

CROSSFIRE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Objectives and activities

I am delighted to be able to report another year of growth in Crossfire Trust. The number of volunteers in their diverse roles has increased and their meaningful activities bring out to frontline interaction in social care. We are as ever grateful; for the work that our core staff do in working alongside homeless individuals, seeing them settle into a home environment and develop the confidence for training and volunteering. The ripple affect of rescuing someone from the street or park bench to a comfortable bed in a caring community is intense and this expression of care reaches family and friends, church and MLAs who have referred individuals.

Among the many good things happening across the charity I would highlight three new developments in particular for acknowledgement:-

Firstly, we have maintained a new site with programmes in Crossmaglen Square which connect individuals. It is an inclusive experience which dovetails PSNI into a kind expression of support which local people can actually receive. In the light of a recent craze of ramming PSNI vehicles and rebellious behaviour it is proving to be very helpful to challenge this negative activity and look at the issues behind the emotions. Positive leadership reduces the risk of misunderstanding and paves the way forward for a more united society.

Secondly, we are currently finalising the use and development of two donated static caravans which we are calling Stepping Stones into residential living.

We have been greatly encouraged by the generous support of local electricians, plumbers and the input from Warmflow who donated the heating systems and gives us the space for people who may not be eligible for funded bedspace. We are keeping our options open as to how help people and still be very aware of the financial overheads to be covered.

For both of these areas and for broader team resourcing and equipping we are delighted to have benefited from the expertise of Gail Lockhart who spearheads fund raising and represents the charity with fresh awareness and applications to a diverse range of funders.

Finally, it was with a deep breath that we took the first small step of faith and hired the services of Hall Black Douglas to examine our site and building in Cardinal O'Fiaich Square and produce plans in connection to the anchor tenant Something More For You Ltd, service users and Trustees. The journey to obtaining Planning Permission has its ups and downs and we are delighted to announce that the patient endurance has paid off and we have the confirmed plans for a three storey building with amazing opportunities before us.

The journey of faith continues with the process of costings, estimates and how we actually obtain funds to complete the project and at the same time we communicate to the Charity Commission on new governing structure which will make us more accessible for government funding.

Challenge

The world of insurance has changed and this brings to Crossfire Trust and annual challenge to find suitable cover for our diverse range of activities. We review our policies and maintain regular risk assessments and do all we can to minimize the cost of insuring residential accommodation for some of the most vulnerable in society.

Also, like many families and community groups we can not escape the challenge and influence that drugs have in today's society. The paramilitary connection behind different gangs and groups of drug dealers only add to the threat and the enormous pressure that families and organisations can experience. We are well placed to at least help with those suffering with addiction and our track record over four decades gives us much needed credibility to challenge what is now the norm with the reality, honesty and integrity of more holistic living.

CROSSFIRE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Public benefit

The trustees of Crossfire Trust confirm that they have had due regard for the guidance on Public Benefit by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are pleased to report that during the year the charity has continued to provide Public Benefits through programmes and services it offers. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set out.

Activities

Our public benefits are:

- Individuals have a positive life change creating openness and respect of relationships.
- People are supported to live a wholesome, full, and exciting life.
- People take confidence and pride in their lives through access to services which help address poverty.
- Promote Christianity through value and respect and hope for the future.
- A calming influence for a peaceful society.
- Increased understanding of citizenship and community.
- Individuals feel secure and valued.
- Supporting a joined up approach from all agencies for the development of South Armagh.

We demonstrate these benefits through strong monitoring and evaluation systems. We undertake an annual performance review of Crossfire Trust by consulting the community and key stakeholders. This process includes evaluations, focus groups and end project evaluations. We also record levels of participation.

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

Financial review

Total income for the year was £232,748 (2024- £264,099). Income from donations and legacies amounted to £59,532 (2024 - £62,144), income from charitable activities amounted to £171,609 (2024 - £200,066) and other income amounted to £1,607 (2024 - £1,889).

Total expenditure for the year amounted to £214,629 (2024 - £235,512). The cost of charitable activities amounted to £214,629 (2024 - £235,512).

As at 31 March 2025, the charity has unrestricted funds carried forward of £476,650(2024 - £453,001), restricted revenue funds carried forward of £111,610 (2024 - Nil) and restricted capital funds carried forward of £132,926 (2024 - £113,604).

The managing trustees consider that the Trust is in a satisfactory position to carry on its charitable activities.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity to maintain free reserves which match the needs of the trust, both at the current time and in the foreseeable future. This provides sufficient funds to cover running costs which include management, administration and support costs. Free reserves are those unrestricted reserves not designated nor invested in fixed assets which are available for general use.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable trust constituted under a trust deed dated 28 November 1984, which is recognised as a charity with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Ms C Weir

Mr M Rawding

Mrs K Thompson

P Galloway

Mr I Bothwell

(Resigned 12 April 2024)

(Appointed 12 April 2024)

CROSSFIRE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The present trustees have been involved in the charity for a number of years and so are familiar with its work. The trustees regularly review the requirements of the charity and the possibility of a need for additional trustees. Any new trustees would be appointed by the settlor as required. Appropriate training and induction is available to all trustees.

Organisational structure

Crossfire Trust has a management committee of 6 (2024 - 6) members who meet regularly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. A Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day operations of the organisation. A Secretary is appointed by the trustees to assist the Chief Executive Officer.

Other matters

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Trust, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate an exposure to major risks. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors. These procedures are periodically reviewed at least annually to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The charity's trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provisions of the trust deed. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included in the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of the financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

CROSSFIRE TRUST

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

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

..... Ian J. Bothwell

Mr I Bothwell

Trustee

Date: 30th JANUARY 2026