

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28th FEBRUARY 2025

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 28th February 2025.

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)

Vision

Improving the health, wellbeing, and education of all communities in North Belfast and beyond.

Mission

We provide holistic support to create strong, healthy, and sustainable communities.

Values

We will improve the health, wellbeing, and education of all communities in North Belfast and beyond by passionately living the following core values:

- We are inclusive – we believe everyone is unique and important and we will strive to ensure everyone can laugh, love, learn, and live their best life.
- We are honest and brave – we are passionate about creating strong partnerships with people, organisations, and communities that are built on trust and honesty.
- Growth is our goal – we are passionate about helping people and places to grow stronger and sustainable.
- We are compassionate – we are committed to delivering person centred care that creates sustainable change for all.

Our Aims & Outcomes

Driven by inclusion, honesty, growth, and compassion, we will create strong, healthy, and sustainable communities by:

1. Developing and delivering health, wellbeing, and education services and programmes that help communities to become stronger, healthier, resilient, and sustainable.
2. Inclusive change through engagement. We will harness our lived experience to inform, inspire, and drive change in our communities.
3. Building a strong and sustainable NBWISP to ensure we can create and support strong, healthy and sustainable communities.

Public benefit

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

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28th FEBRUARY 2025

Achievements and performance

During the reporting period, the charity delivered a comprehensive programme of community-based interventions across several locations, including Concorde, Shankill Women's Centre, Girdwood and Ligoniel Community Centre. Where appropriate, beneficiaries were also signposted to services delivered by partner organisations.

The charity's work focused on community relations, education, employability, health and wellbeing, and targeted support for families and individuals with additional needs.

Community Relations and Community Development

The charity delivered a range of programmes designed to promote good relations, community cohesion and civic participation. These included:

- Four cross-community, issue-based theatre programmes, engaging 38 participants
- Women in Politics programme, supporting increased political awareness, confidence and participation – 8 participants

These activities contributed to improved understanding, dialogue and engagement across communities.

Education and Learning

The charity delivered the Let It Grow project as a weekly educational programme across eight schools, engaging 480 pupils in total. This comprised:

- 194 pupils from six primary schools (Wheatfield, Holy Cross Girls, Mercy, Ligoniel, Ballysillan and St Columban's) x 2
- 46 pupils from two secondary schools (Mercy College and Harberton North) x 2

In addition, adult education opportunities were provided, including OCN Level 1 Gardening Skills, completed by 10 adults.

Training, Qualifications and Employability

The charity delivered a range of accredited and non-accredited training programmes aimed at improving employability and vocational skills. Training delivered included:

- Nail Enhancement - 5
- Skills for Garden Horticulture - 7
- Entrepreneurship and Employability - 5
- Forklift Driving - 1

As a result:

- 12 participants achieved OCN Level 2 qualifications
 - 1 participant obtained a forklift licence
- Employability and work experience programmes supported young people to build confidence and practical skills. During the reporting period:
- Two participants progressed to a mechanics course with Workforce
 - One participant secured a place at the University of Ulster

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28th FEBRUARY 2025

Parenting and Family Support

Targeted early intervention and therapeutic support was provided to families of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN), supporting 12 parents. SEN signposting and family-focused support formed a key element of the charity's preventative and early-intervention approach.

Advice and Support Services

The charity provided a wide range of advice and support services, helping individuals and families to address financial, social and practical challenges. During the reporting period, the following supports were delivered:

- 19 benefits advice interventions
- 60 healthy lifestyle advice interventions
- 24 education and employment guidance interventions
- 73 SEN signposting interventions
- 223 Cost of Living support interventions, benefiting adults and children
- 36 databank and digital connectivity supports

These services helped mitigate financial hardship, reduce isolation and improve access to essential services.

Health and Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing remained central to the charity's work. The charity delivered Healthy Lifestyles Programmes engaging 626 participants, including children and adults.

In addition, 1,518 individuals accessed health intervention services, including:

- Holistic therapies
- Massage
- Reflexology
- Sensory therapy

These interventions contributed to improved physical, emotional and mental wellbeing across the communities served.

Summary of Achievements

The Trustees consider that the charity has made significant progress in delivering its charitable objectives during the reporting period. Activities have addressed identified community needs, delivered clear public benefit, and supported individuals to improve their health, wellbeing, skills and life opportunities.

Future Plans

The Trustees will continue to ensure that the charity's activities remain focused on delivering public benefit and responding effectively to the needs of the communities it serves. Over the coming reporting period, the charity plans to:

- Sustain and expand community relations activity, building on the success of cross-community programmes and civic engagement initiatives, including issue-based theatre and Women in Politics programmes, to further promote good relations and social cohesion.
- Develop education and early intervention provision, including the continuation of the *Let It Grow* project and exploration of opportunities to engage additional schools and young people, with a particular focus on preventative and early-years outcomes.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28th FEBRUARY 2025

- Strengthen employability and skills pathways, by expanding accredited and vocational training opportunities, enhancing work-experience provision, and supporting progression into further education, training and employment.
- Increase targeted support for families and individuals with additional needs, particularly those affected by Special Educational Needs (SEN), ensuring timely early intervention, appropriate signposting and access to therapeutic support.
- Respond to ongoing cost of living pressures, by maintaining advice, support and practical assistance for individuals and families experiencing financial hardship, including benefits advice, digital inclusion and connectivity support.
- Enhance health and wellbeing services, continuing to deliver Healthy Lifestyles Programmes and therapeutic interventions, and exploring opportunities to broaden access to holistic health supports.
- Strengthen partnerships and funding sustainability, working collaboratively with statutory, voluntary and community partners to maximise impact, improve service coordination and secure diversified funding streams.
-

The Trustees will continue to monitor performance, manage risk, and review strategic priorities to ensure the charity remains effective, financially sustainable and compliant with all regulatory requirements.

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



Ms C Kirk

Chairperson



Mrs L Drumgoole

Treasurer

Dated: 25/03/2025

Date: 25/03/2025