

NORTH BELFAST WOMEN'S INITIATIVE and SUPPORT PROJECT

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28th FEBRUARY 2023

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 28th February 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects as set out in its Memorandum and Articles are

- the relief of poverty and sickness
- the preservation, protection and promotion of mental health and well being for women and the aged
- the advancement of education, improvement of the life of women and their families.

These objects are for the promotion of the benefit of the residents of Upper Ardoyne, North Belfast, County Antrim and its environments (including Hesketh, Glenbyrn, Alliance, Deerpark and Wheatfield, hereinafter described as "the area of benefit") without distinction of age, race, political, religious or other opinion by common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of the life of the women and their families.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Our work in 2022/2023 continued with on-going delivery of Co-Ment Employability programme and Urban Villages funded Communities Together For Change programme. We were successful in our application to Urban Villages to expand the number of schools involved in the Let It Grow aspect of the programme and secured a further one year of support from DfC for staff salaries and from Belfast City Council for running costs. Programmes have been open to people of all ages, cultures, religion, abilities and gender and attracted 4458 participants from across the community. We provided the local community with a place for communal meeting and for its users to participate in programmes, workshops and information sessions that focus on improving their well-being whilst becoming further integrated into the community through communication with people from other backgrounds and communities. Our annual 'Meet the Neighbour event' directly contributes to building capacity at community level as well as fostering positive identity. We are continually developing programmes and seeking funding to meet the current needs of the community. By organising/running these programmes we achieved the following outputs:-

- ❖ 1953 - people using Holistic Therapies, Hair & beauty
- ❖ 200 – people/families received Lets Cook-It packs
- ❖ 12 – people participated in Mental Health Awareness Training
- ❖ 92 - people participated in cross community & intergenerational summer trips

- ❖ 350 -people attended Meet The Neighbours Family Fun Day
- ❖ 122 - people benefiting from Advice, sign posting and wrap around support
- ❖ 12 – people participated in Relaxation Sessions
- ❖ 16 – people participated in Money Matters Programme
- ❖ 179 - people benefited from use of the Sensory room
- ❖ 12 – people attending weekly gardening workshops
- ❖ 16 – people participating in War Memorial Workshop
- ❖ 20 – people participated in History of Grand Opera House workshop & tour
- ❖ 16 – people attended ACT Museum & Talk
- ❖ 22 – people participating in weekly Genealogy classes
- ❖ 22 – people participating in weekly arts & crafts classes
- ❖ 44 - Wrap around support, Drop-In, sign posting, Benefits advice
- ❖ 18 – children attending weekly lego therapy classes
- ❖ 50 – families received xmas food & toy hampers
- ❖ 23 - people attended cross community trip to Ulster American Folk Park
- ❖ 22 - people participated in Women Exploring History residential
- ❖ 18 – children benefited from 10wk lego therapy programme
- ❖ 12 – adults took part in lego therapy
- ❖ 216 - children have improved their reading ability by participating on Reading Partners Programme
- ❖ 334 - (weekly) - Let It Grow Project
- ❖ 350 - (weekly) - Healthy Lifestyles Project
- ❖ 10 – people completed OCN L2 Garden Horticulture
- ❖ 10 - people completing OCN L1 Garden Horticulture
- ❖ 240 – Children participated in shared learning programme
- ❖ 16 - young people recruited on to Co-ment programme
- ❖ 1 – person gained full-time employment from attendance on OCN course
- ❖ 2 - members of staff completed CPD training
- ❖ 12 - young people completed Job specific courses
- ❖ 20 - people completed Train the Trainer (Reading Partners) training
- ❖ 3 - young people gained employment through participation on Co-ment programme
- ❖ 13 - young people returned to full-time education through participation on Co-ment programme

Future plans

With the uncertainty of funding and in furtherance of its pursuit of sustainability, the Charity continues to develop its social economy project, involving training and development of therapists and beauticians providing subsidised services to clients for the improvement of health and well-being and this has been further enhanced with the addition of the new sensory room equipment funded by Urban Villages. We are also developing a new Strategic Plan which we hope to have completed by March 2024. Funding applications have been successful for 2023/24 - BCC - Revenue Grant, DfC - Salaries, UK Levelling Up - Programmes, Urban Villages - Programmes & Resources.

Financial review and reserves

Following adjustments for accrued income and corrections to reported net assets and reserves for the 2022/2023 year, the charity finished the year (2022/2023) with a surplus on reserves of £52,925 at 28th February 2023.

The Charity consistently managed its funding and cash flow in line with its policies and there were no significant financial events to report in the period.

During 2018/2019, the Charity has received significant funding, particularly from DfC and Urban Villages and these have been managed accordingly as Restricted Funds. It is the policy of the Charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The Charity are on target to achieve this throughout the next 12 - 18 months. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the Charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland number 103927 - registration date 12th March 2015.

The Trustees who served during the year were:

- Mrs Barbara Fisher, Chairperson and Holding Trustee
- Mrs Cathy Lundy, Vice Chairperson
- Mrs Christine Kirk, Secretary
- Mrs Lorraine Drumgoole, Treasurer and Holding Trustee
- Mrs Margaret Stewart – Holding Trustee

Our Trustees are recruited from members of the local community who understand the needs of women and the culture of the North Belfast community. None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company.

Strategic decisions are made by the Committee after discussing the recommendations provided by the Project Manager, to whom the Trustees fully delegate the day-to-day running of the charity.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 15th Jan 2024
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28th FEBRUARY 2023

New members of the Committee are inducted informally at present, with no specific training provided.

The Trustees recognise that the Committee needs to be strengthened in the areas of local knowledge and diversity to the existing skills and knowledge.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts 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, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

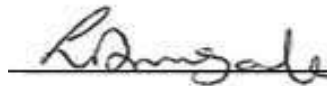
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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



Mrs B Fisher

Chairperson



Mrs L Drumgoole

Treasurer

Dated: 12/12/2023

Date: 12/12/2023