary Smyth – resigned	Harriet Millsopp
Mary Statford	Anne Turkington
Mary Yarr	Anne Fox
Mary McAlinden	

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the directors retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The company engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. Loughshore Care Partnership subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Companies Act 2006
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)

Structure, governance & management, Public Benefit

Loughshore Care Partnership was established in August 2003 as a new and innovative programme of care for older persons in isolated rural areas. The partnership is made up of associates from the local statutory, voluntary and community sector. Its aim is to provide locally based health and social care services to those living in rural areas of the southern shores of Lough Neagh.

Public Benefit Statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries. The benefits of Loughshore Care Partnership are both clear and directly related to the charity's aims and objectives. These benefits are and will be demonstrated through surveys of satisfaction at the end of any course, increased attendance at relevant meetings and advice and guidance sought by members. The charity beneficiaries are people living in the Lough Neagh area and the surrounding areas.

Loughshore Care Partnership Chairman's Report

The senior citizens' groups, under Loughshore Care Partnership, continue to support the elderly people of the rural Loughshore catchment area and are delighted that new members and new volunteers have joined these groups. They are very welcome.

Our group volunteers have shown loyalty and dedication to the senior citizens, ensuring that they have a safe and friendly place to chat, build friendships and engage in varied activities. They deserve great credit for their commitment to their community. The volunteers continue to encourage new members and support those still hesitant to return to the clubs through regular phone calls.

Without our funders we would not be able to bring such a service and such a varied programme of activities to the senior citizens. Our funders include Southern Health and Social Care Trust, Department of Communities, ABC Council, Garfield Western, Arts Council NI, and those who businesses that have made donation to us during the year such as Hyster, Tesco and GroundforceNI.

We are particularly indebted to the SHSCT with whom we have a Service Level Agreement. This is extremely valuable, allowing us to meet insurance, rental, administration, and general running costs. We also value their advice and general support and our meetings with the Trust representatives are positive and beneficial.

We wish to thank DART Partnership for their significant assistance, ensuring that senior citizens have transport to the clubs each week. Many drivers are volunteers, and they carry out their tasks with due care and consideration to the elderly.

New Action Plan

In the latter part of 2023, we engaged consultant Patrick McKenna to work closely with the groups we work with and the Loughshore Care Partnership (LCP) committee members. His extensive efforts enabled us to develop a new

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three-year action plan for 2024–2026. This plan has been unanimously endorsed by LCP as our strategic direction, and we have already begun its implementation.

Loughshore Minds Matter Project.

The Loughshore Minds Matter project aims to provide vital support to the rural community living along the southern shores of Lough Neagh. Its goal is to offer a variety of interventions and activities suitable for people of all ages, addressing the adverse effects of isolation experienced, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic on their mental well-being.

The project coordinator, Hazel Boland, has actively engaged with local groups and collaborated with staff from the ABC Council and the Trust to secure additional support. Notably, we've facilitated the presence of the Cancer Focus Bus at various venues in recent months. This project is funded through the Department of Health and the Community Foundation.

The Loughshore Minds Matter project has made a significant difference to the engagement and entertainment of the senior citizens. This project brings so much energy and creativity, bringing new experiences to the senior citizens. It has enriched their lives and has assisted volunteers in planning and provision of activities.

The project acknowledges and appreciates the dedication and hard work of the staff members involved in delivering its services.

Verve Healthy Living Network

LCP recently became part of the Verve Healthy Living Network and will cover the rural south Lough Neagh area. As a member of the Verve Healthy Living Network will bring significant benefits to the rural south Lough Neagh area. As part of this network, LCP will gain access to a wide range of health and wellbeing programmes tailored to local needs, including initiatives focused on healthy lifestyles, mental and emotional wellbeing, and social inclusion. The partnership will strengthen community engagement, increase the availability of health resources, and provide opportunities for shared learning with other network members.

A big Thank You to our volunteers

Loughshore Care Partnership extends its gratitude in recognition of the diligent efforts and the commitment shown by the volunteers with whom it collaborates on a weekly basis. They certainly are a prime example of motivation which will hopefully inspire others to become involved in helping in their community in the future.

New volunteers are always encouraged to participate and dedicate a few hours each week to any of the groups we work with. Remember the act of giving and connecting with others through volunteering is one of the most meaningful ways of making a valuable contribution to your community.

Acknowledging Our Team and Offering Support

Despite the current challenges in the funding arena, we have continued to secure significant financial support from various sources. This success is largely due to the dynamism and dedication of Mary McAlinden. Her meticulous management of LCP's financial matters, coupled with her deep understanding of community development, has been instrumental in our ongoing success.

To those who have faced health challenges this year, we send our warmest wishes for a swift recovery and a return to full health.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to those who have experienced loss within the LCP and our senior citizens' groups, especially to the family of Ian Abraham from Derryadd, a valued LCP committee member who recently passed away.

To the future

Challenges remain for LCP. We need new volunteers who share our commitment for the people in this area. We need to reach out to isolated people who may be unaware of our groups' activities. To promote this, we are working on the development of a social media presence and have also produced posters and flyers for the 2024/25 Senior Citizens programme of activities.


We remain hopeful and optimistic as we continue to maintain and improve our support for the rural community that we serve around the Loughshore.

Loughshore Care Partnership
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Approved by the Board of Trustees on 10 SEPT 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Mary McAlinden
Trustee



Mary Yarr
Trustee

Loughshore Care Partnership
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
for the financial year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are also directors of Loughshore Care Partnership for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees as the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law) including FRS102 "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 company and of the net income or expenditure of the company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework, 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 company will continue in operation.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 10 SEPT 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Mary McAlinden
Trustee


Mary Yarr
Trustee